Help sheet 22 – Remote Desktop

ST Robotics

Using Android Remote Desktop.

With this technique you can access RobWin from an Android tablet. Although it will work with a 7 inch tablet (like our Nexus 7 teach pad) the screen may be too small and a 10 inch tablet would be better.

You can set up your Android tablet as a remote desktop for your PC. It requires software in the PC and in the tablet. Windows already has facilities for remote desktop but by downloading an app from Chrome it is easily set up (like a wizard). Then you download an app into your tablet.

PC
Use Chrome browser.
Log in to google if not already logged in with your usual email address and password.
go to
https://chrome.google.com/remotedesktop
Click launch app
Download the installer (chromeremotedesktophost.msi) then run it.
click "Enable remote connections".
Answer yes to all the security dialog boxes. (warning, sometimes they are hidden behind Chrome; watch the task bar).
The system will ask you for a 6-figure PIN number.
Click accept on the user account control if asked.
"Enabling remote connections for this computer"
This can take a long time.
"Remote connections have been enabled" click ok
A fresh dialog box appears asking you for the PIN again..

Tablet
choose settings and scroll down to
+ add account.
Choose google. Choose existing.
Enter your existing email address and password used for your google account.
Next run Chrome and go to the Play Store at play.google.com
choose APPS
tap the search icon, top right
enter chrome remote desktop
choose chrome remote desktop (should be number 1)
tap INSTALL then ACCEPT
tap continue
You can ignore recovery options; tap the home icon at the bottom of the screen.
tap the grid icon and you will see Remote Desktop, tap that.
In top left you will see My Computers and an email address.
Click the drop down (if any) and select your email address as used on the PC.
You should then see your PC listed. Tap that.
Enter the PIN number you used on your PC.
You should now see your PC desktop on your tablet.

Help sheet 22   04.10.2015

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On the PC bring up RobWin. You will see it on your tablet. Size it so it fits on the tablet. On the tablet you can pinch to change size. When you want to move the pointer you may see the entire screen moves but you are actually moving the pointer on tablet and PC. Tap the screen to select. For example move the pointer to the start icon at the top of RobWin. Tap anywhere and you will see the START happen. We advise the use of a tablet stylus for more precise mouse control.

You can see a keyboard icon at the top. Tap that for a keyboard. RoboForth requires upper case. If you have caps lock selected on the PC then all characters entered on the tablet will be in upper case on the PC even though the tablet keyboard appears in lower case.

RoboForth

The problem with a tablet keyboard is there is no escape key, not even a control key (and RobWin does not know what to do with a happy face). If you like to use the escape key you will need to patch RoboForth to accept some other key. The following patch adds the % key as an abort.
Create a new text file and enter the following:

```
HEX
25 670 C! ( add percent as escape in command mode
4ECA 671 ! 4 673 ! ( all on one line
( if you want to patch ?TERMINAL add the next line
25 1713 C! ( percent in ?TERMINAL
```

Click file, download current.
Now on either keyboard type % key and RoboForth will abort.
RoboForth aborts send chr 07 which beeps a terminal. In Windows you can define a sound for exclamation. You will not hear anything from the tablet.

Closing down

On the PC find your Chrome window and click Disable Remote Connections.
On the tablet just tap home.

Starting again

On the PC run Chrome. In the tool bar you will see Apps. Click that and choose Chrome Remote Desktop. Click enable remote connections. Enter your PIN (or a new one). Click ok. Click accept on the user account control if it apears. Enter PIN again.

On the tablet just tap Remote Desktop and choose the computer to connect to. Enter your PIN.