

# ThinkGear Connector Development Guide

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# Introduction

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The ThinkGear Connector (TGC) is an executable that provides a daemon-like service that manages communications with ThinkGear devices, such as the MindSet, that are connected to the computer. The TGC runs continuously in the background, and keeps an open socket on the local user's computer, allowing applications to connect to it and receive information from the connected ThinkGear devices. This means that any application in any language that can open and read from sockets (such as Flash's ActionScript3, and other scripting languages) can connect to and receive data from MindSet headsets.

The TGC is provided as an executable for the following platforms:

- Windows
- Mac OS X

**Important:** TGC is still *alpha-quality software*, and so should not be considered customer-deployable yet. The intended target of the current release of TGC is developers who want to get an early start on developing client applications that will communicate with MindSets through TGC. As long as these client applications adhere to the [ThinkGear Socket Protocol](#), they will be isolated from any future changes made to TGC.

# Getting Started

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The first step is to follow the standard end-user instructions for installing and running the TGC as described in the [ThinkGear Connector User's Guide](#). After following the instructions there, return here for more information about developing.

## Connecting to TGC

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Once the TGC is up and running on the system, the next step is to open a socket connection to it. Refer to the socket API documentation for your application's platform/programming language for details on how to open a socket connection.

Open a socket connection to the TGC using the following configuration:

<b>Host address</b>	127.0.0.1
<b>Port</b>	13854
<b>Protocol</b>	TCP

## Reading Data from TGC

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Once your application has opened a socket connection to the TGC, it should be able to read MindSet data from the socket connection. In order to parse and understand the data stream, please refer to the [ThinkGear Socket Protocol](#) document. Once your application is properly parsing the data stream according to the ThinkGear Socket Protocol, it has access to all the data coming from the ThinkGear headset! Congratulations, your application can now respond to brainwave data and is BCI-enabled!

# Miscellany

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## Policy Files

When SWF files open a socket connection, SWF will typically automatically request a `crossdomain.xml` file from the TGC by sending the following XML to the TGC:

```
<policy-file-request/>
```

In response, TGC will automatically write the following XML to the socket to complete the handshake:

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<!DOCTYPE cross-domain-policy SYSTEM "http://www.macromedia.com/xml/dtds/cross-domain-policy.dtd">
<cross-domain-policy>
  <allow-access-from domain="*" to-ports="*" />
</cross-domain-policy>
```

This all usually occurs automatically when the socket is opened in SWF, and requires nothing special on the SWF programmer's part. The SWF program can then communicate over the socket (read and write) as normal.

If no policy file is requested by the client, then no policy file will be sent by TGC; TGC will still function as normal in this case.

By default, the TGC allows *any* remotely-running SWF file to access it, though it will only listen on a specific address and port. For details on Flash's policy file implementation, refer to [this link](#).