**WEEK 2 ASSIGNMENT 2**

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| **Date:** | **Sept 20, 2014** |
| **To:** | **Mike MacDonald** |
| **From:** | **Christopher Sigouin** |
| **Subject:** | **Install Windows 7 in a Virtual Machine** |

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This learning exercise was to create a virtual machine utilizing VMWare Workstation 10 and with it install the Windows 7 Professional 64-bit operating system. In this case Windows 7 Enterprise was the native OS / host while Windows 7 Pro was the guest. VMWare was already fully installed on the native Windows 7 system. Once this is installed the next task was to explore Windows 7 with emphasis on it's tools and applications. Also to create a standard and administrative user and finally to create a remote desktop or remote assistance connection from the native OS to the guest OS.

To begin installation of the Windows 7 Professional operating system I required the image file to use in VMWare. After accessing my online account in Dreamspark I was able to download the file. Once completed the next step taken was to setup a virtual machine in VMWare. During the setup process I ensured that all requirements at least met or exceeded the requirements of the native Windows 7 OS, but left enough resource for it to still function normally. The setup was clean and painless. After installation the Windows 7 Pro guest booted and functioned as it should.

While exploring the many accessories that Windows 7 provides I did enjoy learning about the snipping tool. I am used to only pressing “ Print Screen “ on the keyboard and pasting in the Paint application so this gave me a new faster alternative to the process. The command prompt is always handy to have. Also the Math Input panel I thought would be interesting to test. It was designed for tablet PCs or anything with a touch screen and would allow a user to write in a math equation. Once written Windows will format the equation and allow the user to enter it into a word doc or math computing program. When I tested it I found it had difficulty interpreting my hand writing so I ceased to continue using it.

As for the remote desktop / remote assistance task I chose to go the remote desktop connection methods. Initially I created both the standard and admin users with no password. I then made sure that the guest OS was set to accept incoming connections from a PC requesting a remote connection. Then I chose the option to allow connections running any version of Remote Desktop to ensure the connection could be established. In order to connect to this guest OS I required it's IP address so in a command prompt window I used “ ipconfig “ and retrieved the IP address of the virtual machines network adapter. Once that was done I moved to the Windows 7 host and through the command prompt was able to type “ mstsc “ which opened the remote desktop connection window. Using the IP address obtained from the guest I attempted to make a connection and was successful ( after some needed changes to the user passwords that were created ) showing the request that a user was trying to connect in the guest OS's desktop. I accepted the connection and was able to control the guest PC in my remote desktop window of the host PC.

An issue I encountered was when creating a user with no password I was not able to remotely connect to the guest OS as it would give me a password error. Windows provided it's error analysis stating that a blank password could be the issue which is was. I changed the passwords for both users and the connect was established after that.

The exercise was fun and informative. Remote connections are very handy when it comes to either assisting a user in need or accessing a PC that may be geographically located on the other side of the world. In my call center days I had to access one from time to time in order to configure information on an ISP's DSLAM in the USA. The application that managed the infrastructure could not be installed natively in our outsourced center. We each were given specific credentials that allowed us access and it was a “ process and a half “ to reset them if you forgot.