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Welcome to SoftXpand

What is SoftXpand?

SoftXpand is a core software solution technology that enables simultaneously running multiple interactive desktops on a single computer.

By installing SoftXpand you can deploy up to eight interactive Workstations on any standard PC, deploying independent and fully compatible desktops with the source operating system on which SoftXpand is installed.

What is SoftXpand Xpress?

Since the end of 2009 MiniFrame decided to come out with multiple products targeted to the different markets (home, enterprise, SMB and education etc). All products are based on the core technology – SoftXpand, with different features and abilities. SoftXpand Xpress is the main product of MiniFrame which enables turning one PC into up to 8 fully interactive desktop workstations.

How does it work?

SoftXpand expands the abilities of the source operating system (Windows XP) by creating multiple Windows XP look-and-feel desktop environments and allocating the installed input/output hardware devices to each such desktop, so as to allow up to eight different users to log on to independent virtual Workstation using their regular Windows/Domain user names and passwords and work simultaneously.

Each such Workstation requires installation of dedicated input/output devices such as additional video card(s), keyboards, mice and optionally USB hubs, sound and other devices.

To enable this, SoftXpand divides and allocates the PC's resources and devices into the multiple Workstations.

Finally, SoftXpand uses each device in its native mode, enabling the Workstation to support all the device's features, e.g. – A supported video card installed on a SoftXpand Host PC will enable the virtual Workstation to utilize all supported features of that card (DirectX, OpenGL).

About this Guide

This guide is intended for SoftXpand Xpress installers, administrators and users. It includes information on how to install, administer and use the SoftXpand Xpress application.

The guide contains a shortened, yet comprehensive version of the entire SoftXpand written knowledge base. The full version can be found on MiniFrame's web site at http://www.miniframe.com/knowledge-base.html.

SoftXpand terminology

SoftXpand is a new concept for deploying and managing user Workstations. To create a common terminology for better understanding this document and for easier support, please familiarize yourself with the following unique SoftXpand terms:

Host – the physical PC on which the SoftXpand software is installed. All monitors, keyboards, mice and other peripheral devices are connected to this computer and all share its resources.

Workstation – an independent desktop environment, created by the division of the Host's resources by the SoftXpand application, which appears on a dedicated monitor, utilizing dedicated keyboard, mouse and other optional devices, all connected to the SoftXpand Host.
Each such Workstation can accommodate an independent user.

Cluster – the group of all SoftXpand Workstations connected to a single Host.

Host Console – the primary Windows session/desktop. It runs in the background while SoftXpand is running.

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Why use SoftXpand?

Simply put, the SoftXpand solution allows you to turn your standard Windows PC into multiple efficient, affordable, green, top performance PC Workstations.

SoftXpand Benefits:

Cost effective

Reduce your Total Cost of Ownership by at least 75% by purchasing a single computer per SoftXpand cluster.

Top performance

SoftXpand supports every type of application including multimedia applications, video, flash and chat applications (e.g. Live messenger).
SoftXpand supports in and out sound for each Workstation; the user experience is identical to that of a standard PC.

Maintenance & management time

Management of all Workstations in a Cluster can be performed in one location, on any of the Workstations or remotely, hence enabling dramatic time savings.

Ultimate Green IT Solution

All Workstations in a SoftXpand cluster share the power of the Host PC, leading to significantly less energy consumption, as well as lower manufacturing, transportation, heat output, and CO_2 emission levels. Since SoftXpand is a software-only solution, it also has the lowest electronic waste levels possible.

Flexible

Temporary Workstations, as well as peripheral devices such as printers, cameras and USB flash drives, can easily be added or removed at any time.

Remote access

Workstations can be accessed remotely.

Hardware network savings

SoftXpand lowers the number of computers that needs to be connected to a network, hence reducing the amount of routers & ports to be implemented.

Logistics

Much less hardware to be transported and less space taken up.

Simplicity and consolidation

SoftXpand's simple deployment and installation enable easy consolidation of the virtual desktop concept advantages to your entire organization.

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What's new in SoftXpand Xpress Version 3.3?

- Show running processes on workstation properties.
  From the Admin Tools you can now see all running processes and processes IDs of each workstation.

- Prevent multiple logons with the same user account.
  From the Admin Tools you can prevent from the same user account to logon on more than one workstation.
  For more information see Workstation Preferences.

- Local printer assignment.
  You can now choose to assign a local printer to a specific workstation using the Device Map.
  For more information see Local Printers.

- Send messages between workstations from the workstation tray icon.
  You can now send messages between workstations using the workstation tray icon.

- Display Link USB docking stations auto-map.
  For Display Link devices that have a USB hub all peripheral devices connected to it will be automatically mapped to the workstation.
  For more information see mapping hardware devices.

What's new in SoftXpand Xpress Version 3.2?

- Soft-phone applications.
  SoftXpand now support soft-phone applications. MiniFrame uses X-lite™ for testing. Other soft-phone applications are generally compatible but should be tested individually before large scale implementations.

- ICam application™.
  SoftXpand now supports iCAM™.
  For more information please review SoftXpand Xpress Version 3.2 Release notes.

- Localization.
SoftXpand now supports full localization infrastructure, determined by specific license attributes.

What's new in SoftXpand Xpress Version 3.1.0?

- **Branding**

  - To increase maximum product capabilities and flexibility SoftXpand was rewritten to support branding.

  - SoftXpand current version has been rebranded as SoftXpand Xpress, a new generation product and part of the SoftXpand product suite.

  - All GUI attributes and images were changed and documented in help file, and are available for customized use.

  - A new feature available only for selected MiniFrame partners and OEMs to distribute SoftXpand Xpress with their own branded product.

  For more information contact: sales@miniframe.com.

- **SoftXpand installation setup improvements**

  - Setup is now designed to analyze and check system compatibility as part of the distribution process and for a future pre-setup advisor tool of SoftXpand Xpress.

    - System software and hardware requirements.

    - Non - localized OS hot fixes.

    - NTFS file system / WMI service / 'Terminal Services' service.

    - Terminal server registry keys.

  For more information see [software requirements](#).

- **Display Link monitors**

- Support and identification of Display Link USB based monitors in the Device Map list of monitors.

- **Extended support and bug fixes for better SoftXpand Xpress integration with Windows XP**

  - Improved desktop integration.

    - Theme and styling support.

    - Alt-Tab window compatible to Windows XP.

  - Added supported group policy attributes.

  - Screen saver upon logon dialogs and Windows Media Player is now supported.

  - Remote desktop supported within Workgroup and Domain.

  For more information contact: support@miniframe.com.

- **Improved and re-designed dialogs**

  - Logon dialogs.

    - Rewritten and redesigned for Windows XP look and feel.

    - Software error messages support.

  For more information see Mapping hardware devices and Exiting SoftXpand Xpress.

- **Upgrade and hot fix support**

  - No need to uninstall the previous version when upgrading from 3.0.0, 3.0.1, 3.0.11.

  - Older version's data is kept when upgrading to newer version.

  For more information see Upgrading SoftXpand Xpress.

- **Improved Workstation and Host management**

  - Improved Exit mechanism.

- Ability to shut down SoftXpand Xpress Host and Workstation from within SoftXpand session and from various other locations.

- Added Exit options from the 'Shut down SoftXpand Xpress' dialog.

- Windows XP look and feel dialog.

- Supporting global password.

- New featured session shutdown and startup using a key combination for energy saving and better green technology.

- An improved and customized idle policy to be configured by a specific hour.

- Remote Control

  - Improved indication where settings are controlled by global Host properties.

  - Supporting RDP on Windows XP SP2, GUI bug fix.

- An improved device policy.

  - Enhanced device statuses and GUI indication and documentation.

  - Additional device information and balloon notification dialog.

- Admin Tools:

  - Real time Information about session status and logged on user available from the Admin Tools.

For more information see [Exiting SoftXpand Xpress](#), and [Admin Tools](#) – [settings](#).

- **Improved existing licensing tool and new features**

  - Improved offline activation procedure which auto generates an email to the customer in a short period of time.

  - New Import license option.

- Control of license attributes for selected MiniFrame partners and OEMs.

  - Enable / Disable activation and upgrade.

  - Language and branding.

- Detailed license information for end users available within the license info.

For more information see [License](#).

- **Enhanced support tools for end users and administrators**

  - New logger tool which enables system monitoring from the SoftXpand installation setup stage.

  - Additional knowledge base documents and information updates.

  - Added command line for Exit SoftXpand actions.

  - SoftXpand help file was rewritten and redesigned.

For more information see [how to use SoftXpand logger](#).

What's new in SoftXpand Xpress Version 3.0?

- An improved start-up mechanism which enables a faster Windows logon process.

- A new faster and simpler installation process leading to a quick and immediate system start.

- Substantial SoftXpand Xpress session stability and performance improvements.

- An improved user interface for manual assignment of HID devices such as whiteboards, touch screens, etc. For more details see [Mapping Hardware Devices](#).

- A built in USB removable disk drive letter management and isolation solution.

- New and improved Administrative Tools interface enabling administrators to control all SoftXpand Xpress settings and configurations through a single tool from any Workstation or remotely. For more details see [Admin Tools](#).

- A new licensing and activation mechanism with improved security that supports Try & Buy and volume licensing features. For more details see [Activating SoftXpand Xpress](#).

- A new remote control tool with enhanced security features. For more details see [Remote Control](#).

- 'Export', 'Import' and 'Reset Settings' options for advanced deployment and troubleshooting.

- New and easy to understand guides and documentation.

- An integrated Multi IP isolation solution which enables applications to run on SoftXpand Xpress Workstations. Refer to [Multi IP Applications](#) for more details.

To those already familiar with SoftXpand Xpress

Those already familiar with SoftXpand Xpress will find the installation process hasn't changed by much in comparison with former versions. Feel free to skip the installation section of this guide and proceed to the configuration section - you will find that the most notable change made in this version is the new Admin Tools and the method in which it enables configuring the SoftXpand Xpress system.

This new tool replaces the multitude of configuration applications and processes used in previous versions.

Other than that it is expected that for experienced users, most features and enhancements will prove obvious and intuitive.

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Getting Started

Following is a list of what is needed to successfully install and start the SoftXpand Xpress software.
If this is the first time that you install SoftXpand Xpress it is recommended to read all 'More Information' links.

- Prepare a PC with at least two video ports and two sets of installed keyboards, mice and monitors (see also: Hardware Prerequisites).

- Install an up to date (or finalize the preparation of) Windows XP Pro SP2/3 and all devices and applications (see also: Software Prerequisites).

- Configure all required Windows/domain users <u>without blank passwords</u> (see also: Software Prerequisites).

- Configure all required network environment (Domain membership, Windows/domain users, internet connection).

- Download SoftXpand Xpress from:
  MiniFrame Partners:
  http://www.miniframe.com/partners/partners-lounge.html
  New users (registration required):
  http://www.miniframe.com/try-buy/downloads.html.

- To activate SoftXpand Xpress, Please ensure you have a valid license (see also: SoftXpand Xpress Licensing Options).
  Note: To activate SoftXpand Xpress online you must have internet connection or valid Email account.

- Log on to Windows using a user account with administrative privileges.

- Run the [SoftXpand Xpress installation](#) file and follow the installation wizard's instructions.

- Where needed, [Activate SoftXpand Xpress](#).

- [Run SoftXpand Xpress](#), Windows to restart.

- Assign keyboards, mice and other devices to their designated monitors/Workstations ([manually](#) or using the [Admin Tools](#) - [Device Map](#)).

Log on to the Workstations and start working.

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Installing SoftXpand Xpress

This folder contains all the data required to successfully install SoftXpand Xpress.

Make sure to follow the instructions of both Hardware Prerequisites and Software Prerequisites before moving forward to installing SoftXpand Xpress, upgrading SoftXpand Xpress or activating SoftXpand Xpress.

Experienced SoftXpand users may skip this section, as most data is compatible with former versions.

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Hardware Preparation

Preparing the hardware for a SoftXpand Xpress installation is a crucial aspect for enabling smooth and easy deployment and operation.

As SoftXpand is an expansion of the operation system's ability into multiple desktops, selecting the correct hardware is essential and cannot be fully detailed in this guide.

It is most important to make sure all updated drivers are installed. For upgrades of existing Hosts, it is most recommended to uninstall the display driver, restart the Host and then reinstall the most updated driver.

Note: it is most recommended to uninstall SoftXpand Xpress prior to any Host Windows' maintenance. To reserve SoftXpand Xpress's configurations for reinstallation, use the Import/Export feature. See also upgrading SoftXpand Xpress for more information.

Hardware Requirements:

These are the **minimal** hardware requirements for installing SoftXpand Xpress:

- CPU: Intel® Pentium® 4 1300 MHz or an equivalent AMD processor.

- Memory: 512 MB of physical memory.

- Video card(s): video output ports as per the number of installed Workstations (use dual-head PCI-E video cards or single-head USB video cards). If you have any concerns, check the video card's manual and consult with your hardware vendor.

- A set of 1 monitor, 1 keyboard and 1 mouse per Workstation.

Certified and tested hardware for SoftXpand Xpress

SoftXpand Xpress is tested using several types of hardware.

Check MiniFrame's [certified hardware table](#) in [MiniFrame's web site](#) for an updated list of certified and tested hardware.

Also notice that some types/makes of video adapters may be incompatible with other types/makes. To avoid hardware conflicts, make sure to only install compatible video adapters on the Host PC.

Feel free to contact MiniFrame`s support team with any specific questions: support@miniframe.com.

Hardware Installations

Following is a list of points requiring consideration when installing and deploying the SoftXpand Xpress Cluster hardware:

- Consider installing all hardware and software in one location before deploying the hardware in its destined locations.

- Arrange the hardware devices, deploying USB and VGA/DVI cabling as needed.

- To ensure easier deployment, allocate a dedicated USB hub per Workstation (see deployment diagram below).

- Be sure to abide by USB and VGA standards with regards to maximum cable length and chaining.

Note: SoftXpand Xpress's license is hardware-based. Any changes to the Host's core hardware (CPU, motherboard, video cards, etc.) may require re-activation.

SoftXpand Xpress Cluster Deployment

The below diagram illustrates a Six Workstation Cluster deployment example.

DIAGRAM OF SOFTXPAND DEPLOYMENT & HARDWARE

1. A computer with a Windows XP Pro operating system
2. Motherboard
3. Memory
4. CPU
5. Monitor
6. Keyboard
7. Mouse
8. Video cards
9. VGA port
10. DVI port
11. DVI-VGA connector
12. USB ports
13. Network cable port
14. PS2 ports
15. Onboard sound device ports
16. VGA cable (up to 25 meters)
17. DVI cable (up to 5 meters)
18. USB active extender cable
19. USB active (self powered) hub
20. Power supply
21. USB sound device
22. Ear phones
23. Ear phones with attached microphone

Following are the basic rules for deploying SoftXpand Xpress:

Host physical location:

If possible, place the Host in a secure area, where only authorized people have access to it.

It is highly recommended to place the Host in a ventilated area. A computer with a large power supply unit and several video cards generates excessive heat which must be discharged away from the computer case.

Host networking options:

The most basic option is to have a stand-alone Host with or without a LAN/Internet connection.

If you have a home or an office network, configure the Microsoft network settings on the Host.

If the Host is a member of an Active Directory Domain, configure the Host and user accounts in the domain level.

Workstations' physical deployment

Under standard working conditions, it is possible to have up to 20 meters/65 feet distance between the Host and any of the Workstations.

This limit is due to USB cable length limitations:

- A USB cable length may extend up to 5 meters, for extending a USB chain for more than 5 meters – use Active USB Extender cables (they contain an internal hub).

- Windows operating systems USB device chain limitations (up to 5 hubs in 1 chain, including the computer's port).

Other wireless solutions exist to enable longer distances. Consult with your SoftXpand Xpress vendor.

It is recommended to have a dedicated, 4-port self-powered USB hub per Workstation. This will allow higher flexibility and independence in connecting additional devices (sound devices, printers, removable disks, etc.) to each Workstation.

Each Workstation-dedicated USB hub must be an End Point. Do not chain USB hubs to each other. Allow each hub its dedicated USB cables chain to assure all end point Workstation hubs are the last in their chain.

Do not install more video cards and monitors than is allowed by your SoftXpand Xpress activation license. The activation serial key includes information on the number of registered Workstations. SoftXpand Xpress only supports this number of monitors.

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Software Preparation

Below is a detailed list of all software preparations required before installing SoftXpand Xpress.

Note: a quick and simple method for preparing a Host for SoftXpand Xpress installation is to use images. Using this method requires creating a master non-activated SoftXpand Xpress Host image and deploying it on additional Hosts.

For installing SoftXpand Xpress on an already running Windows XP Host, see below.

Software Requirements:

These are the software requirements for installing SoftXpand Xpress:

- Windows XP Pro with service pack 2 or higher.
  Use this download link to download Windows XP SP3 (English):
  http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=5B33B5A8-5E76-401F-BE08-1E1555D4F3D4

- Windows NTFS file system.
  Use this link to learn how to convert file system to NTFS:
  http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb456984.aspx.

- Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5, service pack 1.
  Use this link to download it (English):
  https://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=AB99342F-5D1A-413D-8319-81DA479AB0D7

- Microsoft Management Console 3.0 (It is built-in Windows XP SP3)
  Use this link to download it (English):
  http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=61FC1C66-06F2-463C-82A2-CF20902FFAE0
  Note: For using MMC 3.0 with SoftXpand Xpress on localized non-English versions of Windows XP SP3, download and install the following Microsoft Hotfix (KB957502):
  http://support.microsoft.com/kb/957502

- Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI) service started (see Windows' Start > Settings > Control Panel > Administrative Tools > Services).

- Terminal Services service started (see Windows' Start > Settings > Control Panel > Administrative Tools > Services).

- Windows' 'User Profile Hive Cleanup Service'.
  Use this link to download it (English):
  http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=1B286E6D-8912-4E18-B570-42470E2F3582&displaylang=en

- The 'Driver Signing Option' policy is not set to 'Block' (see Windows' Start > Settings > Control Panel > System > 'Hardware' tab > 'Driver Signing' button).

- Each SoftXpand Xpress user must have his unique Windows user account and password. The password cannot be blank (see also NOTE below).

- Install all required user applications. Where required, select the 'Install the application for all users' option to allow access to the application to all users.

Note: By default, all Windows user accounts being used in SoftXpand Xpress must have a password of at least 1 character. To allow SoftXpand Xpress users to have a blank password, make the following configurations in Windows Group Policy:

- Go to Start > Run, type in "gpedit.msc" and click OK to run Group Policy.

- Navigate to: Local Computer Policy > Computer Configuration > Windows Settings > Security Settings > Local Policies > Security Options.

- Double-click the 'Accounts: Limit local account use of blank passwords to console login only' entry and change it to 'Disabled'.

- Click 'OK' and close the Group Policy window.

Note: for more information and troubleshooting rare setup issues see this document: Troubleshooting SoftXpand installation.

Driver Installations:

Install hardware drivers using their most updated version.

It is most important to make sure all updated drivers are installed.

Users in SoftXpand Xpress:

All local Windows and domain users can log onto any of the Workstations (based on Windows' privileges policies).

Make sure none of the users have a blank password (see also NOTE above).

Note: SoftXpand Xpress does not support any logon form (token, finger-print identification) but Windows' username and password. For more options, please refer to the relevant articles in MiniFrame's online knowledge base or to MiniFrame's support team at support@miniframe.com.

Note: SoftXpand replaces Windows' GINA. If you need to install another application with replaces GINA please refer to the relevant articles in MiniFrame's online knowledge base or to MiniFrame's support team at support@miniframe.com.

Installing SoftXpand Xpress on an Existing Windows XP Host:

When installing SoftXpand Xpress on a Host already running Windows XP (not a new SoftXpand Xpress-dedicated installation), take extra care to meet with all above-mentioned requirements with regards to drivers, Windows services, etc.

With regards to display drivers, it is most recommended to uninstall the display driver, restart the Host and then reinstall the most updated driver.

Where possible, perform all system periodic maintenance actions, such as disk cleanup and defragment.

Note: once SoftXpand Xpress is installed it is most recommended to uninstall it prior to any Host Windows' maintenance. To reserve SoftXpand Xpress's configurations for reinstallation, use the [Import/Export](#) feature.

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Installing SoftXpand Xpress

Following is the collective list of actions to take when installing SoftXpand Xpress:

Note: Be sure to implement all [hardware](#) and [software](#) preparations before continuing.

- Download SoftXpand Xpress's installation file (SoftXpand.exe) at:
  New to SoftXpand (registration required)
  http://www.miniframe.com/downloads.asp.
  MiniFrame Partners - http://www.miniframe.com/partners-existing.asp.

- For activating SoftXpand Xpress, prepare a [valid license](#).

Note: SoftXpand Xpress's default setup is licensed for installing up to 6 Workstations in a Cluster for a 30 day Trial period. SoftXpand Xpress may be activated at the end of the installation or later.

- Log on to Windows using a user account with administrative privileges.

- Locate and run the SoftXpand installation file. The SoftXpand Xpress Install Shield Wizard will open.

- When prompted, click 'Next'.

- Read and approve the Software License Agreement (mark 'I accept…' and click 'Next').

- Click 'Install' to start the installation.

- When prompted to allow Hardware Installation, click 'Continue Anyway'. The wizard will then finalize the installation.

- Click 'Finish' to launch SoftXpand Xpress and set it to automatically run following each Windows restart. SoftXpand Xpress's Control Panel will open.

- Where needed, click 'Activate' to open the Activation console and [activate SoftXpand Xpress](#).

- Click 'Start Now' to launch SoftXpand Xpress. Windows will restart and the SoftXpand Xpress logon dialog will appear on each monitor.

Note: following the initial installation, all keyboards and mice are assigned to the monitor which is Primary under Windows (the monitor from which the installation was initiated).

Note: When using USB video adapter(s) that is connected to an end point USB hub, following the end of setup and PC restart, all keyboards, mice and USB audio devices that are connected to that hub will be automatically assigned to the matching monitor.

- [Assign keyboards and mice](#) to their designated Workstation (monitor) manually - as instructed below, or by using the [SoftXpand Xpress Admin Tools](#).

Manually Assigning Keyboards and Mice to Monitors

As per the tip balloon on each Workstation's logon dialog, click the Ctrl+Shift+F(#) key combination, followed by immediately clicking both the left and right buttons of the relevant mouse.

See [Mapping hardware devices](#) for more information.

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Upgrading SoftXpand Xpress

SoftXpand's upgrade mechanism enables installing SoftXpand Xpress 3.3 without the need of first removing the previous version of SoftXpand Xpress using the Add / Remove programs in the control panel. This feature is supported for currently installed versions of 3.X (3.0, 3.01, 3.1, 3.11, and 3.2). The upgrade mechanism enables keeping all Host settings as they were.

Note: additional Host settings which were added to SoftXpand Xpress 3.3 and did not exist on previous versions will be added after the upgrade with their default values.

If the version of SoftXpand Xpress you currently have installed is 3.0, 3.0.1, 3.0.11, 3.1, 3.11, or 3.2, follow these steps in order to upgrade to SoftXpand Xpress 3.3:

- Exit SoftXpand Xpress to Windows and logon with an administrative user.

- Run the setup file SoftXpand.exe.
  The upgrade process will begin.

- Follow the wizard steps to finalize the upgrade installation.

- Activate SoftXpand Xpress.
  Note: upgrading SoftXpand Xpress will require activating the software again. Use the same serial number. The serial number will remain in the SoftXpand Xpress activation dialog. Refer to activating SoftXpand Xpress for more information.

Note: Refer to this link to learn how to check the SoftXpand version: How to check SoftXpand version.

Note: After the upgrade has completed, until you activate the software, the activation status will become 'Activation Pending'. 'Activation Pending' means that the software will remain functional exactly as it was before. It will remain in this status for a period of time of 1 month. After 1 month, if still not activated, the activation status will become 'Trial Over'.

Note: upgrading to SoftXpand Xpress 3.3 is supported for versions **3.0**, **3.0.1, 3.0.11, 3.1, 3.11,** and **3.2.**

If the version of SoftXpand Xpress you currently have installed is 2.20.100 or lower, refer to this link for upgrade procedure: [How to upgrade SoftXpand from Ver.2 to Ver.3](#).

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SoftXpand Xpress Licensing

SoftXpand Xpress is a license-based application. As the host is activated, the license determines the number of active Workstations that can run simultaneously and some additional SoftXpand Xpress features.

There are 3 common license options, detailed in the SoftXpand Xpress Licensing Options page.

To learn how to perform the SoftXpand Xpress activation, refer to the Activating SoftXpand Xpress page.

Detailed information about the license attributes can be found in License node in the Admin Tools.

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SoftXpand Xpress Licensing Options

These are the licensing options for SoftXpand Xpress:

Trial License:

This is the default option, enabled when installing SoftXpand Xpress without activation. It enables experiencing SoftXpand Xpress under the following 3 limits:

- **License duration**:
  The license expires in 30 days.

- **Host duration**:
  The Host PC will automatically restart every 24 hours, regardless if users are logged on or not. A notification warning will appear prior to restart.

- **Workstation duration**:
  Each Workstation will close and restart every 6 hours, regardless if users are logged on or not. A notification warning will appear prior to restart.

Note: Detailed information about the different license attributes can be found in License node in the Admin Tools.

Evaluation License:

This option enables longer activity for a more thorough evaluation of the SoftXpand Xpress application. It has similar limits as the Trial License but enables a 3 months expiration limit (License Duration).

Note: to apply for this license type, please refer to MiniFrame's sales department at sales@miniframe.com.

Commercial License:

This is the unlimited license to run SoftXpand Xpress, received following its purchase.
Note: to purchase SoftXpand Xpress as an end user you have to contact your local distributor. For a list of local distributors, refer to this link at MiniFrame's website: http://www.miniframe.com/try-buy/find-a-reseller.html, or contact MiniFrame at http://www.miniframe.com/about-us/contact-us.html.

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Activating SoftXpand Xpress

SoftXpand Xpress's activation dialog box may be launched from two locations – the SoftXpand Xpress Control Panel and the Admin Tools. Both options will open the same SoftXpand Xpress Activation dialog box.

To launch the SoftXpand Xpress Activation dialog box:

- From the SoftXpand Xpress Control Panel:

    - Go to Windows' Start > (All) Programs > SoftXpand and select SoftXpand Xpress, or double-click the SoftXpand Xpress icon on your desktop.
    The SoftXpand Xpress Control Panel dialog box will open.

    - Click the 'Activate' button.

      Note: If SoftXpand Express is already activated, then the 'Activate' button will no longer be displayed in the Control Panel.

- From Admin Tools:

    - Go to Windows' Start > (All) Programs > SoftXpand and select Admin Tools, or right-click the SoftXpand Xpress Host Icon in Windows System Tray and select Admin Tools. The Admin Tools management console will open.

    - In the left pane, right click the 'License (Trial)' node and select 'Activate'.

After the Activation dialog box has appeared, follow these instructions to activate SoftXpand Xpress:

- In the 'Activation Info' section - fill in all details.

- In the 'Options' section - select the activation method as follows:

  - 'Activate Online' check box (default) - when an internet connection is available.
    Select the 'Use Proxy' check box if needed. SoftXpand Xpress will use the existing proxy settings of Internet Explorer. If needed, type in the proxy IP address in the 'Use Proxy' text box.

  - 'Activate Offline': Use this option to generate an activation file when internet connection is not available from the Host PC.

    1. Click on 'Create Activation file' in order to generate the activation file. The system will create a TXT file. Transfer the file to an internet connected PC.

    2. Attach the file to an email and send it to the following address: act@miniframe.com. MiniFrame's automatic system will send a reply message with an activated file attached.

    3. Transfer the activated file back to the Host PC and click on - 'Import License' in order to load the received file and complete the offline activation process.

    Note: SoftXpand Xpress will remain in Trial License until the offline activation process has been completed.

- In the 'License Info' section - fill in the Serial Number as provided to you upon purchase.

- Click 'Activate' to activate online.

Note: SoftXpand Xpress's activation status icon is located at the bottom left corner of the SoftXpand Xpress Activation dialog box. The 'License' node in ˜Admin Tools' provides detailed information about the license status.

Note: SoftXpand Xpress's license is hardware-based. Any changes to the Host's core hardware (CPU, motherboard, video cards, etc.) may require re-activation.

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Configuring SoftXpand Xpress

When SoftXpand Xpress is installed, it is configured to run in default mode, which can accommodate most users and administrators.

In this mode all Workstation are available, all keyboards and mice are assigned to the monitor which is Primary in Windows (see Mapping Hardware Devices to make the necessary changes) and the system is ready for use. The SoftXpand Xpress users may manually assign a set of keyboard + mouse to their monitor and can now log onto their Workstation and start working.

For advanced users, in order to apply general and specific settings, SoftXpand Xpress is equipped with an intuitive easy-to-use configuration application, Admin Tools, which enables the system administrator to configure everything from the individual Workstations to the Host and Cluster levels, as well as each of SoftXpand Xpress's supplemental features.

Designed for the SoftXpand Xpress administrator, this tool enables configuring any and all system parameters – from activation, to Host parameters, Workstation parameters and all other supplemental features.

Use the SoftXpand Xpress Control Panel to activate and launch SoftXpand Xpress.

Use the SoftXpand Xpress Host and Workstation Tray Icons to configure and operate the Host and Workstations.

Note: For easy recovery and trouble-shooting, it is possible to revert all parameters to their default values (reset settings) at any stage. See the Admin Tools' Host Properties page in the Admin Tools section.

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SoftXpand Xpress Control Panel

This simple dialog box offers the following features:

- Displaying in the top message box general information about the product name, version, licensing and operational status.

- Launching SoftXpand Xpress's activation dialog box using the 'Activate' button.

- Running SoftXpand Xpress using the 'Start Now' button.

- Launching the Admin Tools management console using the 'Open Admin Tools' link.

Below are the SoftXpand Xpress Control Panel icons indicating the activation status:

License is activated.

SoftXpand Xpress is in trial mode.

Trial (or evaluation) has expired.

Note: detailed information regarding the license attributes can be found in the [License](#) node.

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The SoftXpand Xpress Tray Icons

There are two kinds of SoftXpand Xpress Tray Icons – Host's and Workstation's.

Host Tray Icon

After the SoftXpand Xpress installation has completed, a Host Tray Icon will appear in the Host Console (Windows session) system tray.

The status of the Host tray icon represents the SoftXpand Xpress general status:

- At least one session is alive (SoftXpand Xpress is running):

- No sessions are alive but running SoftXpand Xpress is possible:

- Something is wrong:

This icon resides only in Host Console and will not appear in SoftXpand Xpress's Workstations.

- Double-click the Host Tray Icon to open the [Host Properties](#) dialog box.

- Right-click the Host Tray Icon to open a context menu with the following options:

  - **Start SoftXpand**
    By default – opens the [SoftXpand Xpress Control Panel](#). An administrator may configure SoftXpand Xpress to start immediately without opening the Control Panel (see Settings for more information).

  - **Admin Tools**
    Opens SoftXpand Xpress's [Admin Tools](#) management console.

  - **Host Properties**
    Opens the [Host Properties](#) dialog box.

Note: by accessing the Host Console while SoftXpand Xpress is running, an additional option is available – 'Shut down SoftXpand' which will open the SoftXpand Xpress shut down dialog. For more information about exiting SoftXpand Xpress see: [Exiting SoftXpand Xpress](#).

Workstation Tray Icon:

Upon launching of SoftXpand Xpress and logging on to Workstations, a Workstation Tray Icon will appear in each Workstation's desktop system tray.

The status of the Workstation tray icon represents the SoftXpand Xpress general status:

- Workstation is OK and devices are assigned to it:

- Workstation has no devices assigned to it:

- Workstation is in progress:

- Move the cursor (using the mouse) over the icon to see a small balloon message that displays the Workstation's name.

- Double-click the Workstation Tray Icon to open the Workstation Properties dialog box.

- Right-click the icon to open a context menu with the following options:

  - **Display Settings**
    Opens the   Display Settings dialog box.
    Note: change resolution from the workstation tray icon is not available in Safe video mode. It is available only in Native video mode.

  - **Send message**
    Enables sending messages between workstations.

  - **Logoff**
    To log off from the Workstation. By default - an "Are you sure you want to log off?" dialog box will appear (see Settings for more information).

  - **Shutdown SoftXpand**
    Opens the Shutdown SoftXpand Xpress dialog from which you can select the desired Exit SoftXpand action.
    This option is password dependant.
    See Exiting SoftXpand Xpress for more information.

- **Safely Remove Hardware**
  to safely remove a USB Removable Disk. This option appears only if a USB Removable Disk(s) which is assigned to the Workstation is connected to the Host (see Mapping Hardware Devices for more information).

- **Properties**
  Opens the Workstation Properties dialog box.

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The SoftXpand Xpress Admin Tools

Introduction:

The SoftXpand Xpress Admin Tools management console is designed for the SoftXpand Xpress administrator, and enables configuring any and all system settings – from activation, to Host settings, to Workstation settings and all other supplemental features.

Admin Tools is a versatile application in the sense that it always opens with configuration options based on the current SoftXpand Xpress status – depending if SoftXpand Xpress is currently running or stopped, i.e. – an Admin Tools management console opened while SoftXpand Xpress is running will have different options than when it is ran in Host Console (Windows session), when SoftXpand Xpress is stopped.

Opening Admin Tools:

The Admin Tools management console can be launched in three ways:

- Clicking the 'Open Admin Tool' link in the SoftXpand Xpress Control Panel.

- Selecting Admin Tools in Windows' Start > (All) Programs > SoftXpand.

- Right-clicking the Host Tray Icon and selecting Admin Tools.

The Admin Tools Management Console:

Admin Tools is an MMC 3.0 snap-in. It consists of 2 major parts – the components tree on the left side pane and the work area on the right side pane.

Selecting a node in the left pane will immediately display the relevant data in the right pane.

Available nodes are:

- **Host**: for configuring all [Host](#) settings.

- **Workstations**: for configuring individual [Workstations](#).

License: for viewing the current license and for [activating SoftXpand Xpress](#).

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Host

The options included in the **Host [Computer_Name]** node apply to the global behavior of the Host and are all available under the Host context menu.

Note that the options are available at any given time - depending upon user privileges, the current desktop on which you are present (SoftXpand Xpress Workstation, Host Console) etc.

Note: For configuring individual Workstation behavior please refer to the Workstation section.

Right-click the Host [Computer_Name] node to open a context menu which will enable the following options:

- **Start Host**
  Select this option in order to start all SoftXpand Xpress Workstations.
  By default, this option will open the SoftXpand Xpress Control Panel which enables you to start SoftXpand Xpress.
  By selecting this option while SoftXpand Xpress is already running - all stopped Workstations will start (the 'Enable auto start' check box in Workstation Properties must be marked).
  See the SoftXpand Xpress Control Panel and Running SoftXpand Xpress for more information.

- **Shutdown SoftXpand**
  Select this option to open the 'Shutdown SoftXpand Xpress' dialog.

  From the 'Shutdown SoftXpand Xpress' dialog choose the desired Exit action.

  By using the 'Shutdown SoftXpand Xpress' dialog one the following 5 actions can be performed:

- **Logoff user**

  This option will be available only if a user is still logged on.

- **Shutdown my workstation**
  Only the current workstation will be switched off.
  Note: the option of 'shutdown my workstation' will be available only when the 'Enable shutdown workstation for all users' checkbox is selected in the [Workstation preferences](#) tab.

- **Exit to Windows**
  All Workstations will be stopped and all monitors will go blank except for the Windows' Primary monitor which will display the Windows logon dialog.

- **Shutdown PC**
  The Host will shut down completely.

- **Restart PC**
  The Host will perform a computer restart.

See [Exiting SoftXpand Xpress](#) for more details.

- **Import and Export Settings...**
  Importing, exporting and re-setting SoftXpand Xpress configuration settings.
  Select this option to open the Import and Export Settings Wizard. It offers the following options:

  - **Export selected settings**
    Selecting this option enables exporting the settings of selected categories into a file.

  - **Import selected settings**
    Selecting this option enables importing the settings of selected categories from a file.

  - **Reset all settings**
    Select this option to reset all Host and settings to their default values.

Note: Import and Export settings are available at this moment only for Host settings and not for Workstation settings.

- **Run Program on Host**
  Select this option to run an executable file, a script or any other application remotely on the Host Console.
  A 'Run Program on Host' dialog will appear, enabling browsing for the desired file and running it.

- **SoftXpand Logger**

  Select this option to open the SoftXpand logger utility which will enable you to generate a log file of SoftXpand activity mainly for troubleshooting purposes.

  More information: [How to use SoftXpand logger](#).

- **Open Host Console**
  Select this option to open a remote control session to SoftXpand Xpress`s Host Console.
  For more information about SoftXpand Xpress Host Console please refer to [Host Console](#).

- **Properties**

  Select this option to open the Host Properties dialog box (beginning with the [Settings](#) tab).

Note: Right clicking on the Host [Computer_Name] node while in Host Console (Windows session) will not show the 'Open Host Console' option, and will show only the Shutdown PC and Restart PC options in the 'Shutdown SoftXpand Xpress' dialog.

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Settings Tab

Startup Options

Disable SoftXpand from starting automatically

Enable / Disable SoftXpand from starting automatically upon Windows boot.

By disabling automatic startup, you will only be able to start SoftXpand manually. For more information regarding SoftXpand start options see [Running SoftXpand Xpress](#).

(Import and Export settings name: Auto Start Setting)

Hide SoftXpand Control Panel

Show / Hide the [SoftXpand Control Panel](#) upon SoftXpand start.

Hiding the SoftXpand Control Panel will cause SoftXpand to start immediately without the display of the Control Panel on any of SoftXpand`s start options: SoftXpand desktop icon, Host Context menu, Host icon Context menu, and on SoftXpand`s automatic startup upon Windows boot.

This feature is not available in trial version.

(Import and Export settings name: Control Panel Appearance)

Show SoftXpand Control Panel X sec, before SoftXpand starts

Select the time frame for showing the SoftXpand Control Panel window before SoftXpand starts automatically.

This setting applies to SoftXpand`s automatic startup upon Windows boot.

It enables you to change the amount of time before SoftXpand starts so that you will have more \ less time to decide if to let SoftXpand to start or to cancel and logon to the Host Console (Windows).

(Import and Export settings name: Control Panel Timeout Setting)

Disable cancel button in SoftXpand Control Panel in case of Auto Start

Enable / Disable the cancel button in the SoftXpand Control Panel window.

This setting applies to SoftXpand`s automatic startup upon Windows' boot. The purpose of this feature is to prevent casual users from canceling SoftXpand`s automatic startup.

(Import and Export settings name: Control Panel Cancel button)

SoftXpand Shutdown

When Host is idle for X sec, Shutdown PC / Exit to Windows / Restart PC

Enable / Disable this option, select the appropriate timeout and action to determine the Host`s behavior when it is idle for a certain amount of time (no interactive user activity).

 (Enable / disable the shutdown feature - Import and Export settings name: Allow Shutdown Host on Idle)

(The selected time frame for the shutdown action - Import and Export settings name: Host Timeout on Idle)

You may select one of the following actions which will take place after the Host has been idle for the amount of time specified:

- **Shutdown PC**: The Host will shut down completely.

- **Exit to Windows**: All Workstations will be stopped and all monitors will go blank except for the primary monitor which will display the Windows Logon dialog.

- **Restart PC**: The Host will perform a computer restart.

(The selected action - Import and Export settings name: Shut down of Host on Idle)

For more information regarding SoftXpand shutdown options please refer to [Exiting SoftXpand Xpress](#).

Start idle countdown at [hour: minutes]

Select this option to enable a specified time for which the idle action (shut down, Restart PC, Exit to Windows) will start counting.

This option is available only if the above idle time action is checked.

(Import and export name: Enable hour start idle)

In the time checkbox specify the time for which to start the idle time count.

(Import and export name: Idle start hour)

Security options

Global Exit password

Set the default password that is required for one of the following Exit SoftXpand actions: Exit to Windows, Restart PC, and Shutdown PC

Global SoftXpand exit effects all running Workstations, therefore it is protected by default with a password.

The default Exit Password is: miniframe (case sensitive).

For more information regarding SoftXpand shutdown options please refer to [Exiting SoftXpand Xpress](#).

(Import and Export settings name: Global Exit Password)

Workstation Exit password

Enter a password that will be used for logging off SoftXpand Workstations and shutting down SoftXpand Workstations.

Both of these actions do not affect other running Workstations.

By setting a Workstation Exit password, all users will need to type in the password in order to logoff their Workstations, and in order to Shutdown their workstations.

For more information regarding SoftXpand logon / logoff / shutdown workstation refer to [Logon and Logoff SoftXpand Xpress](#).

 (Import and Export settings name: WS Exit Password)

Allow only members in administrators group to use Admin Tools

Allow only Windows' Administrators group users to access the Admin Tools.

By changing this setting, all users will have access to the Admin Tools and be able to change important configuration settings of SoftXpand such as: Automatic startup, change exit password, disable sound etc.

It is recommended to leave this setting in its default so that only administrative users will be able to access the Admin Tools.

As an alternative, you can open the Admin Tools from any workstation logged on with a non administrative user by using the 'Run as' command.

(Import and Export settings name: Admin Tools Permission)

Language

Select from drop down menu the SoftXpand default supported language according to your license.

By selecting the default language from the drop down list, all SoftXpand dialogs and Admin Tools user interface will be changed to the selected default language.

Currently the only default language available is English (United States).

(Import and Export settings name: Control Parameter Language)

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Workstation Preferences Tab
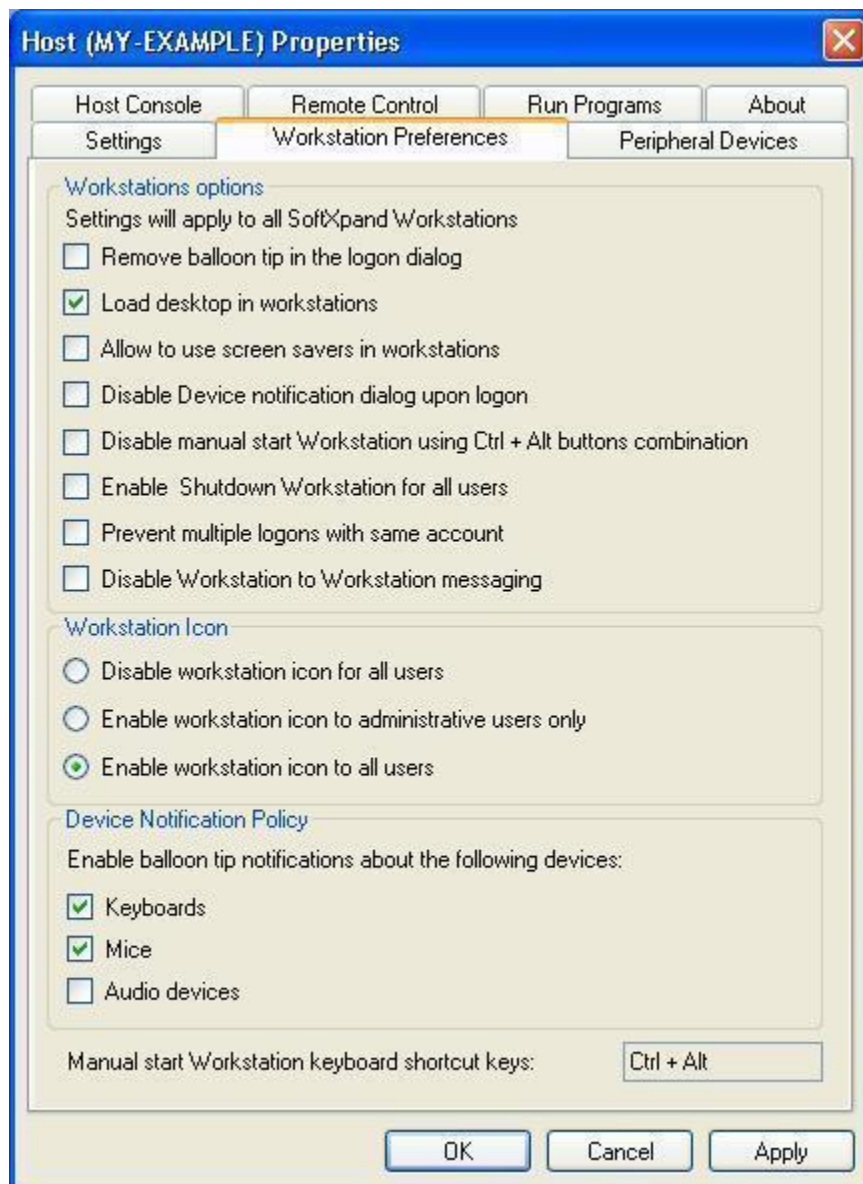
Workstations options

Remove balloon tip in the logon dialog

Enable / Disable the appearance of the balloon tip in the SoftXpand logon dialog.

When launching SoftXpand for the first time – it is recommended not to change this setting from its default. If for example, the settings were imported from another Host, it's recommended to manually unselect this option so that the initial assignment of keyboards and mice will be as easy as possible.

(Import and Export settings name: Balloon Tip Appearance On Logon)

Load desktop in Workstations

Enable / Disable the desktop to load fully on running Workstations upon logon of SoftXpand.

Note: In order to logoff a Workstation which its desktop is not loaded use the combination of Ctrl + Alt + Del keys to display the logoff dialog.

(Import and Export settings name: Load Desktop in WS)

Allow to use screen savers in Workstations

Enable / Disable screen saver on SoftXpand Workstations.

If the Workstations are running in SAFE video mode it is recommended to disable screen saver in order not to overload the CPU.

This setting is off by default.

Note: since the default screen saver setting is set to 'Off', you might want to change this setting as part of the setup and deployment on site.

(Import and Export settings name: WS Screen Saver Control)

Disable Device notification dialog upon logon

Enable / Disable the device assignment instruction in each Workstation's Welcome to SoftXpand dialog, indicating which Ctrl+Shift+F[#] will be used to assign the keyboard and mouse to it (# = a number digit).

By following the device assignment instruction, the keyboard and mouse gets re-assigned to the workstation upon each logon. This is an extra safety action to ensure device assignment to the Workstation.

Disable this option to skip the SoftXpand Welcome dialog and display the SoftXpand logon dialog only.

(Import and Export settings name: Device Notification dialog on logon)

Disable manual start Workstation using Ctrl + Alt buttons combination

Enable / Disable the feature of manual starting a Workstation which is shutdown using the combination keys Ctrl + Alt.

You can manually start a Workstation which is shut down, using the Ctrl + Alt keys on a keyboard which is assigned to the shutdown Workstation.

Use this checkbox to disable this feature.

(Import and Export settings name: Manual Start WorkStation)

Enable Shutdown Workstation for all users

Enable / Disable the feature of shutting down the workstation from the workstation tray icon using the SoftXpand shutdown dialog.

By default, shutdown workstation is disabled. By enabling this feature the option of 'Shutdown my workstation' will be added to the SoftXpand shutdown dialog.

For more information regarding shutdown options see:Exiting SoftXpand Xpress.

(Import and Export settings name: Enable shutdown Workstation)

Prevent multiple logons with the same user account

Disable / Enable the option to logon to multiple workstations using the same user account.

By default this setting is not selected and you can logon using the same user account in multiple workstations. By selecting this option, you will be able to logon in each workstation only by using a different user account.

Note: Setting this option cannot be done if there are 2 users logged on using the same account or 2 workstations are configured to auto-logon with the same account.

Disable workstation to workstation messaging

Disable / Enable the option to send messages between workstations using the SoftXpand workstation tray icon.
For more information see the The [SoftXpand Xpress tray icons](#).

Workstation icon

Disable workstation icon for all users

Select this button to disable the appearance of the Workstation tray icon for all users.

Enable workstation icon to administrative users only

Select this button to enable the Workstation tray icon only for administrative users.

Enable workstation icon to all users

Select this button to enable the appearance of the Workstation tray icon for all users.

(Import and Export settings name: WS Icon Permission)

Device Notification Policy

Enable balloon tip notifications about the following devices: Keyboards, Mice, Audio devices

Selection of the peripheral devices to which a balloon tips notification will appear in case the selected devices are missing on a Workstation.

When SoftXpand is configured to automatically logon all users to their Workstations it is recommended to leave the notification balloon tip for keyboards and mice on.

(Import and Export settings name: Device Map Balloon Tip Settings)

Manual start Workstation keyboard shortcut keys:

Use this combination of keyboard keys to start a workstation which was previously shut down. The keyboard combination specified is informative and cannot be changed. Use the combination on a keyboard which is assigned to the shut down workstation, in order to manually start it.

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Peripheral Devices Tab

Use the Peripheral Devices tab to configure the global behavior of various peripheral devices attached to the Host.

Under the Peripheral Devices tab you will find 5 tabs referring to different types of devices:

- **Keyboards & mice**
  Use this tab to configure global keyboards and mice settings.

- **Audio Devices**
  Use this tab to configure global audio settings.

- **Virtual IPs**
  Use this tab to enable / disable virtual IP per application and to set the desired applications to be used in virtual IP environment.

- **Removable Disk**
  Use this tab to configure global USB isolation settings for USB Removable Disk devices.

Local printers
Use this tab to configure local printers isolation.

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Keyboards & Mice Tab
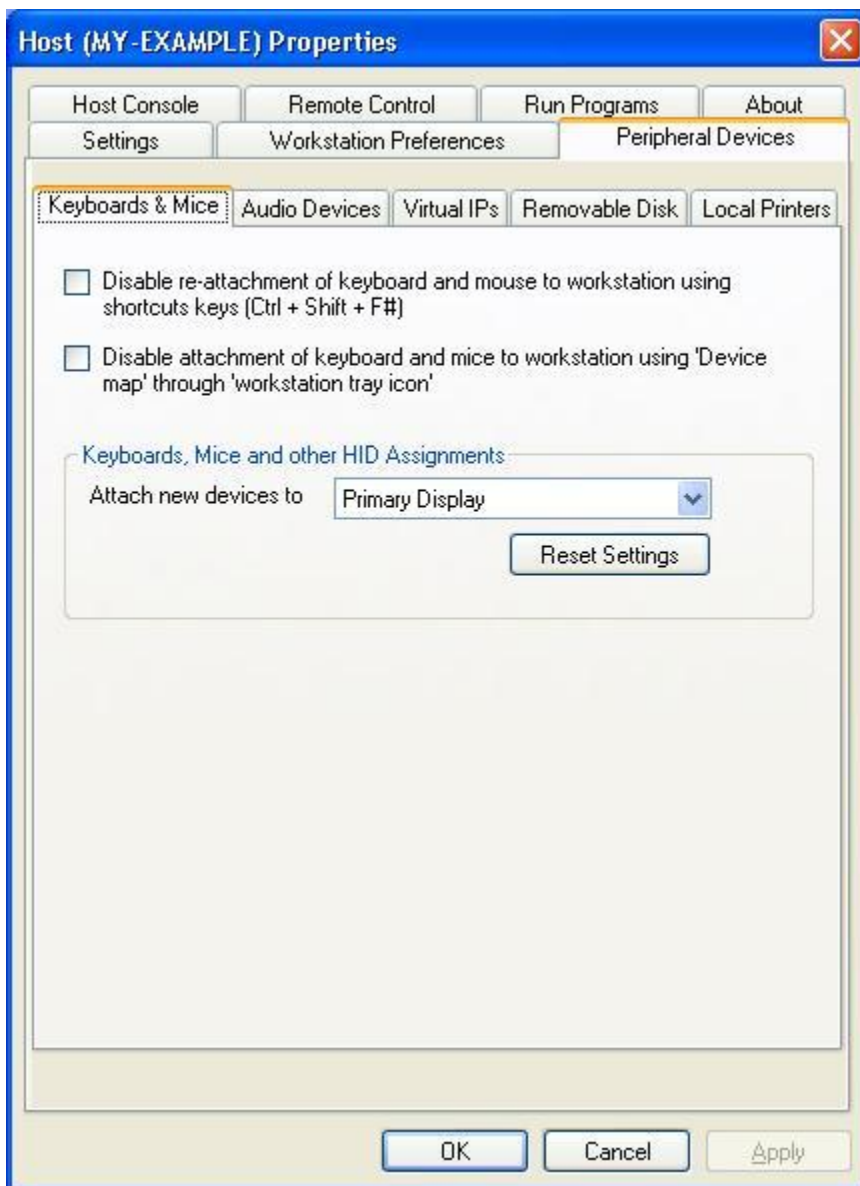
Disable re-attachment of keyboard and mouse to Workstation using shortcut keys (Ctrl + Shift + F#)

Enable / Disable the ability to manually re-assign a keyboard and mouse to a Workstation using the shortcut keys combination.

Using this option will lock the current assignment of keyboards and mice to workstations and will not enable switching assignments between workstations.

Note: if the Host settings were imported from another Host, it is recommended to manually unselect this option in order to be able to assign new keyboards and mice to their new workstations.

(Import and Export settings name: Device Manual Attachment Control)

Disable attachment of keyboards and mice to Workstations using 'Device map' through the Workstation tray icon

Enable / Disable the attachment of keyboards and mice to workstations using the Device Map tab in Workstation Properties dialog box when accessed from the Workstation Tray Icon.

Setting this option will enable the users to assign keyboards and mice to their workstations only by using the shortcut keys combination.
The SoftXpand administrator will still be able to assign keyboards and mice to workstations using Device Map accessed from Admin Tools.

For more information regarding Device Map see Workstation Properties.

(Import and Export settings name: Device Map Control)

Keyboards, Mice and other HID Assignments

Attach new devices to

Select the default monitor to which all new devices will be assigned automatically.

Note: Use the Host Console assignment only if your SoftXpand license enables the Host Console to reside on a physical monitor when SoftXpand is running. You can view your license attributes in the license info section in the Admin Tools.

(Import and Export settings name: New Device Attachment Settings)

Reset Settings

Click on this button to reset all keyboard and mice assignments.

By clicking this button, all keyboards and mice which were assigned to Workstations, will be unassigned from the Workstations, and get re-assigned to the primary SoftXpand Workstation. As in the initial startup of SoftXpand after installation.

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Audio Devices Tab
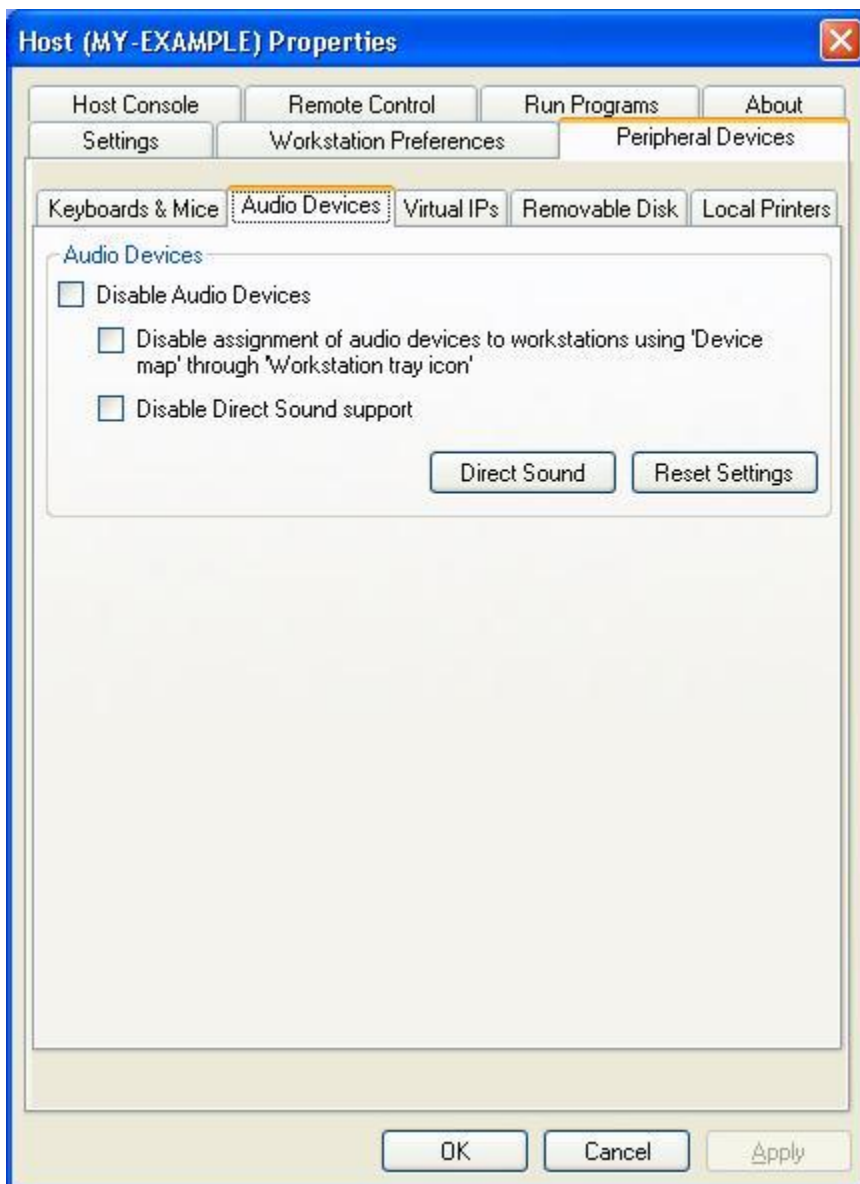
Audio Devices

Disable Audio Devices

Enable / Disable the use of audio devices on the SoftXpand workstations.

(Import and Export settings name: Control Audio Devices)

Disable assignment of audio devices to workstation using `Device map` through `workstation tray icon`

Enable / Disable assignment of audio devices using the Device Map tab in Workstation Properties dialog box when accessed from the [Workstation Tray Icon](#).

Setting this option will deny the users from adding or changing audio device assignments through their 'Workstation tray icon' but the SoftXpand administrator will still be able to assign audio devices to workstations using Device Map accessed from Admin Tools.

(Import and Export settings name: Lock Audio Device map)

Disable Direct Sound support

Enable / Disable the option to use direct sound on SoftXpand.

(Import and Export settings name: Direct Sound support)

Direct Sound

Use this button to open and edit the SXDSound.ini file, where you can set to include / exclude which applications will use direct sound.

Reset Settings

Use this button to un-assign all sound devices from all workstations and to restore all sound related settings to their default.

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Removable Disk Tab
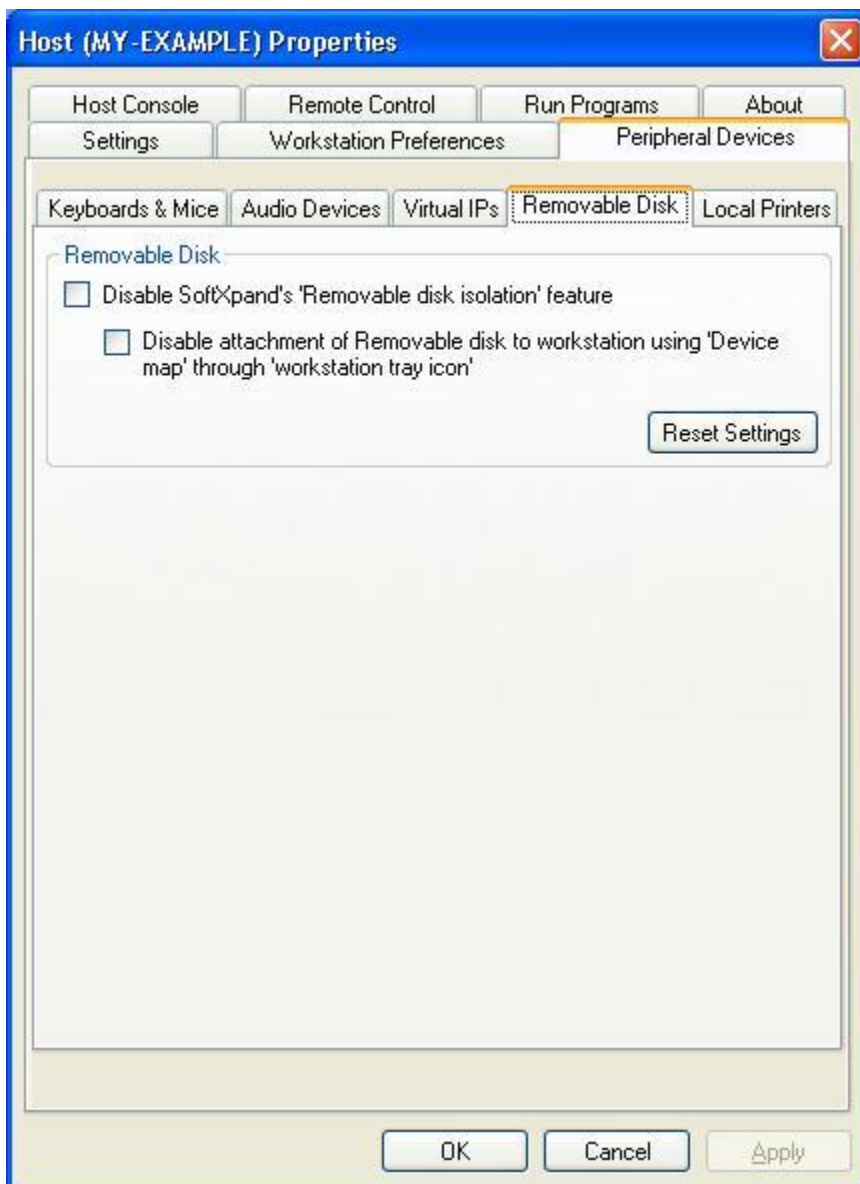
Removable Disk

Disable SoftXpand's 'Removable disk isolation' feature

Enable / Disable management of removable disk isolation by SoftXpand.

SoftXpand`s removable disk isolation method assigns a USB port to a SoftXpand Workstation. The assignment of USB port is done manually. After the port has been assigned - any standard removable disk that will be inserted into the assigned port will be automatically mapped to the relevant Workstation and will be accessible only by that Workstation.

By default, when a removable disk is inserted into a USB port that has not been manually assigned to a Workstation, this port is automatically assigned to the Host Console and the device inserted into it will not be accessible to any Workstation until manually assigned.

Assignment of removable disks to a workstation is done using the Workstation Properties dialog box – Device Map – Removable disk drop down.

In order to learn how to assign USB removable disks (ports) to a Workstation please refer to Mapping Hardware devices under Using SoftXpand Xpress.

Note: By enabling SoftXpand`s management of removable disks you will not be able to manage removable disk isolation in other methods, such as 3rd party applications.

Note: By disabling 'SoftXpand's removable disk isolation feature' any removable disk connected to the Host will be accessible and visible to all SoftXpand Workstations.

(Import and Export settings name: Removable Disk Settings)

Disable attachment of Removable disk to workstation using 'Device map' through 'Workstation tray icon'

Enable / Disable assignment of removable disks using the Device Map tab in Workstation Properties dialog box when accessed from the Workstation Tray Icon.

Setting this option will deny the users from adding or changing removable disks assignments (USB ports) to Workstations by using their Workstation tray icon but

the SoftXpand administrator will still be able to assign removable disks to workstations using Device Map accessed from [Admin Tools](#).

(Import and Export settings name: Removable Disk Tray Icon Control)

Reset Setting

Select this option to clear all removable disk assignments to Workstations.

By clicking the 'Reset Settings' button:

- All removable disks (USB ports) that are assigned to workstations and are connected to their port at the time of this action - will be released from their assignments and re-assigned to the Host Console.

All removable disks (USB ports) that are <u>not connected</u> to their port at the time of this action - will be removed from the Device Map list.

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Virtual IPs Tab
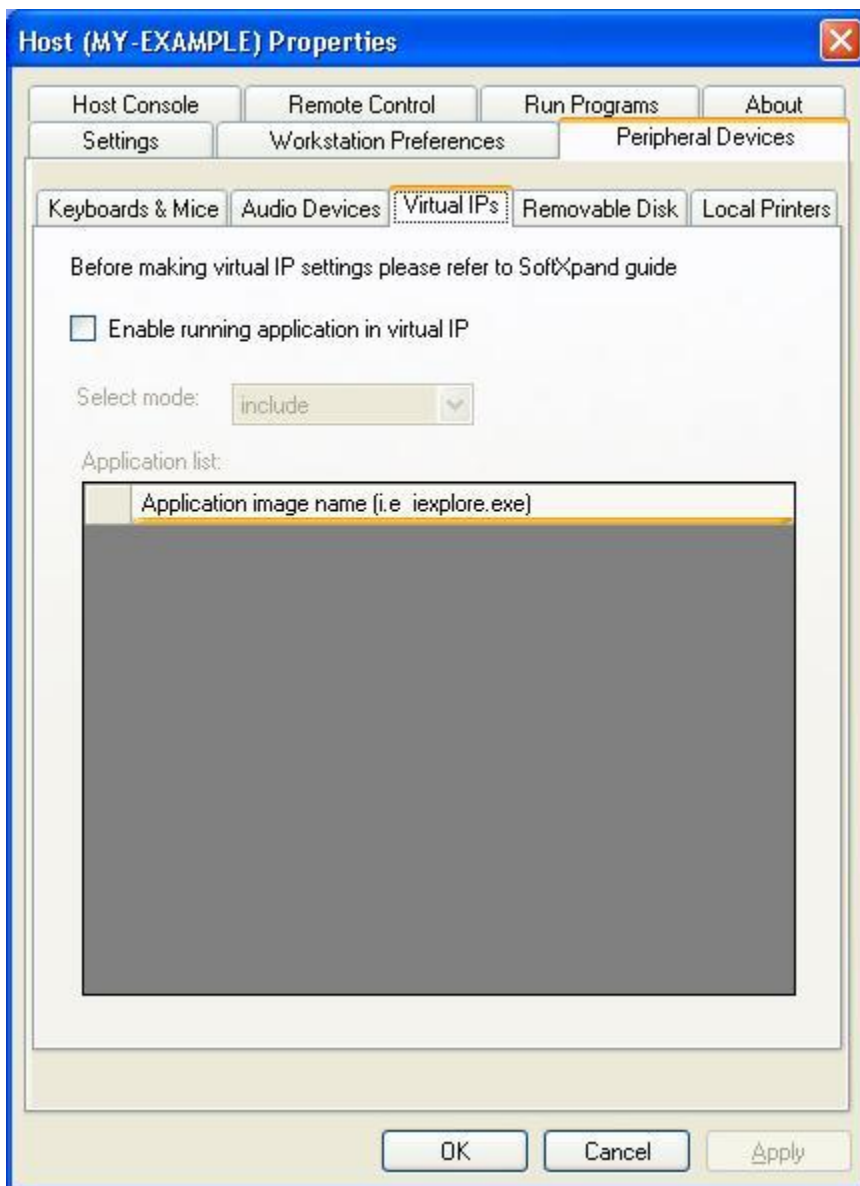
Enable running application in virtual IP

Enable / Disable running application in virtual multi IP mode.

(Import and Export settings name: Multi IP's Application Run)

Select mode - include / exclude

Select either to include or to exclude a list of application from running in virtual multi IP mode.

(Import and Export settings name: Virtual IP's Select mode)

Application image name (i.e iexplore.exe)

Type in the name of the process you wish to be run in multiple virtual IPs.

Note: in order to run a process in multi-IP:

- The Host PC's network adapter must have multiple IP addresses.

- The process name should be specified in the above box.

- Use the device map – virtual IP drop down, to specify the IP address of the Workstation.

For more information refer to multi-IP applications.

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Local Printers
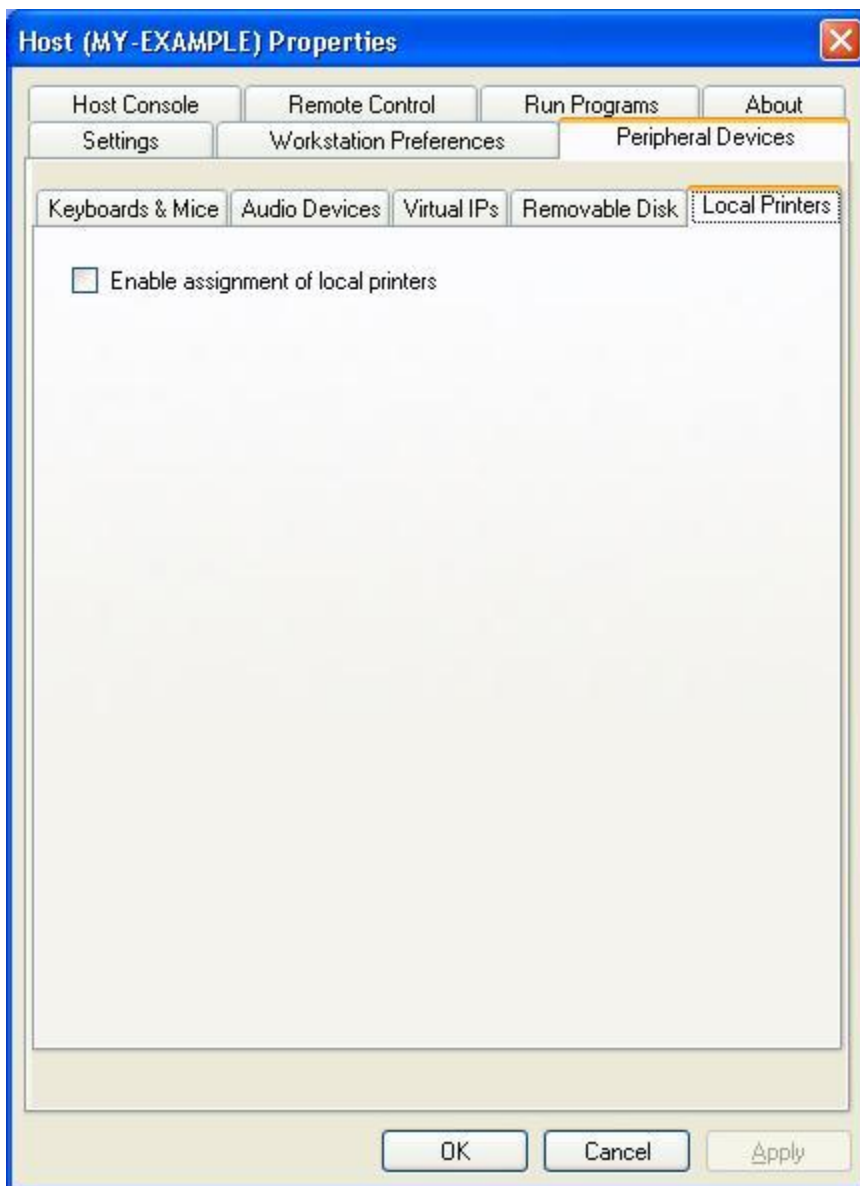
Enable assignment of local printers

Enable / Disable the ability to manually assign a local printer to a Workstation using the workstation [Device Map](#).

By default, when this setting is not selected, after a local printer is installed on the Host PC it will be available to all users on all workstations.

By selecting this checkbox, a printer that is installed on the Host PC will not be accessible to any of the workstations until it is manually assigned to the workstation using the [Device Map](#). Then it will be accessible to only that workstation and to none of the others.

Note: in order to enable the local printer assignment feature, multiple logons using the same user account must be disabled. This is done in the Host Properties, [Workstation Preferences](#) tab.

Note: this feature will not apply for Administrative and power users. Administrative and power users will see all printers at all times.

Note: By enabling this feature, the printer's properties will be changed. In order to return to the previous printer settings you need to manually set the printers properties settings. For more information contact: support@miniframe.com.

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Host Console Tab

The Host Console is Windows' Primary session referred to as Session 0, on which SoftXpand is installed on.

By logging on to Windows the user will logon to the Host Console.

While SoftXpand is running the Host Console can run in 2 modes:

- Background mode.

- Physical display on a selected monitor.

This tab will enable you to manage and set the behavior of the Host Console.

Using the Host Console will help mainly for troubleshooting purposes, or according to the license, it could be displayed on a physical monitor and be used as a Workstation.
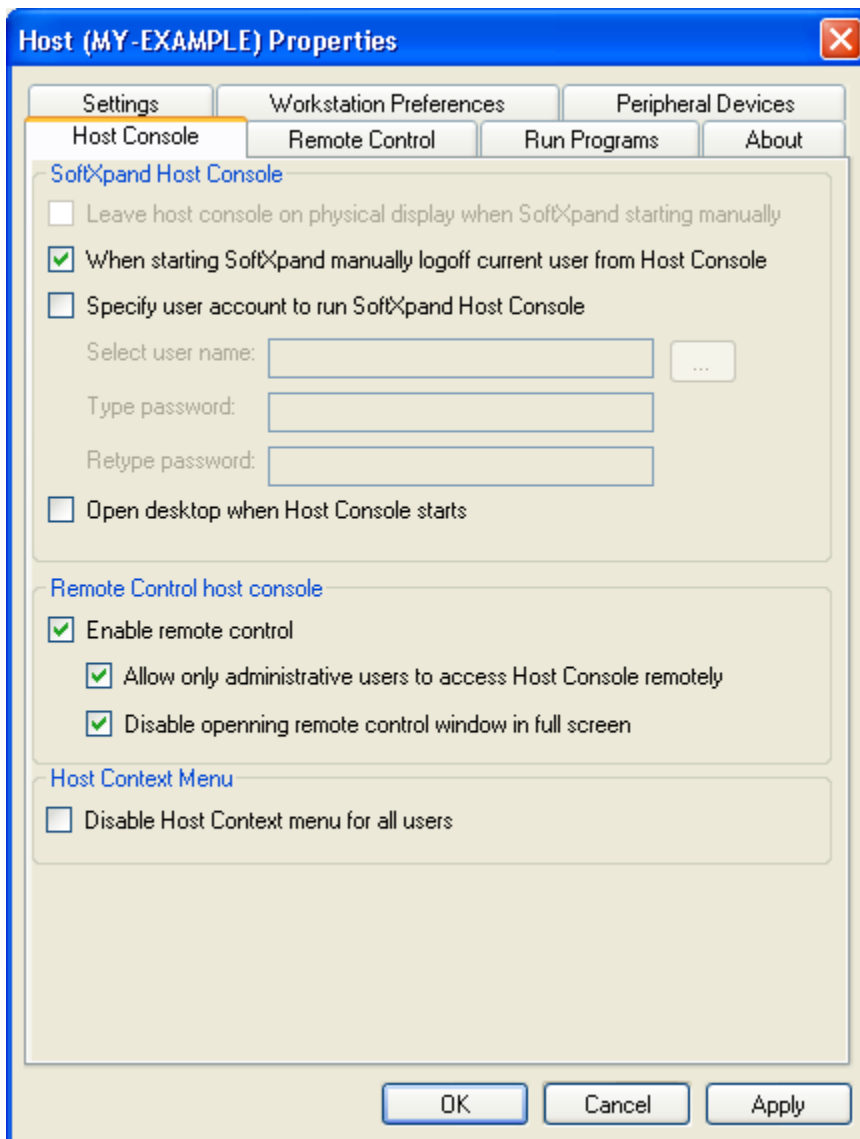
SoftXpand Host Console

Leave Host Console on physical display when SoftXpand starting manually:

Allow the Host Console to be displayed on a selected physical monitor by the user preference. This option will take effect only on manual start of SoftXpand.

In order to configure the physical display of the Host Console on a desired monitor, you will need to have all monitors unassigned on a relevant Workstation using the Device Map.

Note: A physical display of the Host Console is available only when the option is enabled in the license used for activating the Host.

Note: When a physical Host Console is enabled a new `Start Workstation` option will be added to the Workstation context menu enabling manual start of individual Workstations one by one.

(Import and Export settings name: Host Console On Physical Display)

When starting SoftXpand manually logoff current user from Host Console:

Enable / Disable logoff of the current user when SoftXpand is started manually.

Using this option (un-checking it, by default is checked) will not logoff the user that started SoftXpand. Therefore, all his open documents and applications will remain open on the Host Console while SoftXpand is started.

Note: This option will take effect only on Manual start of SoftXpand.

(Import and Export settings name: Logoff Current User On Host Console)

Specify user account to run SoftXpand Host Console:

Type in the user name or use the browser to select a user account that will logon to the SoftXpand Host console. The user may be local or a domain user.

Note: This will take effect only on SotXpand auto start.

(Import and Export settings name: Host Console User Account)

Open desktop when Host Console starts:

Use this checkbox to allow the logged on user`s desktop to load on SoftXpand`s Host Console.

Note: This setting will effect on SoftXpand auto start and manual start.

(Import and Export settings name: Host Console Desktop Display)

Remote Control Host Console

Enable Remote Control:

Enable / Disable remote control connection to Host Console.

This setting applies only when the Host Console is running in the background. It will not apply when the Host Console is running on a physical monitor.

Note: This setting applies to remote control the Host Console alone. It does not apply to the remote control feature between Workstations.

(Import and Export settings name: Host Console Remote Control)

Allow only administrative users to access Host Console remotely:

Unselect this option to grant access for all users to remote control the Host Console.

By default, only administrative users will be able to remote control the Host Console.

(Import and Export settings name: Host Console Admin Remote Access)

Disable opening remote control window in full screen:

Enable / Disable full screen for remote control session to SoftXpand Host Console.

The default for the remote control Host Console window is sized screen. Un-check this setting in order to open the Host Console window in full screen.

(Import and Export settings name: Full Screen Remote Control Session)

Host Context menu

Disable Host Context menu for all users

Select this button to disable the Context menu of the SoftXpand Host tray icon for all users.

By selecting this option all context menu of the Host tray icon will be unavailable for all users.

(Import and Export settings name: Host Console Context Menu)

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Remote Control Tab

SoftXpand enables administrative users to connect remotely from any Workstation to any other Workstation using an RDP-like window.

Configuring this feature can be done by one of two ways:

- Configure this feature independently for each workstation using the Workstation Properties dialog box, accessed via Admin Tools or the Workstation Tray Icon.

- Configure global remote control settings under the Host Properties dialog box which will apply to all workstation.
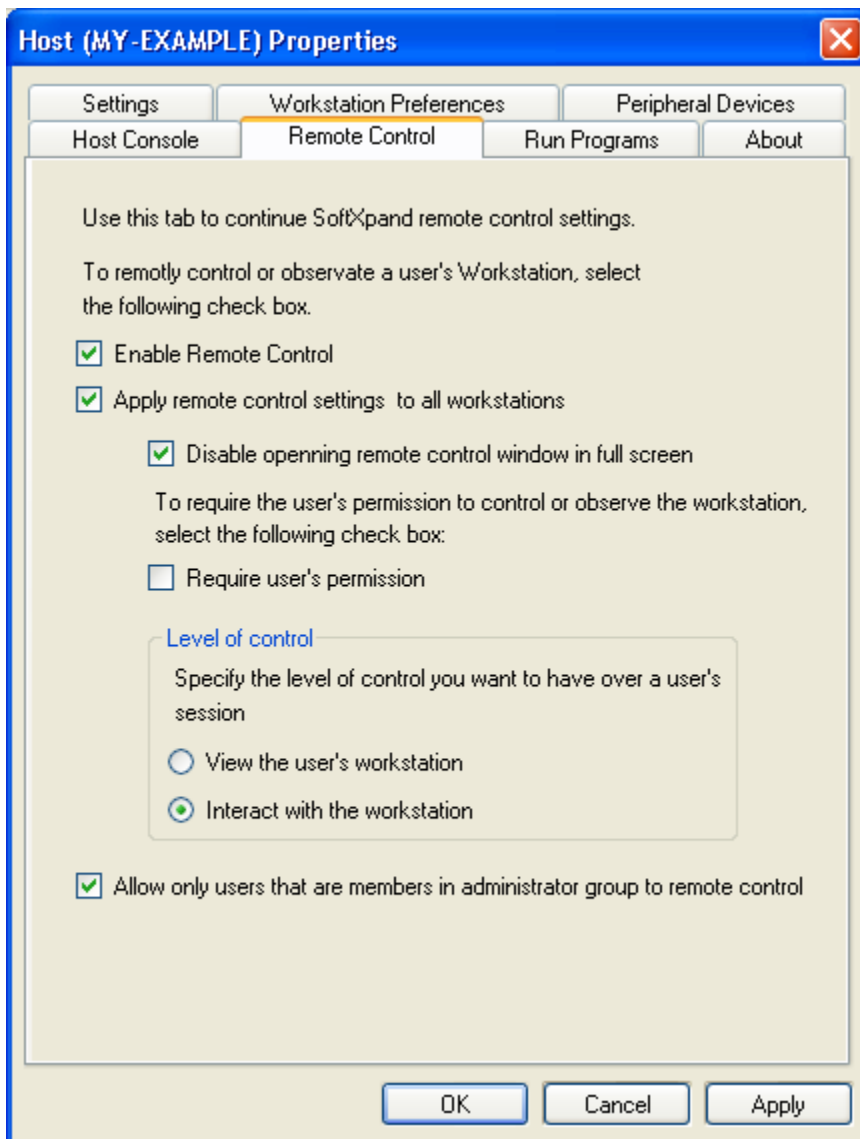
Enable remote control

Enable / Disable remote control connection to workstations.

(Import and Export settings name: Remote Control Global Settings)

Apply remote control settings to all workstations

Apply the remote control settings in this tab to all workstations.

If you would like to configure different remote control settings for each Workstation - clear this check box and configure the individual settings in each Workstation Properties dialog box (accessed from the Workstation icon or through the Admin Tools).

(Import and Export settings name: Apply WS Remote Control Settings)

Disable opening remote control window in full screen

By default, remote control windows will be opened in a sized window.

By un-selecting this option the remote control session will be opened in full screen.

(Import and Export settings name: Remote Control Full Screen Mode)

Require user`s permission

Enable / Disable the user`s permission whenever a remote connection is established.

By unselecting this option you enable remote control sessions to be established freely without any user notification or permission.

(Import and Export settings name: Remote Control User Permission)

View the user`s workstation

Select this option to enable a 'View only' session with the remote controlled Workstation.

(Import and Export settings name: Limited View On Remote Control)

Interact with the user`s workstation

Select this option to enable interaction with the remote controlled workstation.

(Import and Export settings name: Limited View On Remote Control)

Allow only users that are in Administrators group to remote control

Allow all users or allow only administrative users to be able to connect remotely to workstations.

(Import and Export settings name: Admin Remote WS Control)

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Run Programs Tab

The Run Programs feature enables an application or a list of applications to start automatically upon logging on to workstations. The Run Programs list is independent and is not related to other application startup tools available for the operating system. The Run Programs list applies only to SoftXpand logon.
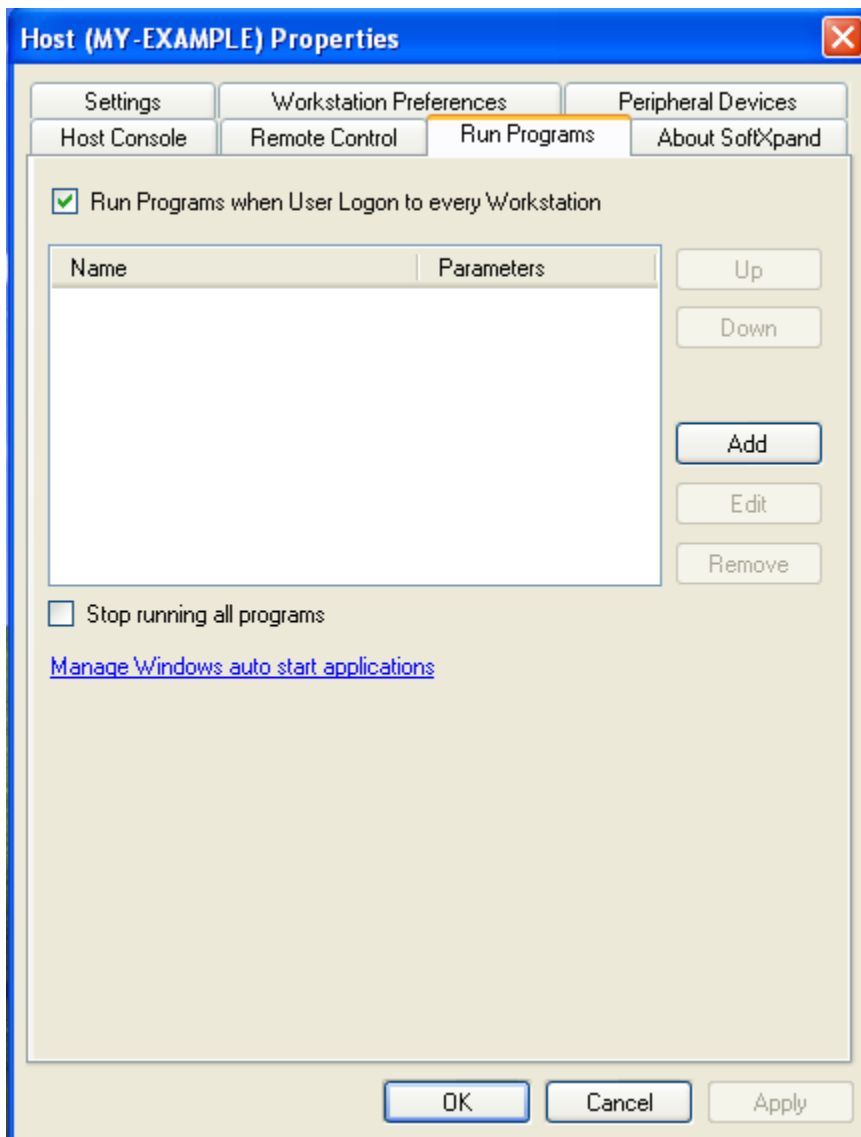
Run Programs when User Logon to every Workstation

Enable / Disable running programs automatically upon user logon to SoftXpand for all workstations.

Clearing this check box disables the central management of Run Programs for all workstations and enables managing each Workstation`s startup applications individually. Use the 'Add', 'Edit', 'Remove', 'Up' and 'Down' buttons to manage the list of applications that will start automatically upon logging on to a SoftXpand Workstation.

(Import and Export settings name: Run program on Host list)

Stop running all programs

Use this checkbox to stop running applications automatically upon logging on to SoftXpand workstations.

(Import and Export settings name: Stop auto Run Programs)

Manage Windows auto start applications

Use this link to open Windows System Configuration Utility (msconfig) for managing Windows automatic startup programs and resources.

***Note*:** use the 'Add', 'Edit', 'Remove', 'Up', and 'Down' buttons to manage the startup programs for SoftXpand workstations.

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About Tab
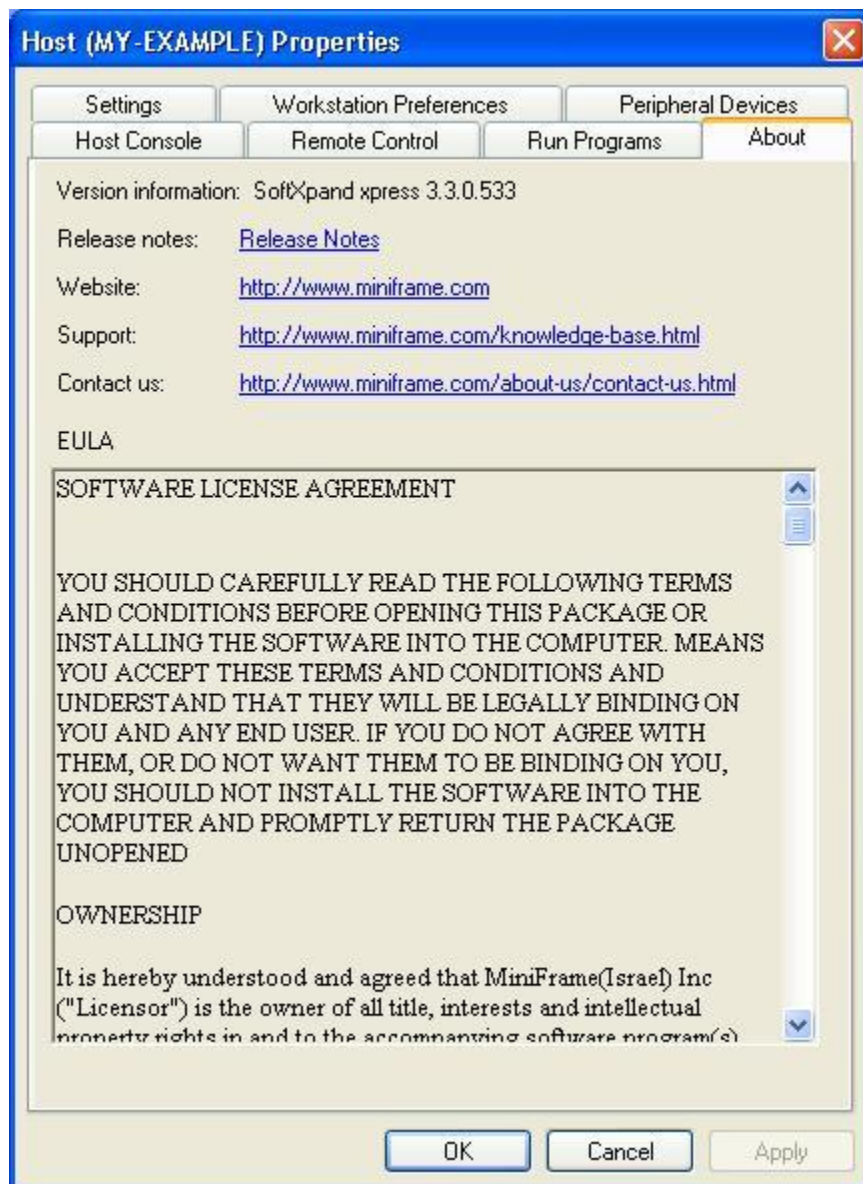
Release notes

Use this link to see the SoftXpand version release notes. It contains information regarding new features, known issues, and quick installation guide.

Website

A link to MiniFrame`s website.

Support

A link to MiniFrame`s Knowledge Base website where you can find information regarding hardware and software related issues, manuals, how to's and other technical related information.

Contact us

Use this link to contact either MiniFrame Support or MiniFrame Marketing.

EULA

MiniFrame`s End User License Agreement.

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Workstations

The Workstations node enables you to configure settings for individual Workstations:

- Enter the Admin Tools and click the Workstations node to open the Workstation list in the right pane. See details below.

- Right-click the Workstation node to open a context menu which will enable the following options:

  - **Show Display Properties**
    If opened from a SoftXpand Workstation – the Windows Display Properties dialog box will appear. The 'Settings' tab will be in a 'read only' form.
    If opened from Host Console (Windows session) while SoftXpand isn't running - the Windows Display Properties dialog box will appear in a 'fully functional' form.
    If opened from a remote control session over the Host Console – the Windows Display Properties dialog box will appear. The 'Settings' tab will be in a 'read only' form.

  - **Extend All Displays**
    Available only from Host Console (Windows session) when SoftXpand isn't running – it will turn on all monitors and will extend the Host Console's desktop to them in extend desktop mode.

  - **Export List…**
    Exports a list of all Workstations to a text file.

The Workstation list (right pane) contains Workstation entries as per the number enabled by the SoftXpand license. Most settings of each Workstation can be edited in the Workstation Properties dialog box.
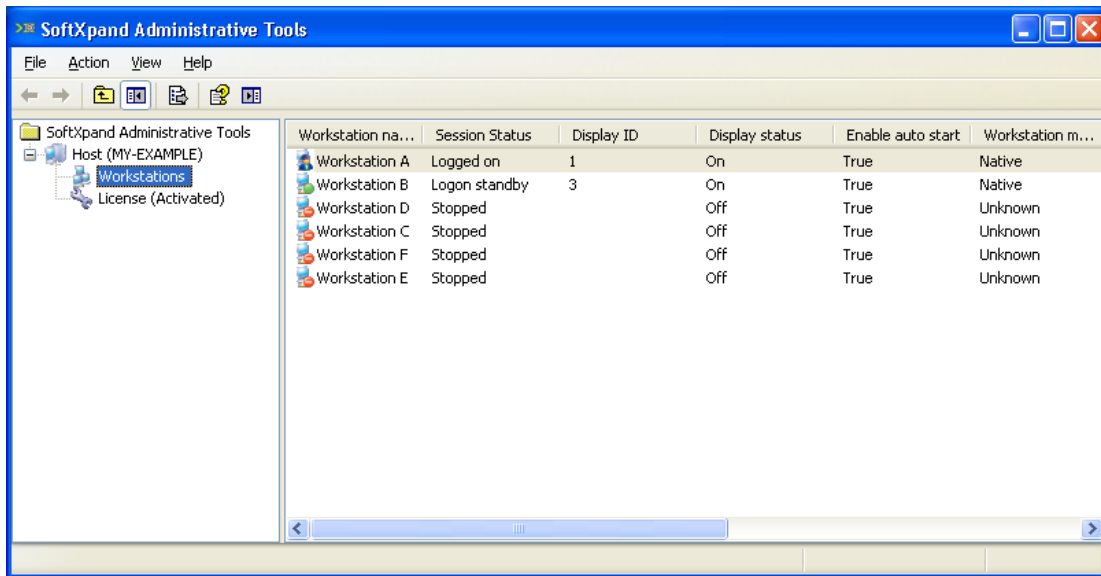
This is the data displayed in the Workstations list:

Workstation name

This name is for easy recognition only and can be edited in the [Workstation Properties](#) dialog box.

Session status

Values in this column can be:

- 'Logon standby' (Workstation currently up and running but still not logged onto).

- 'Logged on' (Workstation currently up and running with user logged on)

- 'Stopped' (Workstation is currently not working). You can start the workstation by right clicking the workstation and choosing 'Start Workstation'. More information at the bottom of this page.

- 'Error' (something is wrong).

- Starting (in the progress of starting).

- Stopping (in the progress of stopping).

Display ID

The Windows display ID of the Workstation's monitor.

Display status

The column displays Workstation's monitor status – 'On' or 'Off'.
When SoftXpand isn't running, a 'Primary' status will show which Workstation resides on the Windows Primary monitor.

Enable auto start

The column displays 'True' or 'False'.
True - when the workstation is set to automatically startup upon SoftXpand start.
False - when workstation auto start setting is set to disabled.
This option can be configured in the Workstation Properties dialog box.

Workstation mode

Available modes are:
'Native' - Workstation utilized the video adapter's GPU for better graphic performances and better overall Host performance.
'Safe' - Workstation only utilizes PC CPU which may result in lesser performances.
'Unknown' – Workstation is inactive.
More information: SoftXpand video modes.

Video card

The column displays the name of the video card that the Workstation's monitor is connected to, as shown in Windows Device Manager.

Display Resolution

Workstation's monitor display resolution, color quality and refresh rate.

Enable auto logon

This column displays 'True' of 'False' indicating if a user account is configured to automatically logon the workstation upon startup or not.
This option, and the selected user account, can be configured in the Workstation Properties dialog box.

Account name

If auto-logon is enabled, this column will display the auto-logon user name.

Logged on user

This column displays the logged on user. If no user is logged on, the column will remain empty.

Right clicking a selected Workstation would open a context menu with the following options:

Start Workstation / Shutdown Workstation

Depending if the Workstation is currently running or not.
You can configure a Workstation Exit password in the Host Properties – settings tab which will be prompted upon Shutting down a workstation.
You can use the combination keys of Ctrl + Alt on the keyboard assigned to the shutdown workstation in order start it.
This feature can be enabled or disabled from the Workstation Preferences.

Remote Control

Exists only when the Workstation is running – it opens a Remote Control session to the selected Workstation. See Remote Control for more information.

Detect Display

This option projects the Display ID of the selected Workstation on its monitor (regardless if the Workstation is running or not) and prompts the Admin Tools user to confirm it. This option is mainly used for trouble-shooting.

Send Message

Exists only when the Workstation is running – it enables sending text messages to the selected Workstation, which will appear in a small dialog box on the Workstation's monitor.

Running Processes…

Exists only when the workstation is running – it will show all processes and process IDs currently running on the workstation.

Properties

This option will open the Workstation Properties dialog box of the selected Workstation - which enables configuring various specific Workstation settings.

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Workstation Tab

Workstation name

Enables changing a Workstation's name for easier future recognition and configuration.

The Name may be the user's private name, the location of the Workstation, or any other name you wish to call the Workstation.

Workstation mode

Available modes are:

- **Native**
  The Workstation utilizes the video adapter's GPU which results in better graphic and overall performance.
  Any video adapter from MiniFrame's Certified Hardware table will run in Native video mode.

- **Safe**
  The Workstation only utilizes the PC's CPU which in most cases will result in less than optimized performance.
  Use this option for troubleshooting video adapter hazard behavior, or when using video cards which are not certified by MiniFrame`s Certified Hardware table.

- **Unknown**
  Workstation is inactive.

Enable auto start

Select this option to enable the Workstation to automatically start upon SoftXpand launch.

Note: Unselecting this option for a specific Workstation will cause the Workstation not to start and no desktop will be loaded upon SoftXpand launch. Therefore, it is recommended to make sure that this option is always selected, unless for specific situations where the Workstation is certainly not occupied by any user and there is no need for it to auto start, or for troubleshooting monitor issues.

Enable auto logon

Select this option and fill in the logon details to enable an automatic user logon upon Workstation start.

This option will automatically logon the user to his Workstation upon every Workstation start. Use the browse button in order to select the user account which will automatically logon the Workstation. The user may be local or from domain (if the Host is member of domain).

Note: The SoftXpand automatic user logon mechanism is identical in its operation to the Windows automatic user logon.

As you configure a user to automatically logon to Windows you can do the same on SoftXpand using this setting.

Manually keyboard assignment shortcut keys

The specific combination of keyboard keys which are used for assigning a keyboard to that specific Workstation.

This is an informative field only. It is not editable. The numbers in the field will be different for each workstation.

For more information see [Mapping Hardware Devices](#).

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Remote Control Tab

Use this tab to configure the Workstation's remote control settings. This tab is used to configure how this workstation will be accessed remotely.

The options in this tab are only available when in Host Properties – Remote Control tab - 'Apply remote control settings to all workstations' checkbox is not selected.
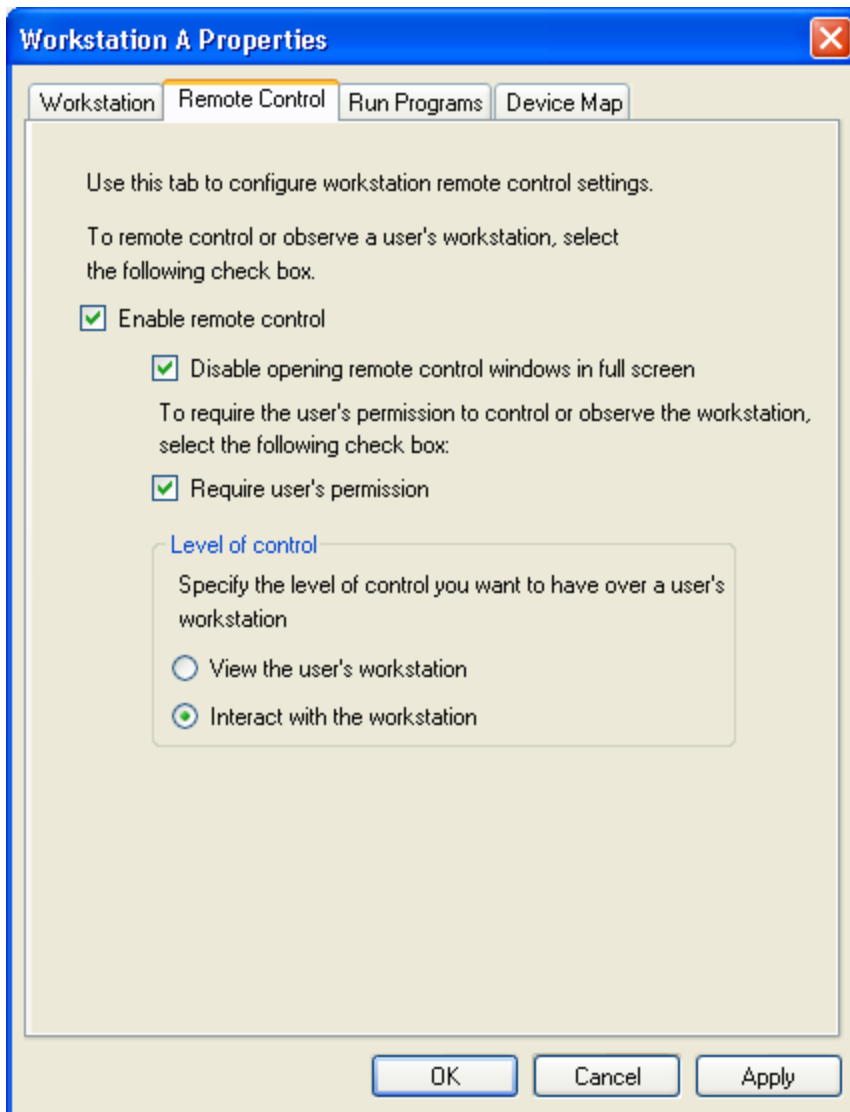
Enable remote control

Select this checkbox to enable connecting to this Workstation remotely from another Workstation or from a remote computer.

Disable opening remote control window in full screen

By default, remote control windows will be opened in a sized window.

By un-selecting this option the remote control session will be opened in full screen.

Require user`s permission

Enable / Disable the user`s permission whenever a remote connection is established.

Unselecting this option enables establishing a remote control session to this Workstation freely without any user notification or permission.

Level of control

Select the level of control for the established remote control session.

The available options are:

- **View the user`s workstation**
  Select this option to enable a 'View only' session when connecting remotely to this Workstation.

- **Interact with the workstation**
  Select this option to enable interaction with this remote controlled workstation.

Note: In case that the checkbox "Apply Remote Control Settings to all Workstations" is enabled in the Host properties – Remote Control tab, then the following label will appear in the Workstation properties bottom window:

Disabled options are currently controlled by global Host properties. To enable specific Workstation settings please contact your System Administrator.

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Run Programs Tab

The Run Programs feature enables an application or a list of applications to start automatically upon logon to a SoftXpand Workstation.

The Run Programs list is independent and is not related to other application startup tools available for the operating system. The Run Programs list applies only to SoftXpand logon.

The Run Programs feature can be configured globally for all Workstation using the Host's Run Programs tab or it may be configured individually for each Workstation using this tab.

The Workstation Properties - Run Programs tab is available only when in Host Properties-Run Programs tab the 'Run Programs when user logon to every Workstation' checkbox is not selected.
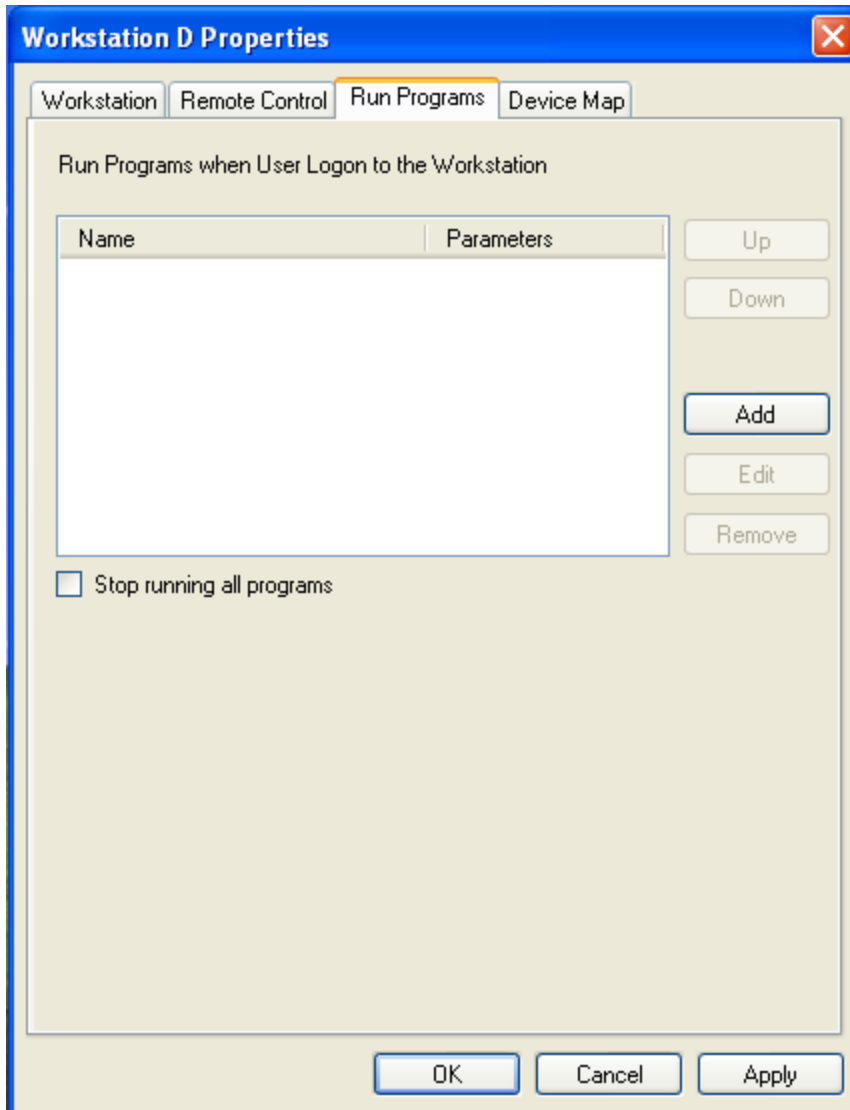
Run Program when user logon to the workstation

Use the 'Add', 'Edit', 'Remove', 'Up' and 'Down' buttons to manage the list of applications that will start automatically upon logging on to the Workstation.

Stop running all programs

Use this checkbox to stop running applications automatically upon logging on to the Workstation.

Note: use the 'Add', 'Edit', 'Remove', 'Up', and 'Down' buttons to manage the startup programs for SoftXpand workstations.

Note: In case that the check box "Run programs when user logon to every workstation" is enabled in the [Host properties](#) – [Run Programs](#) tab, then the following label will appear in the Workstation properties bottom window:

Disabled options are currently controlled by global Host properties. To enable specific Workstation settings please contact your System Administrator.

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Device Map Tab

Use the Device Map tab to select which monitor, keyboard, mouse, audio device, Removable disk (USB port), virtual IP and local printers are mapped to the Workstation and to change the mapping as needed.
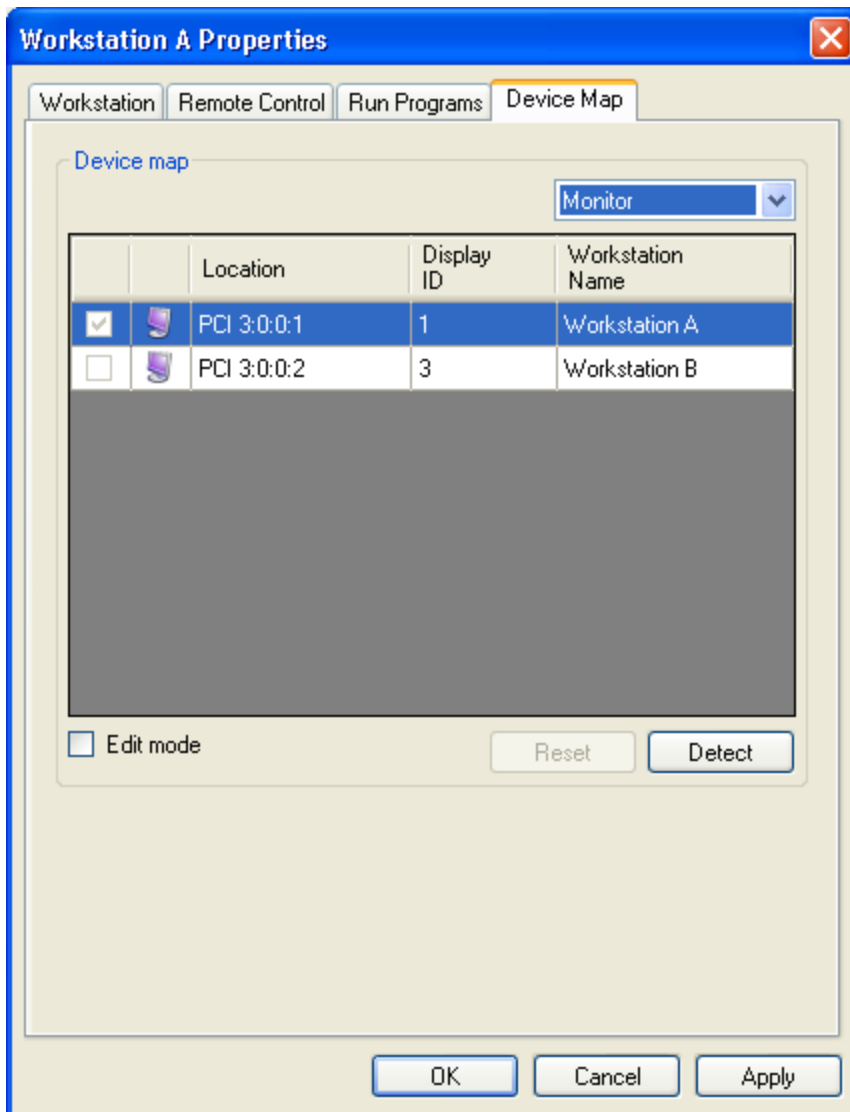
To view the mapping of any device

Select the relevant device in the drop-down list and select its mapping in the below table.

To assign or to reassign a monitor, keyboard, mouse, audio device, removable disk, virtual IP and local printer, follow this procedure:

- In the drop down list, select the type of device to remap.

- Select the Edit mode check box to change the mapping settings.

- Select the left hand side check box of the desired device to be assigned to the Workstation.

- Click 'Apply' or 'OK' to save and to close.

Edit mode check box

The check box must be selected in order to enable assigning devices to a Workstation.

Reset button

The Reset button is available only when the Edit mode check box is selected and may be used to reset all mappings to their original settings – only if you did not click 'Apply' or 'OK' yet.

Detect button

The Detect button may be used to help you detect the following devices types:

- **Monitor** – selecting a monitor from the table and clicking 'Detect', will display the monitor number on the appropriate screen (connected and operating monitor).

- **Audio device** - selecting an audio-out device from the table and clicking 'Detect', will play a test sound (connected to speakers / headphones).

Note: In case that the check box "Disable attachment of keyboard and Mice/ Audio Devices/ Removable disk to workstation using Device map from Tray icon" is enabled in one of the tabs in Host properties – Peripheral devices,   then the following label   will appear in the Workstation properties bottom window for the relevant device:

Disabled options are currently controlled by global Host properties. To enable specific Workstation settings please contact your System Administrator.

Note: For assigning a virtual IP to a Workstation, you will need to type in the virtual IP address manually. For more information regarding virtual IP see Virtual IP.

Below you can find a list of all device icons and statuses:

Status description	speakers	Microphone	Keyboard	Mouse	Removable disk	Virtual IP
Not mine connected						
Mine not connected						
Mine connected						
Not mine not connected						

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License

The License component enables viewing the details of the currently installed license and opening the SoftXpand Activation dialog box.

- To view the current License status - select 'License' in the left pane of the Admin Tools and look at the bottom right pane. For support of your product, contact the License Owner.

To open the [SoftXpand Xpress Activation](#) dialog box – right-click 'License' in the left pane of Admin Tools and select 'Activate'.

Below are the details of the different license attributes viewed in the bottom right pane of the license node:

- **Product Name**: Displays the name of SoftXpand product.

- **License ID**: Displays the unique serial number of the installed license. This field is available only after activation is performed.

- **Number of Workstations**: Displays the number of Workstations supported by the activated license. The default number of Workstations for SoftXpand Xpress trial version is 6 Workstations.

- **Expiration date**: Displays the date for which the license will expire. SoftXpand Xpress trial version is for 30 days. This field will display the date for which if not activated, the software will not be functional until activated.

- **Host duration limit**: Displays the time limit for which the Host will run without restarting. The trial version of SoftXpand Xpress will restart the Host once every 24 hours (1 day). After activating the software with a commercial license this field will not be displayed any more.

- **Workstation duration limit**: Displays the time limit for which the Workstations will run without stopping and restarting. The trial version of SoftXpand Xpress will stop and restart all Workstations once every 6 hours. After activating the software with a commercial license this field will not be displayed any more.

- **Host Console**: This field is available only if the license permits display of Host Console on a physical monitor.

- **First activation date**: Displays the first date which the software was activated.

- **License owner**: Displays the parent owner of the license.

- **License type**: Displays the license type (Trial / Evaluation / Volume).

- **Language**: Displays the supported languages available for the specific license.

- **Activation version**: Displays the product version in which the software was activated.

- **Product upgrade**: Displays the status of product upgrade (enabled / disabled). If disabled – upgrade cannot be done.

Force Activation: Enabled or disabled license attribute. Indicates if activation after upgrade is required or not.

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Using SoftXpand Xpress

In simple terms, SoftXpand Xpress enables one PC to have more than one user working on it by connecting multiple monitors, keyboards and mice and allocating each such set to a dedicated and independent Windows desktop (session).

As the Host PC is running all sessions, shutting it down, restarting it or exiting SoftXpand Xpress will cause all sessions to close.

The independency of each session does, however, enables each user to work independently of other users, run programs, save files and even log out of his / her own session without affecting the other sessions / users.

This section describes the basic operations for using and administrating SoftXpand Xpress.

It is recommended to familiarize yourself with the basic options available for the SoftXpand Xpress administrator and user in the Common SoftXpand Xpress Actions page.

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Common SoftXpand Xpress Actions

This page is intended to give you, the SoftXpand Xpress administrator and users, an idea of how the SoftXpand Xpress application actually works and what actions are available.

Run/launch SoftXpand Xpress

Start Host / Start SoftXpand commands SoftXpand to take control over the PC (the Host), divide the hardware devices to independent workstations and run a Windows session (a desktop), on each of the monitors as per the preconfigured parameters.

See Running SoftXpand Xpress for more details.

Logon to a SoftXpand Xpress Workstation

When SoftXpand loads, each Workstation displays a logon dialog.

Use your regular Windows username and password to log onto your Workstation and start working.

See Logon and Logoff SoftXpand Xpress for more details.

Log off a Workstation

As with the regular Windows use, logging off a Workstation closes all applications of that Workstation and returns to the logon dialog.

Logging off a Workstation does not affect other workstations.

See [Logon and Logoff SoftXpand Xpress](#) for more details.

Shutting down a Workstation

This option enables closing a single Workstation.

It can be restricted by applying a password for this action.
See Workstation Exit Password under [Settings](#) tab.

See 'Start Workstation / Shut down Workstation' section in [Workstation Properties](#) for more details.

Exit SoftXpand Xpress

Exit SoftXpand Xpress is done by using the 'Shutdown SoftXpand Xpress' dialog.

By using the 'Shutdown SoftXpandXpress' dialog one the following 5 actions can be performed:

- **Logoff user**

  This option will be available only if a user is still logged on.

- **Shutdown my workstation**

  Only the current workstation will be switched off.

- **Exit to Windows**
  All Workstations will be stopped and all monitors will go blank except for the Windows' Primary monitor which will display the Windows logon dialog.

- **Shutdown PC**
  The Host will shut down completely.

- **Restart PC**
  The Host will perform a computer restart.

See [Exiting SoftXpand Xpress](#) for more details.

Assigning monitors, keyboards and mice to workstations

In simple terms, each Workstation is a monitor / screen.
Each Workstation must have a keyboard and a mouse assigned to it.

See [Mapping Hardware Devices](#) for more details.

Plugging in new hardware

As all workstations in a Cluster share the same Host PC, some devices such as printer, scanner etc, may be shared by all workstations in the cluster.

On the other hand, devices such as keyboard, mouse, HID devices, audio device, removable disk (USB port) must be assigned to a Workstation, so each such hardware plugged into the Host must be assigned to the relevant user's Workstation so he/she can access and work with it.

See [Mapping Hardware Devices](#) for more details.

Connect remotely to another Workstation

This option is mainly designed for the use of the SoftXpand Xpress administrator and enables opening an RDP-like Remote Control session window from any Workstation to another.

See [Remote Control SoftXpand Xpress Host / Workstation](#) for more details.

Connect to the Host Console

This option is mainly designed for the use of the SoftXpand Xpress administrator and enables opening an RDP-like Remote Control connection to the Windows' Primary session (running on the background) while SoftXpand is running.

See [Host Console](#) for more details.

Activate SoftXpand Xpress

At any time during or following the trial / evaluation period, it is possible to register and activate SoftXpand Xpress, thus switching it to its regular and unlimited commercial mode.

See [SoftXpand Xpress Activation](#) for more details.

Running SoftXpand Xpress

By default, SoftXpand Xpress is run automatically upon Windows startup unless otherwise configured in the Host Properties - Settings tab. The SoftXpand administrator can configure SoftXpand Xpress to run automatically upon Windows restart or to start SoftXpand Xpress manually.

Running the SoftXpand Xpress application manually is done mainly from within the regular Primary Windows session (Host console) but it can be done from within a SoftXpand Xpress Workstation as well.

When SoftXpand starts, it takes control over the PC (the Host), divides the hardware devices to independent Workstations and runs a Windows session (a desktop) on each of the monitors according to the preconfigured settings.

Note: Running SoftXpand Xpress from within a SoftXpand Xpress Workstation will start all stopped Workstations that are pre-configured to 'Auto start' in Workstation Properties (default setting).

A SoftXpand Xpress Workstation will run infinitely until SoftXpand Xpress is exited or the Workstation is stopped.

To run SoftXpand Xpress manually do one of the following:

- Go to Windows' Start > (All) Programs > SoftXpand and select SoftXpand Xpress.

- Double-click the SoftXpand Xpress icon on your desktop.

- Right click the SoftXpand Xpress Host tray icon and select 'Start SoftXpand'.

- Click 'Start Host' from the Host context menu in the Admin Tools.

The SoftXpand Xpress Control Panel dialog box will open.

Click the 'Start Now' button.

Under default settings, SoftXpand Xpress will initiate a logoff and will then launch its unique Logon screen on each of the connected and active monitors.

See Host Properties - Settings tab for more information.

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Logon and Logoff SoftXpand Xpress

When SoftXpand loads, each Workstation displays a logon dialog.

It is most recommended that each user on each workstation will have an individual username and password.

Use your regular Windows username and password to logon to your Workstation and start working.

User accounts may be local or domain users.

Automatic user logon to SoftXpand Xpress workstations may be configured. For more information about automatic user logon see [Workstation Properties](#) - [Workstation](#) tab.

Log off SoftXpand Xpress

There are 5 methods for logging off a SoftXpand Xpress Workstation:

- Go to Windows' Start menu and select Logoff.

- Right click SoftXpand Xpress's [Workstation Tray Icon](#) and select Logoff.

- Right click SoftXpand Xpress's [Workstation Tray Icon](#), select 'Shutdown SoftXpand' to initiate the 'shut down SoftXpand Xpress' dialog, and choose 'Logoff'.

- Click the Ctrl+Alt+Del combination to open a dialog box where you can select the 'Log Off' button.

- Use the logoff option in the 'Shutdown SoftXpand Xpress' dialog from the Host context menu in the [Admin Tools](). See [Exiting SoftXpand Xpress]() for more information.

As with the regular Windows use, logging off a Workstation closes all applications of that Workstation and the logon dialog appears.

Logging off a Workstation does not affect other Workstations.

Optional: SoftXpand Xpress administrator may configure a Workstation Exit password for all SoftXpand Xpress workstations in the [Host Properties]() - [Settings]() tab. Users will have to type-in the Workstation Exit password in order to log off.

Note: SoftXpand Xpress does not support any logon form (token, finger-print identification) accept for Windows' username and password. For more options, please refer to the relevant articles in [MiniFrame's online knowledge base]() or contact MiniFrame's support team at [support@miniframe.com]().

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Exiting SoftXpand Xpress

Exit SoftXpand Xpress is done by using the 'Shutdown SoftXpand Xpress' dialog.

By using the 'Shutdown SoftXpand Xpress' dialog one the following 5 actions can be performed:

- **Logoff user**

  This option will be available only if a user is still logged on.

- **Shutdown my workstation**

  Only the current workstation will be switched off.

- **Exit to Windows**
  All Workstations will be stopped and all monitors will go blank except for the Windows' Primary monitor which will display the Windows logon dialog.

- **Shutdown PC**
  The Host will shut down completely.

- **Restart PC**
  The Host will perform a computer restart.

In the 3 bottom options (Exit to Windows, Shutdown PC, Restart PC), exiting SoftXpand Xpress will affect all workstations. Therefore, extra care must be taken in order to avoid any data loss for any of the workstation's users. Make sure all users save their work before initiating the 'Exit' command.

As an extra means of precaution, exiting SoftXpand Xpress which affects all workstations requires a password. The default exit password is: miniframe (case sensitive). To change the password, refer to the Host Properties - Settings tab.

These are the ways in which to Exit SoftXpand Xpress:

Logging off the workstation and then clicking the Shut Down button:

- Go to Windows' Start > Logoff.

- After the SoftXpand Xpress logon dialog appears click the Options button and then click the 'Shutdown' button.

- In the 'Shutdown SoftXpand Xpress' dialog that appears, choose the desired action, fill in the Exit password (if needed) and click 'OK'.

Using the Ctrl+Alt+Del dialog box:

- While in a SoftXpand Xpress session, click the Ctrl+Alt+Del combination keys to open the 'SoftXpand Xpress Security' dialog box.

- Click on the 'Shutdown' button.

- In the 'Shutdown SoftXpand Xpress' dialog that appears, choose the desired action, fill in the Exit password (if needed) and click 'OK'.

Using Admin Tools:

- Go to Windows' Start > (All Programs) > SoftXpand and select Admin Tools.

- Right click the Host node in the left pane and select 'Shutdown SoftXpand'.

- In the 'Shutdown SoftXpand Xpress' dialog that appears, choose the desired action, fill in the Exit password (if needed) and click 'OK'.

Using the Workstation tray icon:

- While in SoftXpand Xpress workstation, right-click the [Workstation Tray Icon](#) and select 'Shutdown SoftXpand'.

- In the 'Shutdown SoftXpand Xpress' dialog that appears, choose the desired action, fill in the Exit password (if needed) and click 'OK'.

Using the Disconnect button:

- Go to Windows' Start > click on 'Disconnect'.

  In the 'Shutdown SoftXpand Xpress' dialog that appears, choose the desired action, fill in the Exit password (if needed) and click 'OK'.

Using command line:

This option is intended for system administrators mainly for remote Exit. However, it could be used for scheduling an Exit with a scheduled batch file.

Exit SoftXpand Xpress using command line is available for the below options with the following syntax:

- Exit to windows:
  MfAdminConsole.exe /shutdownsx /p:"password"

- Exit and restart the PC:
  MfAdminConsole.exe /restartpc /p:"password"

- Exit and shut down the PC:
  MfAdminConsole.exe /shutdownpc /p:"password"

Note: the password is the Global Exit password set in the Settings tab. Type in the password without the quotation marks. Use quotation marks only if your password has spaces in it.

Mapping / Assigning Hardware Devices

As all workstations in a Cluster share the same Host PC, some devices such as printer, scanner etc, may be shared by all workstations in the Cluster.

On the other hand, devices such as keyboard, mouse, HID devices, audio device, removable disk (USB port) must be assigned to a Workstation. Each such hardware plugged into the Host must be assigned to the relevant user's Workstation so he/she can access and work with it.

By default, after SoftXpand Xpress is installed all keyboards, mice and other HID devices attached to the host will be mapped to the primary monitor.

By default, after SoftXpand Xpress is installed all audio devices and removable disks (if any are connected to the Host during installation) connected to the host will be mapped to the [Host Console](#).

In simple terms, each Workstation is a monitor / screen. Each Workstation must have a minimum set of a keyboard and mouse to enable basic user activity, with optional HID and audio devices. Removable disks (USB port) can also be mapped per Workstation. IP addresses can be mapped per application/process.

For best practice, the most recommended hardware setup is a basic star topology – allocating a dedicated Host USB port per Workstation and connecting a single USB hub to it, to which only that Workstation's devices are connected.

Assigning Keyboards and Mice to Workstations

There are 3 methods to map keyboards and mice to monitors:

- **Manual mapping**

   This is mainly done following a SoftXpand Xpress installation.
   A device assignment instruction in each Workstation's logon dialog will indicate which Ctrl+Shift+F[#] will be used to assign the keyboard and

mouse to it (# = a number digit).
For each Workstation click the relevant Ctrl+Shift+F[#] key combination,
release the keyboard keys

and immediately click the mouse's left and right buttons together

.
This will assign both keyboard and mouse to monitor / Workstation #.

See the following example which will require the Ctrl+Shift+F2 keys for
assignment of keyboard and mouse.

Note: the Ctrl+Shift+F2 demonstrated in the image below is an example.
For each Workstation, a different Ctrl+Shift+F# will be acquired.

- **Using the Workstation Properties dialog box**
  See description of this method below.

- **Map to Primary**
  See description of this method below.

General Mapping Methods

The following 2 mapping methods apply to more than one type of device, as enlisted in each device type's section:

- **Using the Workstation Properties – Device Map   dialog box**:

  - Decide to which Workstation you wish to assign devices and access the relevant Workstation Properties dialog box through the Workstation Tray Icon or via Workstation properties using the Admin Tools. This dialog box will enable assigning devices only to that Workstation.

  - In the Device Map tab, select the appropriate device type from the drop down menu. A table of devices will appear.

  - Select the 'Edit mode' checkbox to change the mapping settings.

  - Select the checkbox to the left of the appropriate device you wish to assign to the Workstation and click 'Apply' or 'OK to save and close.

- **Map to Primary**

  This is the initial status upon conclusion of the SoftXpand Xpress installation – all keyboards and mice are mapped to the primary monitor / Workstation – the monitor from which the installation was initiated.
  To return to this status (in case of hardware mapping mixtures and complication), use the Admin Tools to go to: Host Properties > Peripheral Devices > Keyboards & Mice and click the '**Reset Settings**' button.
  Use this option with extra care as it will affect ALL Host keyboards and mice.

Mapping Audio Devices to Workstations

All in/out audio devices (not MIDI) can be mapped to specific Workstations.

A SoftXpand Xpress Workstation cannot be assigned with more than one audio device.

Multiple Workstations can use the same 'out' audio device.

For mapping audio devices to Workstations use the Workstation properties – Device Map dialog box.

To return all audio device assignments to installation default (assigned to Host Console) you can use the reset settings button in the Audio Devices tab under Host Properties.

Use the '**Reset Settings**' button with extra care, as it will also un-assign all mappings of audio devices to all workstations and re-assign them back the Host Console.

Mapping removable USB disks to Workstations

USB removable disks can be mapped to a workstation.

This is done by assigning the USB port (to which the removable disk is plugged in to) to the Workstation.

Any removable disk which will be plugged into the assigned USB port will be automatically mapped to the Workstation, and only that Workstation will be able to see the removable disk and have access to it.

When deploying a SoftXpand Xpress cluster it is recommended to assign for each Workstation a USB port (or a number of USB ports) which will be used for connecting USB removable disks.

The assignment of USB removable disk to a Workstation is done through the Workstation Properties - Device Map tab.

The easiest way to do so is:

- Log on to all SoftXpand Xpress Workstations.

- On each Workstation open the Workstation Properties - Device Map tab from the Workstation tray icon.

- Connect a USB removable disk to a designated USB port and assign it to the Workstation.

- Do so for each USB port per Workstation.

To return all removable disk assignments back to the installation defaults you can use the '**Reset Settings**' button in Removable disk tab under Host Properties.

Mapping other HID to Workstations

Most HID devices can be mapped to specific workstations. Contact MiniFrame's support team at support@miniframe.com for more details.

Mapping IP Addresses

IP addresses are not mapped to Workstations but, rather, to processes. To map IP address to a process, use the Device map tab of the Workstation Properties dialog box.

In the device type drop down menu, change the Device type to IP Address and add the relevant applications and their respective IP addresses as needed.

NOTE: Those applications must first be enabled for Virtual IP in the Host Properties - Peripheral Devices - Virtual IPs tab.

NOTE: single-instance applications cannot use the multi-IP feature.

Mapping local printers

Local printers can be mapped to a specific workstation or they can be accessible to all workstations.

In order to map a local printer to a specific workstation, first enable assignment of local printers in the Local printers tab under Peripheral Devices.

Then, use the [Device Map](#) to assign a printer to a workstation.

Note: in order to be able to assign Local printers to workstations, the 'Prevent multiple logons with the same user account' checkbox must be selected. See ~[Workstation Preferences](#)' for more information.

Display Link auto-map:

Any USB Display Link device that has a USB hub (such as USB docking stations with Display Link chipset, Display Link USB monitors that have USB ports and USB over Ethernet devices containing Display Link chipset) will enable automatic device mapping.

This means that any peripheral device (keyboard, mouse, audio device, removable disk) connected to the USB hub will be automatically mapped to the workstation without the need to manually assign it.

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Installing and Running Applications

It is advised to install applications onto the Host prior to installing SoftXpand Xpress, but applications may also be installed after SoftXpand Xpress is installed and running.

There are 3 application-related aspects to consider when using SoftXpand Xpress: installing the application, running it and users' security and isolation.

Installing Applications

SoftXpand's support of OpenGL and DirectX greatly expands the installation possibilities.

The Installation of applications on a SoftXpand Xpress Host can be done through both the Host Console (Windows session) or any of the workstations.

If the installation process requires a computer restart, it is advised to install the application from Windows when SoftXpand isn't running, but if it was done from a Workstation session - Exit SoftXpand after the installation finishes and restart the Host manually.

Running Applications:

After an application is installed, try running it on one Workstation. If this fails - use the SoftXpand Runner tool. Right click the application or its shortcut and select 'SoftXpand Application Runner'.
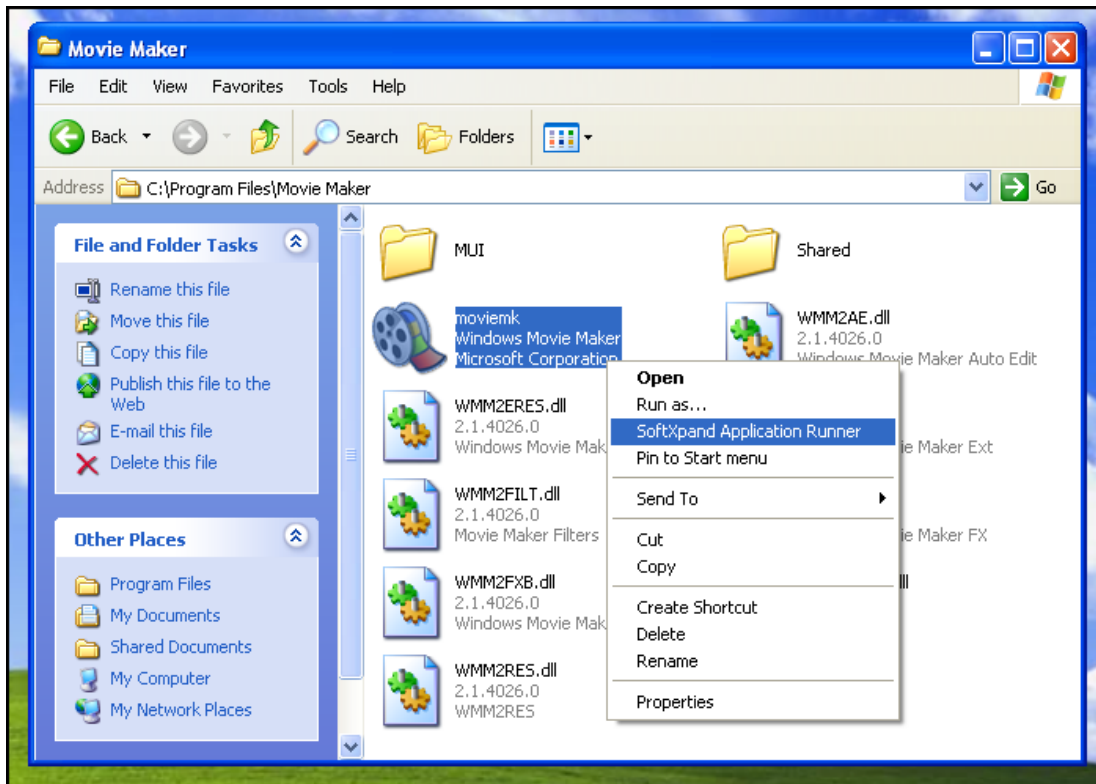
If the application still fails to run, make sure the installation was successful by exiting SoftXpand, logging on to Windows and running the application. If the installation is not the issue, contact MiniFrame's support at support@miniframe.com for specific assistance.

Where needed, if a single instance of the application runs successfully on a SoftXpand Workstation, try running multiple instances of the application on other workstations simultaneously.

Failure to run multiple instances can be caused by one of the following reasons:

- **Single instance applications**
  Applications which can only run a single instance on a single computer.

  Refer to Single instance applications for more information.

- **Multi IP applications**
  Some applications' licenses are IP-dependant. Running multiple instances of the same application is thus made impossible since the PC only has one IP address.
  Refer to Multi IP applications for more information.

- **Screen resolution-changing application**
  Some applications change the screen resolution upon loading. This
  feature is not naturally supported by SoftXpand.
  Refer to [Screen resolution " changing applications](#) for more information.

Securing and isolating the user:

This issue relates to SoftXpand's ability to secure the single user's data and
isolate it from other users' data. Refer to [User Security and isolation](#) for more
information.

If you were unable to resolve your application issues, contact MiniFrame's
support at support@miniframe.com for specific solutions.

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Single Instance Applications

Some applications can only run a single instance on a single PC. The issue preventing these applications to run can be one of the following:

- **Single process**
  Only one instance of that application's Windows process can run at any given time.

- **Share violation**
  The application may allow multiple instances to load but limits all instances to using the same resources (files, databases, etc.) which leads to a sharing violation and, effectively, prevents the separate applications instances from running.

Resolving this issue can be done by copying the application's installation folder to an additional location, and then renaming the EXE file name and running the application from two different locations with two different EXE file names. By doing so, two separate processes will be run.

Another way for resolving this issue is done using a virtual application tool, which can create several isolated user environments on a single PC in which separate instances of the same problematic application can load and effectively run.

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Multi IP Applications

Some applications' licenses are IP-dependant. Running multiple instances of the same application is thus made impossible since the PC only has one IP address.

Resolving this issue can be done first by finding a version of the application that is compatible with multi-user environments. For example: check to see if the application has a version which supports Terminal Server, Thin Clients, Citrix etc. as a general rule, if the application has a version compatible with Terminal Server, it should be able to run on SoftXpand as well.

Another option for resolving this issue is done using virtual IP addresses. You can configure SoftXpand multi IP using Virtual IPs tab under Host properties and configuring the IP address per Workstation using the Device Map tab.

See Mapping Hardware devices for more information.

Note: alternative 3rd party virtual IP solutions can be optional to use in case the above is not successful.

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User Security and Isolation

This issue relates to SoftXpand's ability to secure the single user's data and isolate it from other users'.

The resolution of this issue is basically a Windows feature: as Windows dedicates a secured and isolated folder for each logged on user, 'My Documents' - all that is required from the SoftXpand users in order to maintain isolation, is to limit their files to their 'My Documents' directories.

A Windows' built-in fortification of this solution is for the system administrator to restrict the users' access and writing capabilities to their dedicated directories, thus effectively preventing users from accidently breeching other user's security.

For more advanced options and techniques for isolating users, their data and their storage, refer to this article in MiniFrame's website knowledge base: How to isolate and secure user access to drive letters, folders and files on SoftXpand.

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Applications That Change Screen Resolution

Some applications change the screen resolution upon loading. This feature is not naturally supported by SoftXpand Xpress.

Resolving this issue is possible by using one of the following methods:

- If the application enables switching from the unsupported full screen mode to the supported window mode.
  If that is a possibility, change the application settings to run in window mode and run it.

If you know which resolution is required by the application - pre-configure the Workstation's screen resolution (using the Workstation Tray Icon) to the appropriate one. See SoftXpand Xpress Tray Icons for more details.

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SoftXpand Xpress Application Runner

The SoftXpand Xpress Application Runner tool is designed to run applications which cannot be started on SoftXpand Xpress workstations using their standard starting shortcuts (Start menu, Desktop, Quick launch etc…).

SoftXpand Application Runner attempts to start applications in a configuration which is more compatible with the SoftXpand technology.

Using SoftXpand Xpress Application Runner

To run an application using the SoftXpand Xpress application runner tool, right click the application's executable file (for example: moviemk.exe is the executable of Movie Maker), or right click a shortcut that refers to this file and select '**SoftXpand Application Runner**'.
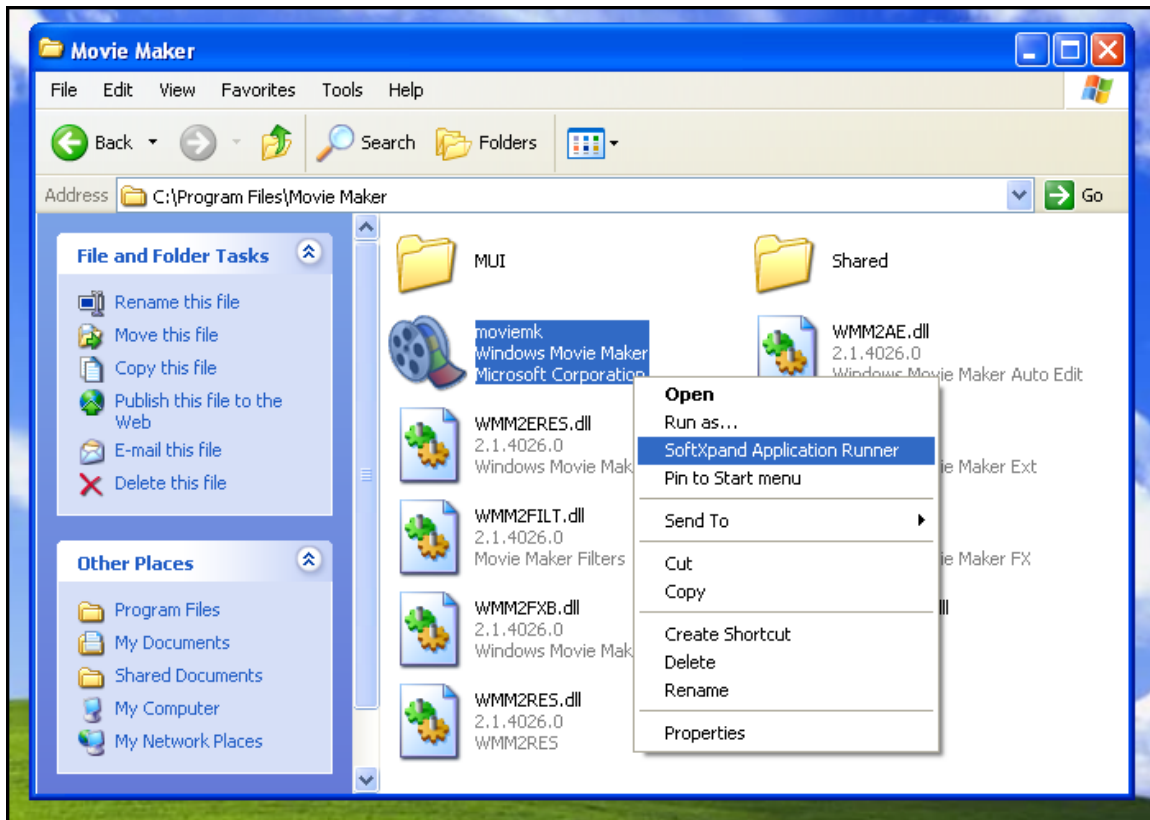
Creating a permanent operating point for running applications through Application Runner

You can create a shortcut to the application that will start it automatically using the application runner:

1. Create a shortcut to the application you want to run.

2. Right click the shortcut icon and choose 'Properties'.

3. In the 'Target' field, insert the following syntax:
   %ProgramFiles%\MiniFrame\SoftXpand\MfOsRunner.exe /RUN:{Place the original target path of the application here} /ACON

For example:

Windows Movie Maker May run on SoftXpand Xpress only by using Application Runner.

For creating an Application Runner shortcut for Windows Movie Maker you will need to use the exact following syntax:

%ProgramFiles%\MiniFrame\SoftXpand\MfOsRunner.exe /RUN:{"%ProgramFiles%\Movie Maker\moviemk.exe"} /ACON
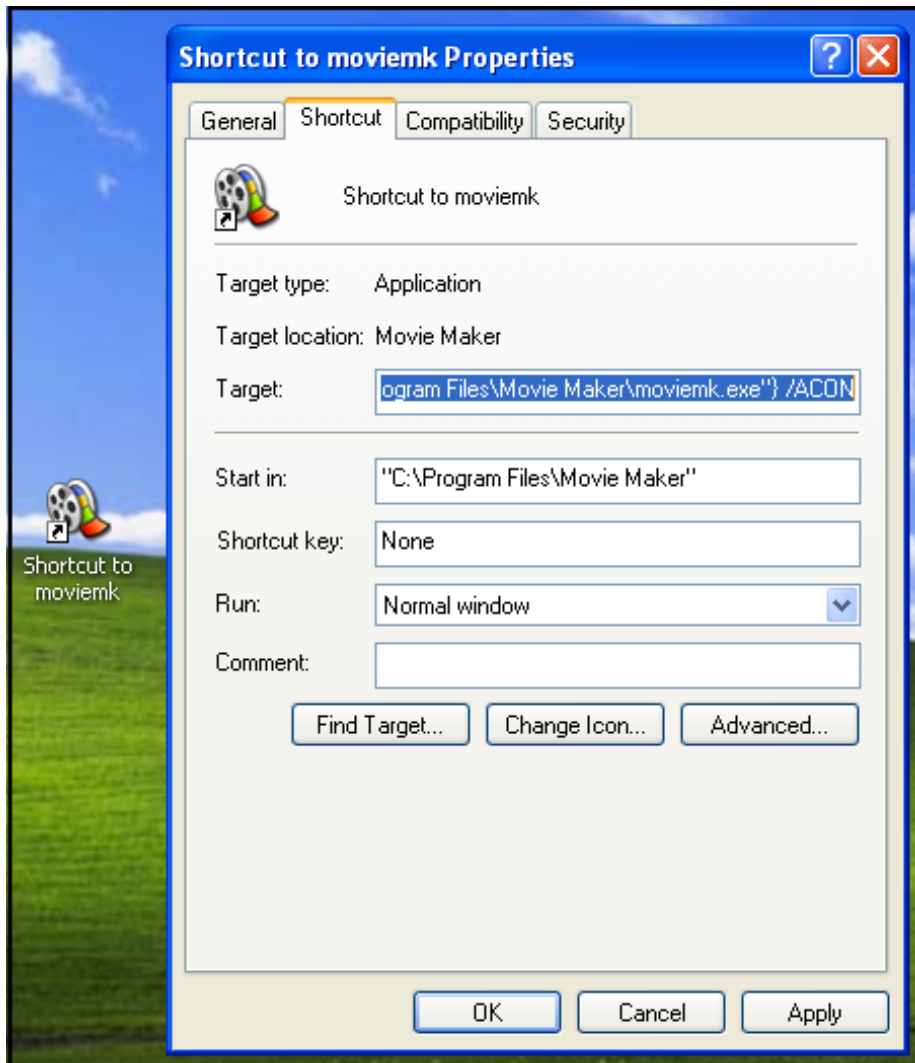
Application runner shortcut for Windows movie maker.

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Host Console

The Host Console is Windows' primary session which, while SoftXpand Xpress is running, runs in the background or is placed on one of the Host's workstations.

If the Host Console is in the background, it is possible to open that session in an RDP-like window.

Opening the Host Console Windows session remotely is mainly used to troubleshoot SoftXpand Xpress and Host issues and can only be performed while SoftXpand Xpress is running.

Configuration of the Host Console feature is done in the Host Properties - Host Console tab.

In order to launch the Host Console remote control window, open the Admin Tools, right-click the Host node in the left pane and select 'Open Host Console'.

Note: under default Host Console settings, in order to see the Host Console's desktop, before connecting remotely, do the following:

- Right-click the Host node in the left pane

- Select 'Run Program on Host'

- Type: "explorer" (without quotation marks) in the dialog box that will appear and click 'OK'.

Note: Running the Host Console on a physical monitor while SoftXpand Xpress is running requires license activation with Host Console enabled.

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Remote Control

SoftXpand Xpress enables the users to connect remotely from any Workstation to any other Workstation using an RDP-like window.

Configuring this feature can be done globally to apply for all Workstations using the Remote Control tab under Host Properties.

Or it can be configured independently for each Workstation in its Workstation Properties - Remote Control tab, accessed via Admin Tools' or via the Workstation Tray Icon.

To launch a Remote Control session to a specific Workstation, open Admin Tools, select the Workstations node in the left pane, right-click the required Workstation in the right pane workstations list and select Remote Control.

Note: when remote controlling a Workstation which still was not been assigned with a keyboard and mouse to it, and displays the 'Welcome to SoftXpand' logon dialog, click on the 'X' button in the top right corner, in order to display the Logon dialog where a username and password can be typed in.

Note: in order to remote control a SoftXpand Xpress Workstation from a remote computer:

- Initiate a connection to the Host using RDP, VNC, or any other remote control tool. You will be connected either to the Host Console session (The Windows session running in the background), or to a new RDP session on the Host.

Use the [Admin Tools](#) – [Workstations](#) to remote control any desired Workstation.

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About MiniFrame

MiniFrame has developed a software suite that provides top performance computing at an ultra low cost, improves PC management and serves as the ultimate green IT solution. With its flag-ship product, SoftXpand, MiniFrame offers software-only, multi-user technology that transforms the world of desktop computing, by turning 1 Windows-based PC into multiple independent Workstations. MiniFrame's proprietary technology provides no degradation in user experience and acts as a true substitute to standard PCs.

Founded in 2003 and selected by Israel's chief scientist to develop its revolutionary technology, MiniFrame is led by a team of experienced professionals. MiniFrame's solutions are distributed in international markets through a growing channel partner network and through web marketing & sales. MiniFrame's distribution partners serve the following vertical markets: Education, SMBs, Call centers, Internet cafes, Banks, and more.

MiniFrame also targets consumer markets, delivering unique solutions to turn one PC into several multimedia, virtual PCs, offering a new entertainment experience.

MiniFrame is owned by public and private investors.

Contact MiniFrame

If you are seeking to join MiniFrame's growing international channel network or are interested in an OEM alliance with MiniFrame, please contact us through:

Email: partners@miniframe.com
Website: http://www.miniframe.com/partners/become-a-partner.html

If you are seeking to purchase SoftXpand as an end-user, please contact your local distributor, or, alternatively, contact MiniFrame and you shall be referred to your nearest distributor:

Website: http://www.miniframe.com/about-us/contact-us.html

For support and technical assistance please contact us through:

Email: support@miniframe.com

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