AccuTerm 7 Internet Edition Connection Designer Help

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1 AccuTerm 7 Internet Edition

1.1 Description

AccuTerm 7 Internet Edition is designed to allow users to make Telnet, Secure Shell or SSL/Telnet connections to a pre-determined host computer from a browser (web page). **AccuTerm 7 Internet Edition** can be set up on a local intranet, deployed over the Internet or even run from a file on a local disk.

AccuTerm 7 Internet Edition consists of two components: the **Connection Designer**, which is used to create and modify AccuTerm Internet Connection files, which are HTML files which use the AccuTerm 7 Internet Client browser plug-in, and the **AccuTerm 7 Internet Client** plug-in, which is installed on the client computer and enables the browser to open the connection to the host. The client plug-in is digitally signed for security purposes.

The **AccuTerm 7 Internet Client** plug-in is compatible with several popular browsers: Internet Explorer, Firefox, Google Chrome and Apple Safari. The plug-in is a 32 bit Windows program and is compatible with Windows XP (SP2 & SP3), Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows Server 2003, Windows Server 2008 and Windows Server 2012. Both 32 and 64 bit versions of Windows are supported. Windows RT, CE and Windows Mobile are <u>not</u> supported.

1.2 Connection Designer

Use the **AccuTerm 7 Internet Connection Designer** to create and maintain AccuTerm Internet Connection files. AccuTerm Internet Connection files are HTML files which include an <Object> tag which defines the plug-in and connection details necessary to open an AccuTerm terminal session. The <Object> parameters contain all the information required to make a connection to the host, including host name (or IP address), connection script, terminal type, screen size, function keys, colors, etc.

Creating, opening and saving session files
Modifying connection settings
Editing the connection script
Editing the connection HTML
Testing the connection

1.3 Internet Client

In order to display a terminal session within a browser, the **AccuTerm 7 Internet Client** plug-in must be installed on the client PC. The plug-in installer can be downloaded from www.asent.com, or can be posted on your own web site for download by your clients. You can specify the client download URL using the **Connection Designer** on the **Connection Details** tab.

When the browser encounters the <Object> tag for the plug-in, if the plug-in has not already been installed, the browser will display the HTML within the <Object> tag, after the last <Param> up to the closing </Object> tag. This HTML is used to inform the user that the plug-in needs to be installed, and includes the URL for downloading the plug-in. The Designer will update this URL when the connection file is saved.

The client plug-in is implemented as both an ActiveX control and as an NPAPI plug-in in a single DLL. This allows it to work in multiple browsers.

See also:
Connection Designer

1.4   Deployment

Deploying an **AccuTerm 7 Internet Connection** on the Internet (or on an intranet) requires two components: a Web Server and the host computer that you want to connect to.

Web Server
After you create an AccuTerm Internet Connection file with the **Connection Designer**, you upload the file to your web server. Typically, you will create a hyperlink from an existing web page that links to your AccuTerm Connection file. The web server does not need to be (and usually is not) the same machine as your host. The web server can be located anywhere on the Internet (or intranet), as long as the client PC can access it. The only function that the web server performs in this arrangement is to deliver the AccuTerm Internet Connection file to the browser on the client PC. And since the Connection file is standard HTML, no special "mime type" is required on the web server.

Host Connection
The final task required to get everything working is to connect your host to the Internet (or intranet). It is beyond the scope of this document to provide detailed instructions on how to connect your host to the Internet, but we can offer some general guidelines.

First, your host must be able to accept a Telnet, Secure Shell (ssh) or SSL/Telnet connection from users on the Internet (or intranet). Unix, Linux and AIX hosts support both Telnet and Secure Shell, however most Windows-based hosts only support Telnet. Secure Shell or SSL/Telnet is recommended since they provide a secure encrypted connection, especially if the connection is over the Internet. If your host does not support either Secure Shell or SSL/Telnet, you may be able to use an SSL proxy such as *stunnel* to provide SSL/Telnet support.

Second, to accept connections from users on the Internet, you will need a permanent Internet connection with a static IP address. You can use a DSL or Cable Modem connection, or some other high-speed link. A static IP address is necessary, because the AccuTerm Internet Connection file contains the IP address or name of the host machine. If your host gets its IP address assigned dynamically, then you would need to update the connection file each time the host's IP address changes. You may be able to use a dynamic IP address in conjunction with a Dynamic DNS service.

Finally, you need to consider security. Often, a router is used between your Internet connection and the local area network which connects to your host machine. The router can be configured to route inbound Telnet or ssh requests to the IP address of your host on the local network. The outside world (Internet users) sees the IP address of the router, not the IP address of the host. This is the IP address that should be specified in your AccuTerm Internet Connection file. The router may also be able to restrict inbound connections and only allow connections from specific addresses.

1.5   Troubleshooting

Browser compatibility
The AccuTerm 7 Internet Edition Client plug-in has been tested with the following web browsers.

Internet Explorer: 6 - 10

Firefox: 3.5 - 15.0
Google Chrome: 11 - 24
Apple Safari: 5

Other browsers supporting the NPAPI plug-in architecture may work with the AccuTerm 7 client plug-in, but have not been tested.

The plug-in is a 32 bit Windows program. It is compatible with Windows XP (SP2 & SP3), Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows Server 2003 and Windows Server 2008. Both 32 and 64 bit versions of Windows are supported.

Nailed ports
Because all users accessing a given web page will use the same Connection file, using "nailed ports" is not recommended.

Problems installing the client plug-in
The plug-in can be installed for the current user only (personal install) or for all users of the computer (normal install). When installed for all users, the installer requires administrator privileges. For servers running Windows Terminal Server or Citrix, the normal install also requires that the server be switched to "install mode" before installing the plug-in.

1.6   Quick Start

To get started quickly, follow these steps:

1. Create a new connection
Start the **AccuTerm 7 Internet Designer** from the Start menu. Click the **New** button or select **New** from the **File** menu.

2. Configure the new connection
Click the **Modify settings** button on the **Connection Details** tab. Enter your connection settings just as you would for a normal AccuTerm terminal session.

3. Customize your connection script
Click the **Edit script** button if you want to customize the connection script.

4. Select desired functionality for browser security zones
Click the **Browser Security** tab and choose the appropriate functionality level required for your connection.

5. Test your connection
Click the **Session Preview** tab. Select the security zone you wish to test the connection in. Click the **Start** button to initiate the connection. If you encounter any problems, adjust your settings or script until it works correctly.

6. Save the connection file
Click the **Save** button or select **Save** from the **File** menu.

7. Deploy your connection
Upload your new **AccuTerm 7 Internet Connection** file to your web server.

8. Try it using your favorite browser!

1.7 Upgrading from Previous Versions

The **AccuTerm 7 Internet Connection Designer** is capable of upgrading your existing session files which were created with an earlier version of AccuTerm Internet Edition. When opening a file created with an older version, select "Old AccuTerm Internet files" from the file type drop-down. Upon opening, you will be given the option to convert the file to the AccuTerm 7 version. When you save the converted file you will need to enter a new file name (the .ats, .atss and .atsn file extensions are not used with **AccuTerm 7 Internet Edition**; AccuTerm 7 connection files are standard HTML).

The conversion process preserves all settings and scripts. However, due to changes made in the **AccuTerm 7 Internet Edition**, you should review any scripts imported from older versions. The Disconnect() function is no longer supported (you can leave it in your script, but it will never be executed). Also, you should not use the old "reconnect" message that is displayed in the Disconnected () script function - the reconnect function is provided automatically if enabled in the connection settings.

1.8 AccuTerm 7 Reference

AccuTerm 7 Reference topics are located in a separate help file. Click here to open.

1.9 Contacting AccuSoft

AccuSoft Enterprises customer service department may be reached by phone, fax, email or the web.

AccuSoft Enterprises
8041 Foothill Blvd.
Sunland, CA 91040
USA

Phone:	1 (818) 951-1891
Fax:	1 (818) 951-3606
Email:	info@asent.com
Web:	www.asent.com

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