Using the Terminal Services Client

First, make sure your remote computer has Remote Desktop or Terminal Services installed and enabled. Second, if the remote computer is behind a firewall, make sure port 3389 is open for TCP traffic. If this is a corporate network, discuss your needs with the IT department. There may be network address translation (NAT) issues along with the port issue.
Finally, make sure you're connected to the Internet from your Pocket PC device. Although I have successfully made Terminal Services connections with connectivity provided by ActiveSync 3.5, such as the USB connection in the cradle, and even an infrared connection through my laptop, this is not likely to be the connection type you will have in a real life-scenario. It's more likely to be 802.11b or 10/100 Ethernet through a PC Card, or Compact Flash card, or perhaps a modem.

After you have a connection, you're ready to open the Terminal Services Client. From your Pocket PC, tap **Start**, Programs, and then Terminal Services. You'll see the dialog box illustrated in the figure below.
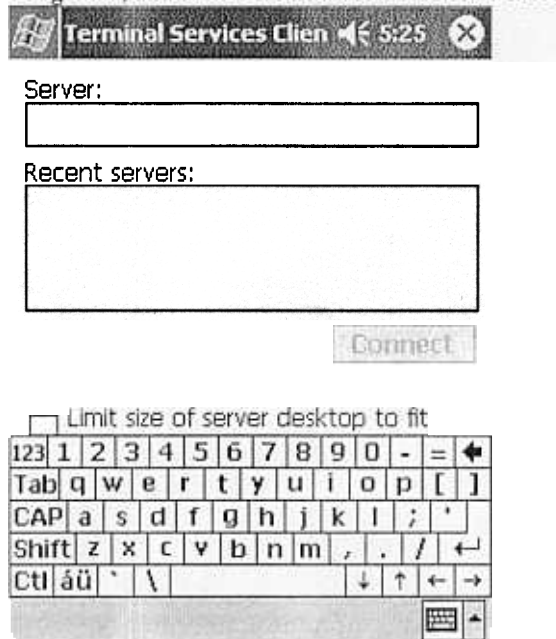

Figure 1: Terminal Services Client
Using the onscreen keyboard, enter either an IP address or a fully-qualified domain name for the remote computer to connect to. The Limit size of server desktop to fit check box is cleared initially. This option is intended for use only with applications on the remote computer that were specifically sized to fit within the Pocket PC Terminal Services screen area. Selecting this check box inappropriately can lead to a confusing display and a frustrating experience. After you've entered the computer address, tap **Enter** to connect. If the remote computer is reachable, you'll soon begin to see its desktop and a logon prompt. If you get a connection error, verify that the remote computer has Remote Desktop or Terminal Services enabled, and that port 3389 is open in the firewall. You should also confirm that you can reach the remote computer with another Windows XP computer, from the same side of the firewall as your Pocket PC.

Exploring the Remote Desktop The first thing you'll notice is what a small view of the

remote computer's desktop you see. You'll probably even need to move the logon dialog box just to get to the buttons you need to log on. You'll find yourself using the scrollbars quite a bit to see what you need to see. But, also notice the five small boxes in the lower left corner of the screen. These are shortcuts to position the current view in a particular area of the desktop-each of the four corners plus the center. Many dialog boxes center themselves in the middle of the desktop, so the center shortcut is a handy one, as is the bottom-left shortcut if your taskbar is on the bottom.

You'll also find yourself toggling the keyboard on and off you need to enter text. Also, single taps and double taps work just like single and double clicks on the remote computer, and holding the stylus down works like the right-click.

After you're logged on, you can do almost anything you could do if you were sitting in front of the remote computer. But you will not find the Terminal Services feature set to be as robust as Remote Desktop is between two Windows XP Professional-based computers. This is because of differing levels of support for the Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) the two platforms provide. Remote Desktop in Windows XP, for example, supports clipboard sharing, which is only available with RDP version 5.1 or later.