

for the computer you wish to control. You have unlimited access to that target computer from all computers with an Internet connection.

And now, for something completely different. Microsoft's FolderShare is a free service that is described very nicely by its name. It lets you establish a private peer-to-peer network over the Internet to share and synchronize files across multiple computers. Changes to the shared folder on one computer are synchronized automatically with all of the other computers. In this way all computers always have the latest version of a file, no matter where it has been modified. Their shared folders are always in sync.

FolderShare is very simple to implement and to use. It is easy to add to any computer. It has almost no learning curve. If your goal is to be sure that you always have access to the latest version of every file in a shared folder, this may be the best solution. It can be used in conjunction with a remote control solution such as LogMeIn Free to give you the power and flexibility to solve many mobile computing problems.

There are many other practical and low-cost approaches to providing remote access capabilities but some require more expertise to install. You could set up a VPN (virtual private network) with tools that are part of Windows. If you needed remote control as

well you could use Remote Desktop, another component of Windows.

Here's yet another solution, somewhat easier to implement. You can give yourself access to files on your home or office computer by installing FTP server software. Then those files, protected by a strong password, will be available to other computers on the Internet through a web browser or FTP client software. There is a good choice of free FTP servers and clients, including open source software from FileZilla (which is part of the same community that has produced Firefox and Thunderbird).

By Issie Rabinovitch

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Canada's own 01 Communique offers its I'm InTouch (www.imintouch.net) software for a monthly subscription of \$9.95 or an annual \$99.95. The basics are all present and accounted for: Remote PC control, file transfer, printing of remote documents, working within firewall settings without altering them. Users can connect via a PC running the software, a Web browser, a smartphone or other data enabled cell phone for quick access to remote files. It also brings a few security features to the table including remote stealth monitoring of PC use, configurable cell phone notification for new emails on the monitored PC and access to a web cam connected to the PC for monitoring the office, your goldfish or houseplants while away. As a member of the BlackBerry Alliance, I'm InTouch also has a BlackBerry application. The app is limited to primarily file and email management of the remote PC. Using the BlackBerry application, users can find and send files from a remote PC from their handheld.

— HUB: TCP