PUTTY *DRIVER*

INTRODUCTION

PuttyDriver version 0.1 has been built as a 'proof of concept' using Excel and Visual Basic for Applications (VBA), to evaluate a Microsoft Windows application interface, with the popular open source PuTTY SSH and telnet client developed by Simon Tatham and others.

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The project files with source code can be found at https://github.com/christyler80/PuttyDriver and these include a brief 5 minute video, providing an overview of the current PuttyDriver functionality.

PuttyDriver includes both record and replay functionality and uses the Microsoft Windows Message Queue and the Windows Clipboard, to communicate interactively with one or more Putty sessions.

PuttyDriver currently consists of two application files - **PuttyDriver.xlsb** (Excel 32 bit) and **PuttyDriver.exe**.

PuttyDriver.exe Is a slightly modified of the latest 0.75 version of Putty with a small amount of additional C code, to provide the message queue Interface.

So far, the project scope has been 'proof of concept' for building and testing a robust communication interface with PuTTY.

Basic testing has successfully been undertaken with servers running a variety of Unix/Linux platforms.

Important: At this time:

- PuttyDriver will only work with 32-bit versions of Microsoft Excel 2016 or later.
- Microsoft Excel 64-bit versions are not currently supported.
- 32-bit or 64-bit versions of Microsoft Windows 10 operating system are supported.
- PuttyDriver should work on Windows 7, but this has not been tested.
- Other operating systems (e.g., Apple, Linux) are not supported.

NEXT STEPS

Planned future versions of PuttyDriver, include database integration and Docker compatible .NET controller programs, aimed at assisting systems administration and legacy application automation (e.g., for regression testing).

As already stated in this document, PuttyDriver is distributed in the hope that it will be useful.

Please provide feedback via GitHub and/or by contacting me using the details below.

Chris Tyler, May 2021

chris@christyler.uk

www.christyler.uk

1. Copy PuttyDriver.xlsb and PuttyDriver.exe files into a folder.

2. Run PuttyDriver.exe and connect to a server using SSH or Telnet, using the IP address or server name.

3. Close PuttyDriver.exe.

4. Open the PuttyDriver.xlsb workbook and using the 'Example Template' worksheet, type the IP address or Server Name into cell D1.
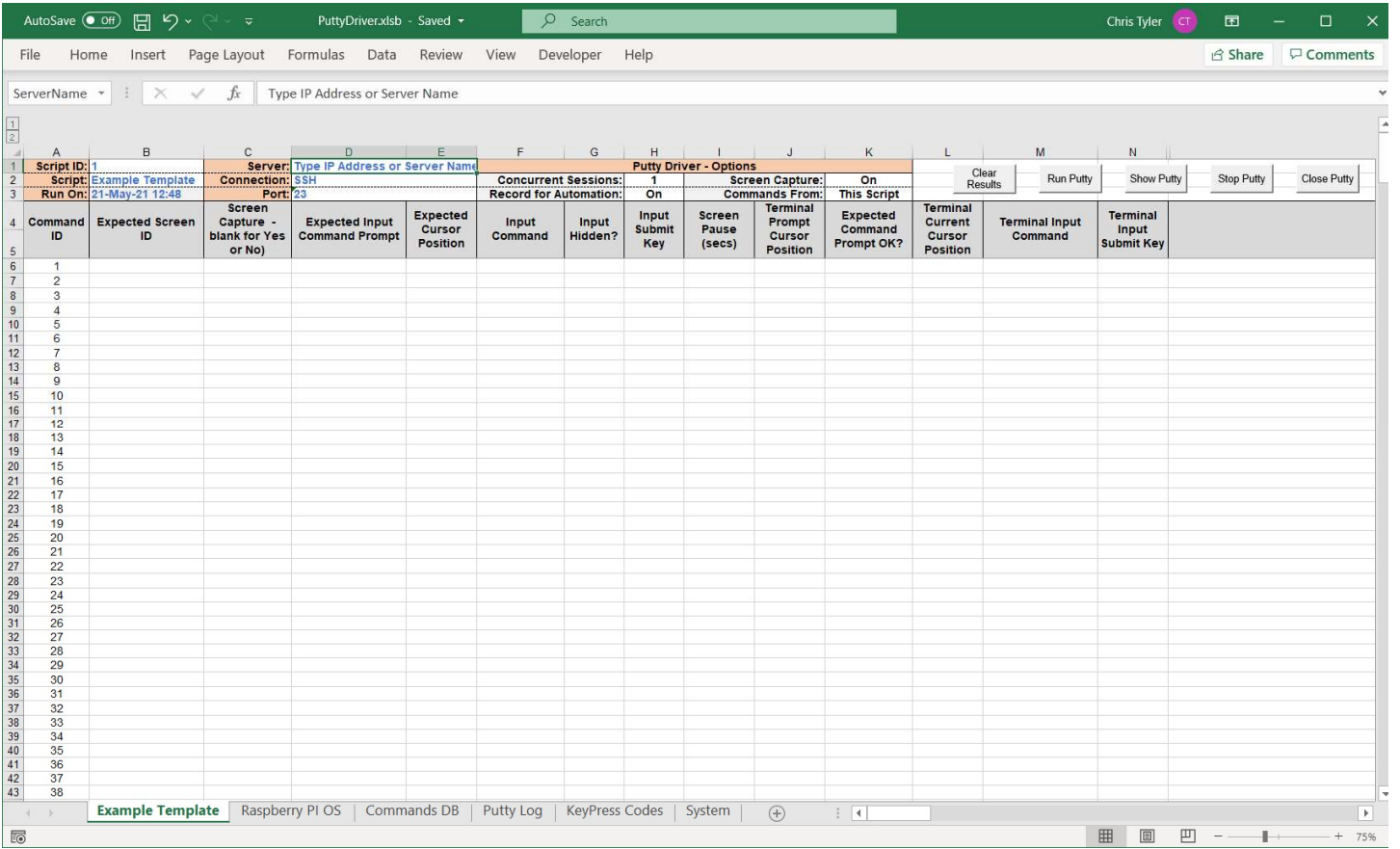
5. Close PuttyDriver.exe.

6. Open the PuttyDriver.xlsb workbook and using the 'Example Template' worksheet (or a copy), type the IP address or Server Name into cell D1.

7. Press the 'Run Putty' button. PuTTY (PuttyDriver.exe) should open.

8. Login as usual, I.e., using a valid user ID and password.

9. These steps should appear automatically, in rows 6 and 7 of the spreadsheet.

10. Tyler 2 or 3 more simple commands Into PuTTY - these should appear automatically in the spreadsheet.

11. Close PuTTY as normal.

12. To replay all these commands, press the 'Clear Results' button, followed by the 'Run Putty' button.

13. As before, PuTTY (PuttyDriver.exe) should open but this time, PuttyDriver should log in automatically using the credentials used in step 8 and automatically run the commands typed in step 10.

14. The PuTTY screen should be captured automatically, In Excel and as one or more text files, in a new 'Capture' folder.