

IBM iAccess with HostExplorer Emulator

iAccess software is used in conjunction with another emulator. In this case we will use the OpenText HostExplorer emulator to connect via iAccess to a running mainframe session.

The HostExplorer software was formerly known as “IBM Hummingbird” but was acquired by OpenText SA. iAccess is based on the custom DLL file “PCSHLL32.DLL” which is a HLLAPI standard.

Pre-Requisites

The following product versions are recommended versions, rather than specific requirements.

- Recommended minimum Blue Prism versions: **v4.2.59**, or **v5.0.11**
- IBM iAccess Client Solutions **v1.1.5.1**
 - NOTE: If using **IBM Personal Communications iService Access for Windows v6** then use the method described in the document “How to configure the IBM PComm Mainframe Emulator” instead of this document.
- OpenText HostExplorer **v15.00**



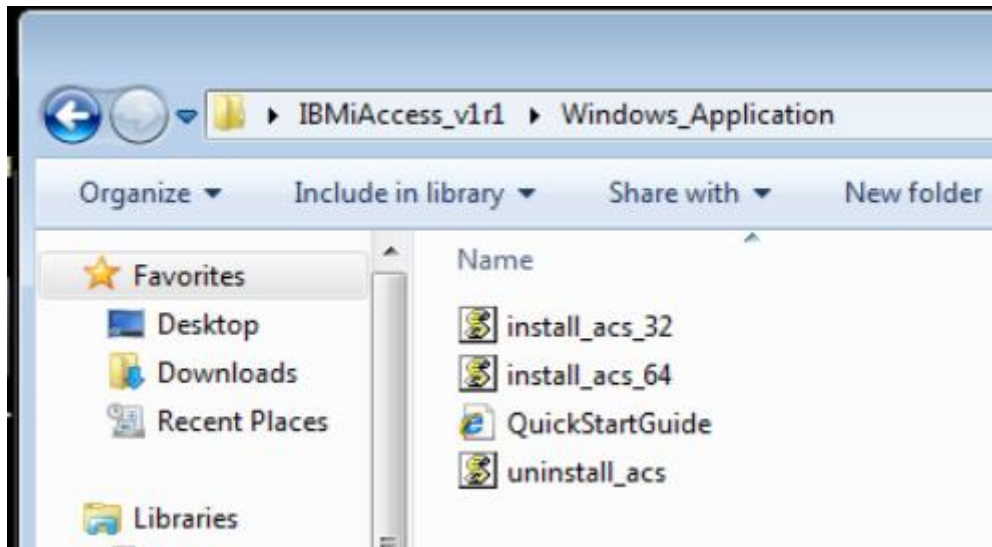
OPENTEXT™
HostExplorer™

HostExplorer for x64

Version: 15.0.0.185

iAccess installation

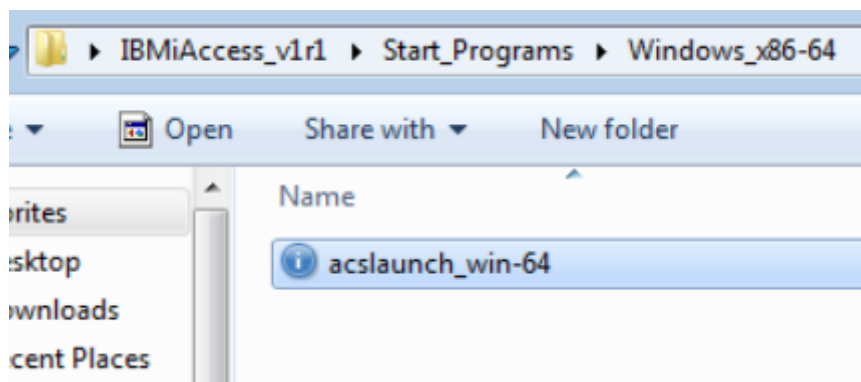
iAccess is installed using the installer program found in the **Windows Application** folder:



Choose whether you need the 32-bit or 64-bit installer depending on your operating system.

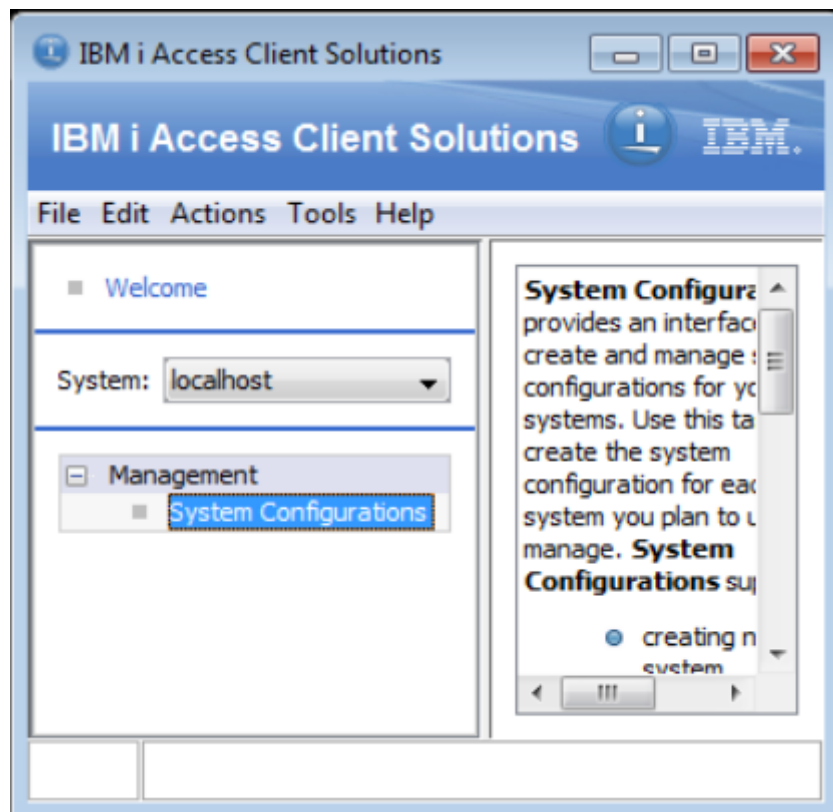
During the installation you will be prompted to choose whether to install each of the components in turn. The only necessary component for Blue Prism is the **3270 Terminal** component.

Once installed place a shortcut to the correct launch icon from the **Start_Programs** folder onto the desktop:

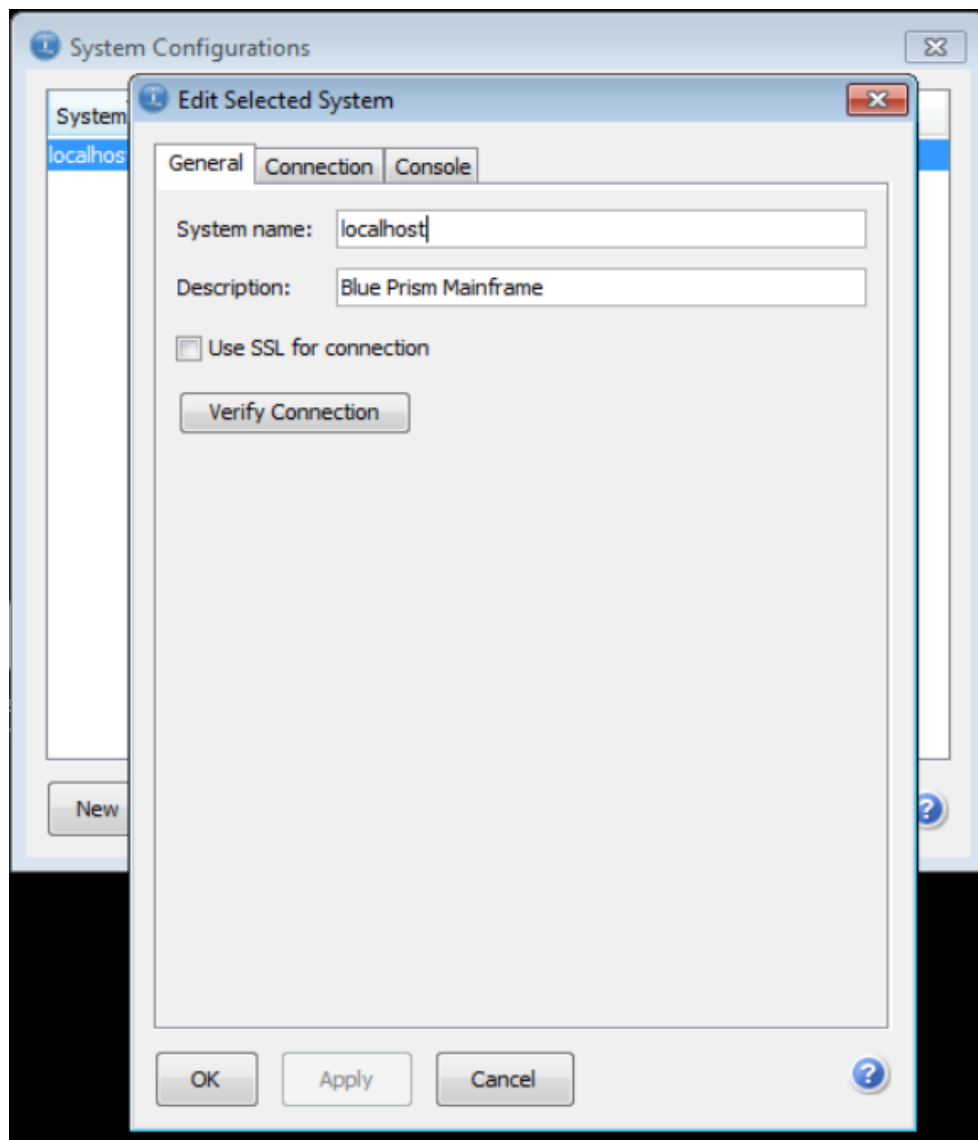


iAccess Configuration

Launch the iAccess Client Solutions interface and click on the 'System Configurations' to reveal a configuration screen:



Create a new System Configuration:



Set the IP Address to be your localhost's IP - usually 127.0.0.1:

The image shows a configuration window with three tabs: 'General', 'Connection', and 'Console'. The 'Connection' tab is active. It contains two sections: 'Password Prompting' and 'Performance'. In the 'Password Prompting' section, there are four radio buttons. The second option, 'Use default user name to prompt once for each system', is selected. Below it is a text box labeled 'Default user name:'. In the 'Performance' section, there is a dropdown menu for 'IP address lookup frequency' set to 'Never - Specify IP address', and a text box for 'IP address' containing '127.0.0.1'.

General Connection Console

Password Prompting

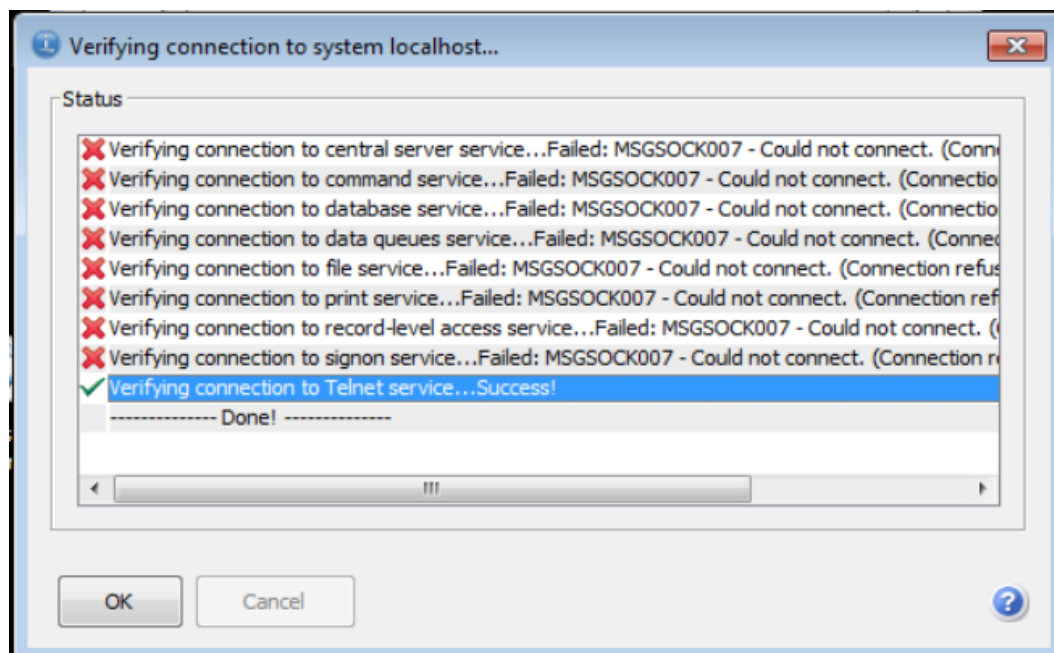
- ☐ Use shared credentials
- ☒ Use default user name to prompt once for each system
- Default user name:
- ☐ Prompt for user name and password every time
- ☐ Use kerberos authentication; do not prompt

Performance

IP address lookup frequency:

IP address:

Use the 'Verify Connection' button to ensure that the Telnet Service can be connected to:



OpenText HostExplorer Installation

The software is available from this link:

<http://connectivity.opentext.com/products/terminal-emulation.aspx>

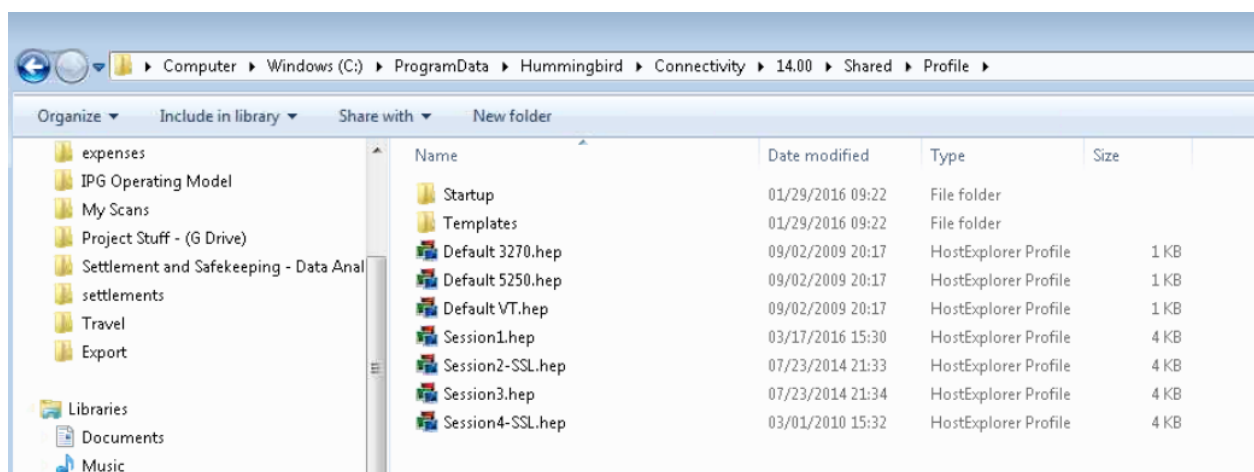
Desktop Icon

Start the HostExplorer software from the desktop icon for Connection Central.



Folder Location

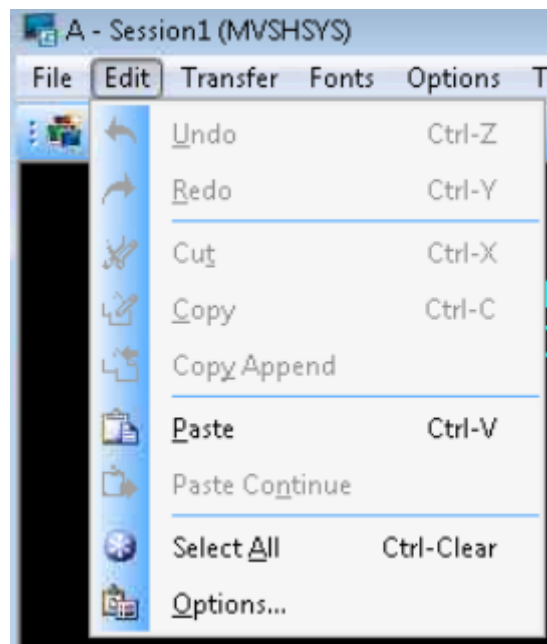
The location of the saved session file (.HEP) can vary. Sometimes the files are stored in a central location, other times they are stored in a user's specific AppData location.



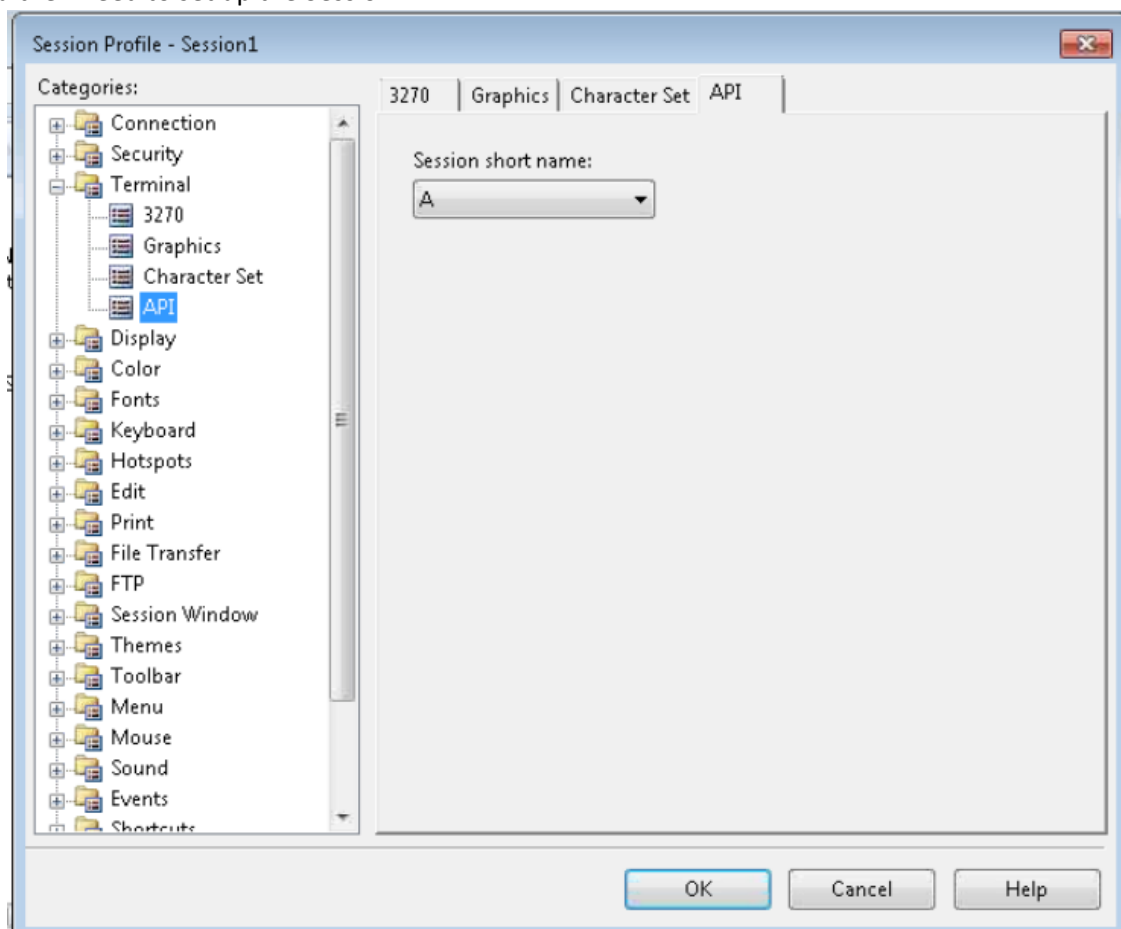
Hummingbird HostExplorer Session Set Up

First you need to amend the Terminal settings to have a Session Short Name:

Edit -> Options -> Terminal -> API -> **Short Session Name**

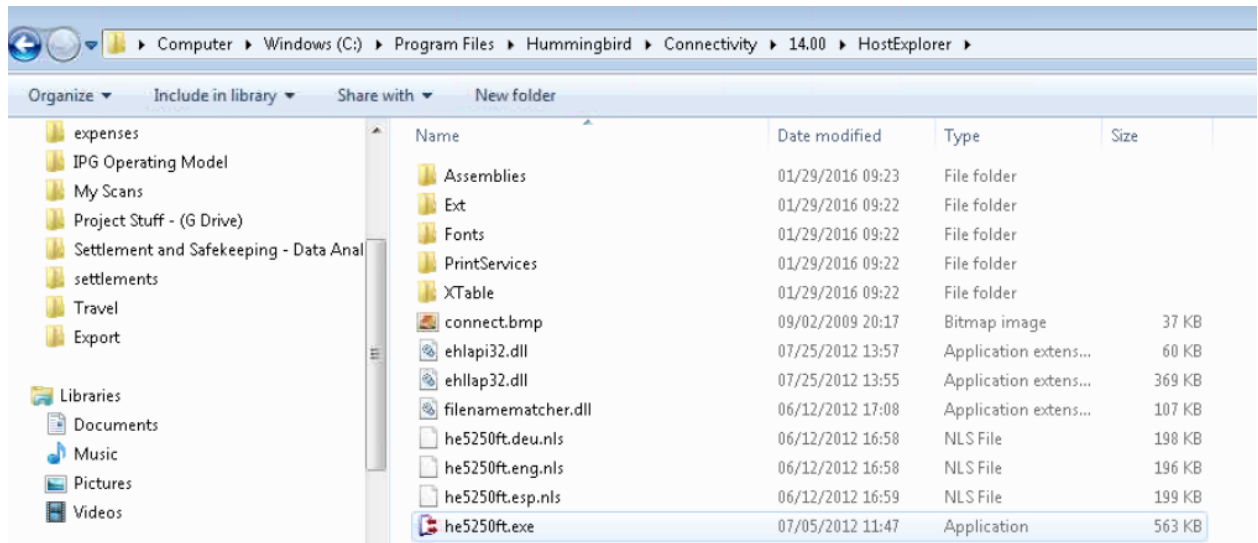


You then need to set up the Session A.

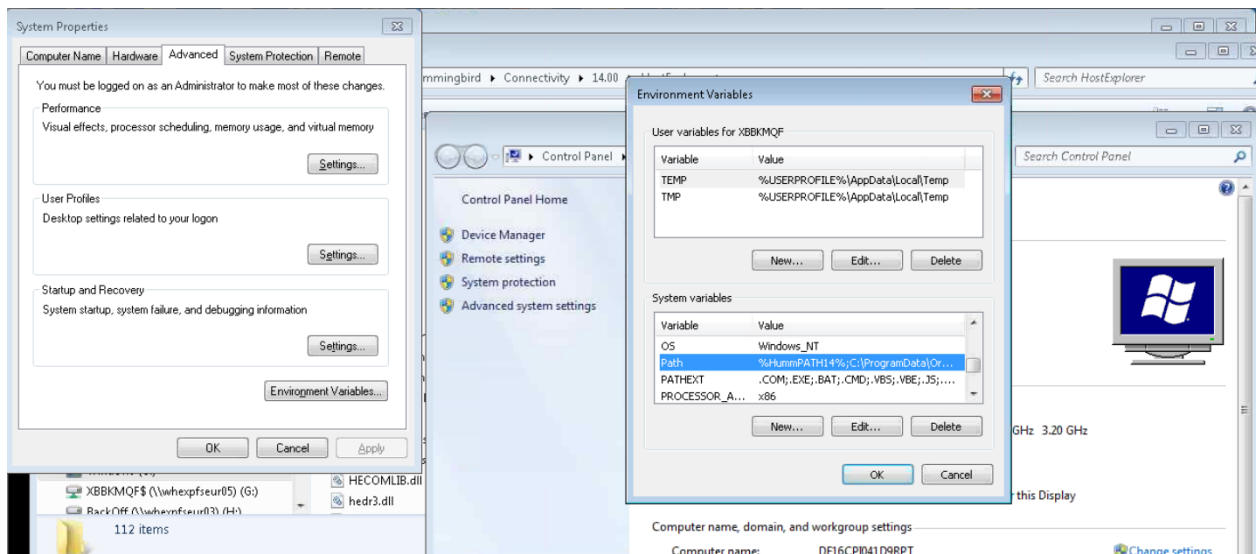


DLL File Location

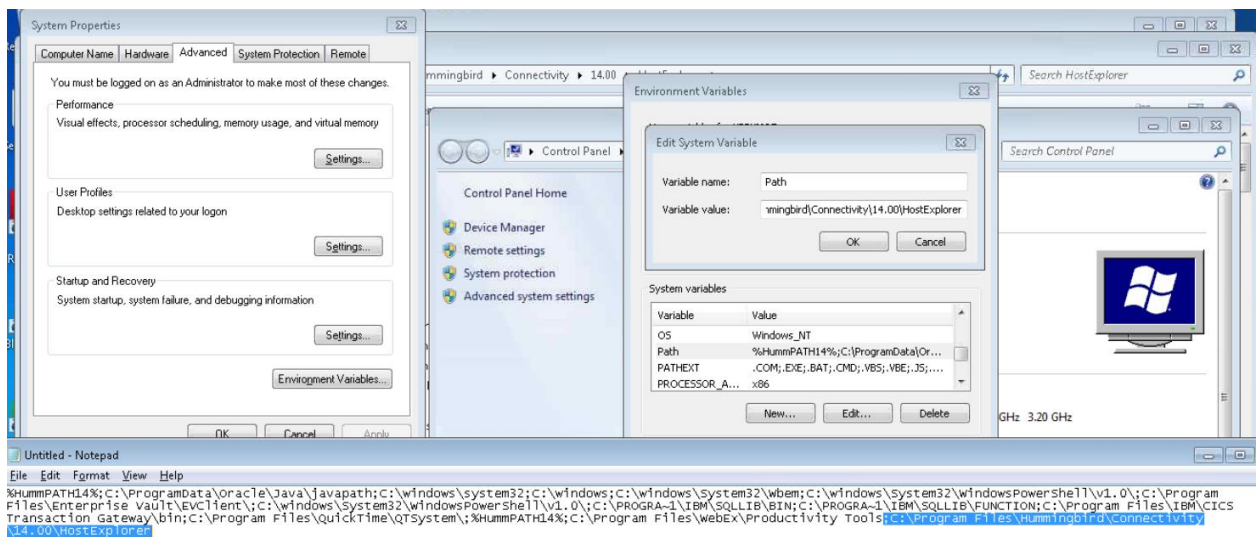
- Locate the **ehlap32.DLL** file



- Add DLL location to the PATH environment variable
 - Right click Computer -> Properties then click the **Advanced System Settings**



- Within the **System Properties** window, click the **Advanced tab** (should already be there) then click **Environment Variables** button.
- Within the **System Variables** section scroll down to the **Path** variable and click **Edit**
- **Copy the Variable Value** to Notepad, then **add a semicolon ;** to the last variable and include the **location of where the ehllapi DLL** is stored for Hummingbird.
- **Copy/Paste** from Notepad into the Variable Value and **click OK**.

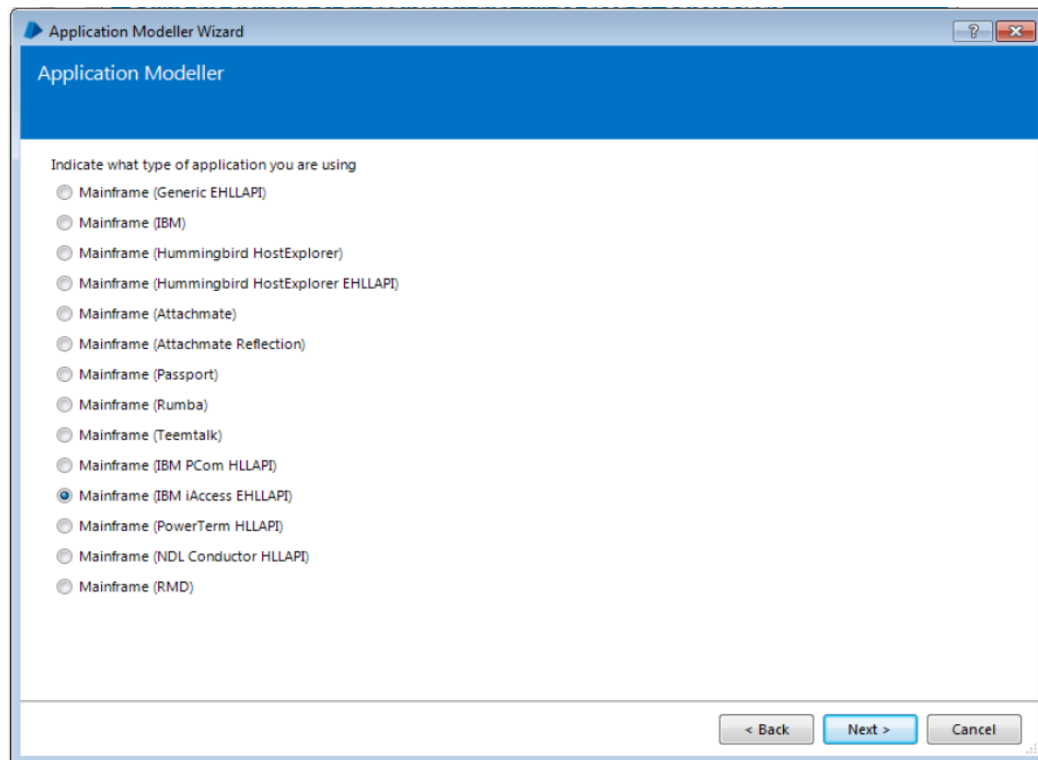


Blue Prism Configuration

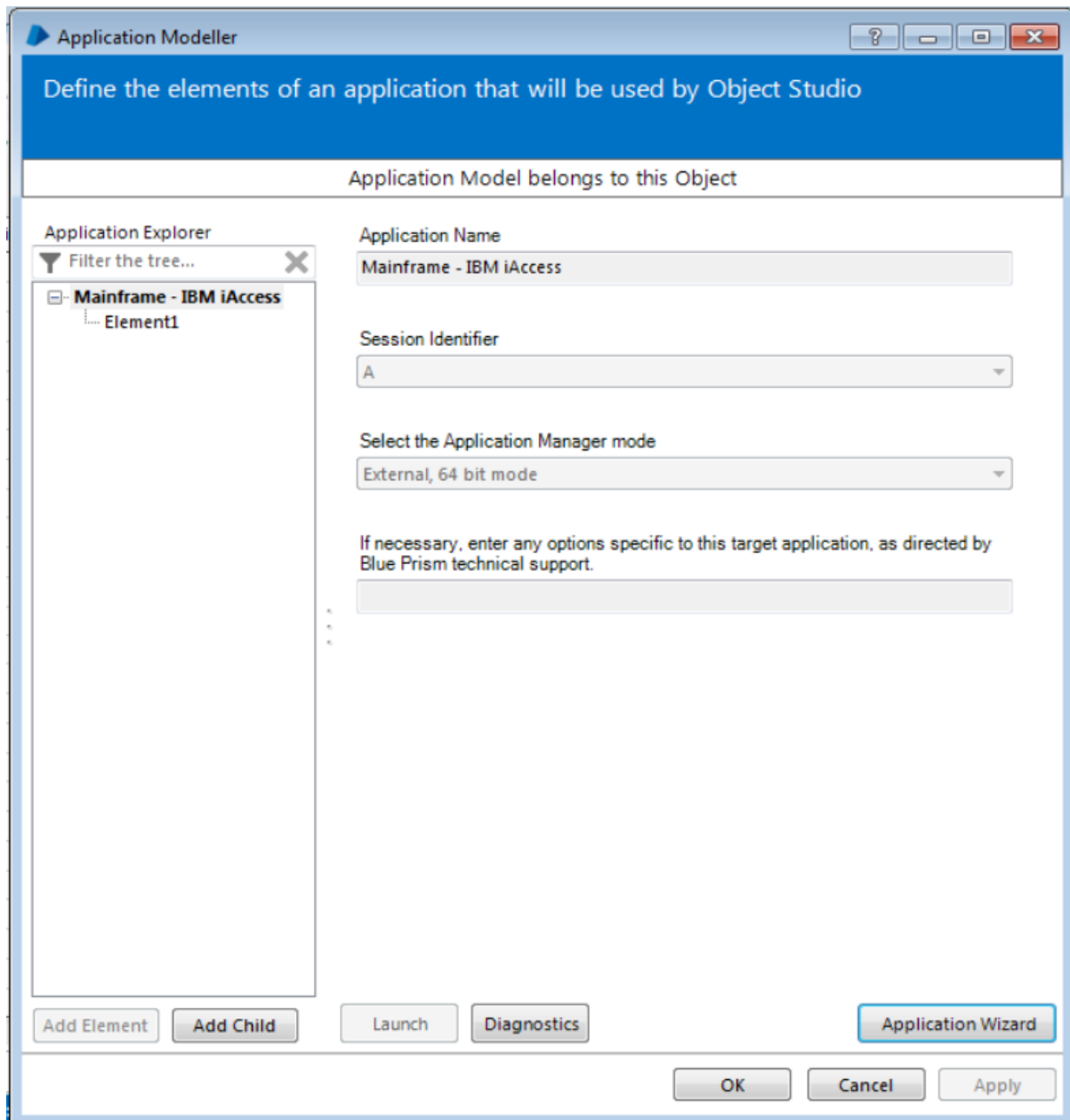
The following instructions work only with an open session, i.e. the HostExplorer mainframe session must be running already before attempting to attach using the “Launch” button.

The file cannot be launched using this method, meaning that you need to have one Visual Business Object to launch the HostExplorer emulator, and another to connect to the running session.

- In Application Modeller specify the “**IBM iAccess (EHLLAPI)**” connector. This uses the EHLLAPI standard functionality to connect to an existing session file.



- Session Identifier is **A**
- Application Manager mode must match the bitness of the HostExplorer software (“Embedded” is fine for 32-bit, but 64-bit must be set to “External, 64 bit mode”)



- Click the **Launch** button in Application Modeller to attach to the running session.

Identifying elements in HostExplorer

Using the **Identify** button select the inner window using the Win32 Mode spying highlight, and the left-click to confirm the selection. This will produce the identification grid:

