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I'm InTouch

Remote Access software

\$99.95 US; Windows 98 and above

From [01 Communique](http://www.01communique.com) <http://www.imintouch.net/>

Are there times you wish you could use your work computer while you're out of the office? Would it be handy to be able to look at the emails and files on your desktop PC while you're on the move? If so, you should get hold of some remote access software.

I'm InTouch, from Canadian developer 01 Communique, lets you control a PC using any kind of Web browser. It's incredibly easy to set up – just install the software, give your computer a unique name, create a username and password, and you're ready to access it remotely.

When you're away from your machine, simply log in to the portal to get a variety of remote access options. Choosing Remote Control will download a viewer that'll let you see your desktop as if you were sitting in front of your work PC. You'll have full control of your computer, so you can run apps and access files on all local and networked drives. There's a slight time lag and images won't be shown at full-colour, but generally performance is pretty good.

All connections through I'm InTouch use Secure Socket Layer (SSL) 128-bit encryption, and the software should work with any firewall or proxy set up to protect your machine. Of course, you'll only be able to see your PC if you've left it switched on, and it'll need an always-on connection to the Internet. But as long as these things are taken care of, you can access your computer from anywhere using a dial-up connection, wireless PDA – even a mobile phone.

I'm InTouch includes a file management facility. After entering your computer's login details, you'll be shown the full file directory tree, including any networked drives. You can download or upload – or copy and paste – multiple file (although there's a limit of 5 MB a time), and create new directories.

You can also view files using the I'm InTouch Viewer. This supports more than 50 different file types and lets you look at files even if you haven't got the application you'd normally use to view them.

I'm InTouch integrates well with Outlook or Outlook Express. It displays all your POP3 or Exchange mailboxes and you can view, delete, forward or reply to any messages. (continued)



I'm InTouch

Online remote control to your PC (continued)

The I'm InTouch Viewer lets you take a look at any attachments you've been sent. You can also compose messages and add attachments from both your local and remote machines, as well as having full access to your contacts and Outlook calendar.

Because I'm InTouch works on your desktop PC, you can browse your mail on a PDA or a normal WAP phone at perfectly acceptable speeds. This also means there's no need to synchronize apps when you get back to your desk. There's a facility to notify you of any new email you receive while you're out and about.

One interesting feature is the facility to take a look through webcams connected to the remote machine. Images can be streamed at 7fps and up to four different cameras can be connected, so you could use I'm InTouch to keep an eye on the office or home while you're away.

I'm InTouch works quickly and smoothly – even with wireless devices – but it'll cost you \$99 a year, per PC, to subscribe to the service.

This is around the same price as similar products on the market like GoToMyPC or Laplink Everywhere. However, you might be able to find shareware or freeware tools which will meet your needs – try the open source VNC remote control software on your cover CD, for example.

Whatever solution you go for, remote access software can be a very valuable tool indeed.