



James Coates

Next best thing to being there

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I'm InTouch

Remote access software

\$99.95; Windows 98 and above

From 01 Communique

www.imintouch.net

This Canadian company delivers impressive results with a hosted service/software offering that lets users access computers at home or on the job using any Web browser.

This includes wireless devices such as PDAs and Internet-enabled cell phones, but most users probably will focus on connecting their work and home computers.

At the system's heart are Web-connected servers operated by 01 Communique. You load the core software on your main computer, and that computer uses the common ping technique to contact the servers. Both those with unchanging static Internet addresses and those with the more common dynamic addresses can use the system and quickly find their computers.

Superb implementation of compression techniques and industrial-strength equipment kick in, and your computer's desktop appears in the browser window from any remote site. Using keyboard and mouse commands in the browser, users can run any program and access e-mail.

A separate file-management module permits rapid access to files using common downloading commands. If you keep your home computer connected to the Web at all times, you'll never again worry about losing a file while at the office or on the road.

The system uses SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) protocol to encrypt data at both ends. This reviewer was impressed by the speed at which commands typed in the browser were implemented at home.

Trial downloads are available at the 01 Communique Web site.



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