



MORETON BAY



USER'S

GUIDE



WinPool



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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

Thank you for choosing WinPool as your modem sharing program. WinPool provides a simple and efficient method for allowing multiple client workstations on your network to make use of the communications port and modem resources on your server.

Overview

WinPool allows client PCs to connect to and use modems on the server - as if the modem was connected to the COM port on their own computer. This eliminates the need to place costly modems and phone lines at every workstation on the network. When a client PC require access to fax, ISDN-TA, a remote network or an online service, they simply run the appropriate Windows application software and their PC is automatically connected to an available modem from the pool.

Installing the *WinPool* software is straight forward. *WinPool* software comes in two components - a server and a client component. The server component is installed on the computer with the communications resources (usually modems) that are to be shared. This server software provides the management tools needed to share designated modem resources.

The *WinPool* client software is installed on the computers that need to make use of the COM ports that reside on the server. The client software adds a *Virtual Com Port* to the clients. Once installed you then simply point all communications applications to the *Virtual Com Port* and the modem then acts as if it is attached directly to the client computer.

Pre-Installation Checklist

- The *WinPool* server must be running Windows NT 4.0 Server with Service Pack 3 or later. Your multiline *WinPool* license supports up to 256 modems -or other COM port devices - on a single server.
- Ensure your server has free COM ports which can be shared. *WinPool* will work with virtually all serial COM ports, modems, multiport cards and multimodem cards on the market today - including Moreton Bay's RAStel family.
- The *WinPool* client must be an Intel-compatible PC running Windows 95 or Windows 98.
- The server and the client PCs must be interconnected with a TCP/IP network which permits the client to communicate with the server using a *Winsock* socket. Almost all TCP/IP-based local area networks (including the standard Windows networking software) satisfy this requirement.

CHAPTER 2

Server Software Install and Configure

To set up the *WinPool* server component you must first install the *WinPool* software on the server. Then you must allocate which specific communications ports are to be shared with the users on the network.

- Log on to the Windows NT server machine as a user with administrative privileges.
- Close all Windows application programs. It is particularly important that all applications that may be using the COM port (like Dial Up Networking) are closed.

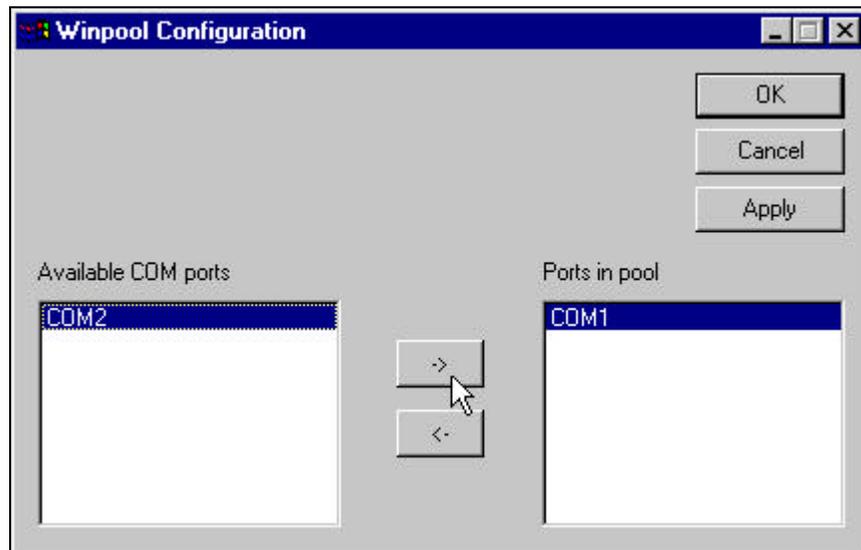


- Run the program **A:\Server\WINNT\Setup.exe** on the *WinPool* diskette.
- *Setup* will install the *WinPool* software. Simply click through *Next* as requested.



The *WinPool* server now must to be configured (if this step is not performed, then the server will not know which ports to share!)

- The *WinPool Configuration* program will display all the COM ports currently installed on your server. To selecting which COM ports are to be shared with the clients, select the COM port in the *Available COM ports* list and Click . **Click Apply.**
- **When all the COM ports** that are to shared have been placed in the pool, click *Finish*.



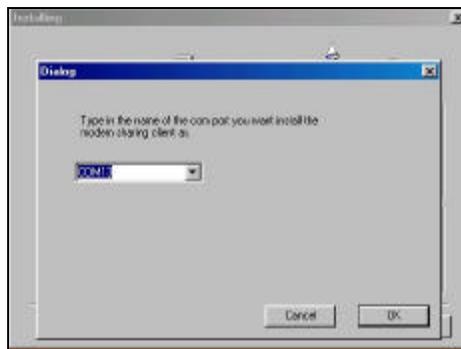
- Similarly to stop server COM ports from being shared you simply need to select the port in **Pool** list and click on the button to move it back to the *Available* list.
- The pool changes you have made will automatically take effect the next time the *WinPool* server is rebooted. Alternately you can manually apply the changes by selecting Run on the Start menu and entering **net start WinPool** then click *OK*
- It is also worth noting the *Computer Name* or *IP Adress* of your *WinPool* server (as you will need this to be able to configure the *Winpool* client). From the *Control Panel* select *Network* then look in the *Identification* screen for *Computer Name*.

CHAPTER 3

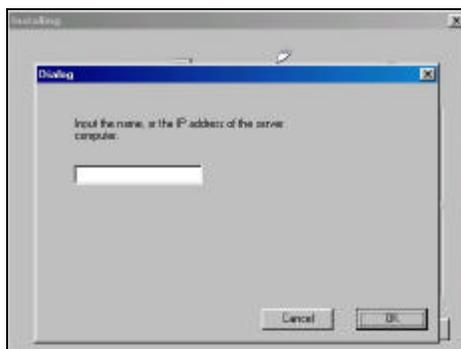
Client Software Install and Configure

You will need to install the *WinPool* client software in every Windows 95 or Windows 98 PC on your network that will using the modem pool

- Insert the *WinPool Installation* diskette into the floppy disk and run the client setup program. Clicking on *Start* menu, select *Run*, type **A:\Client\Win9x\CLSetup.exe (or *Browse for this program on your Winpool diskette*)** and click *OK*
- *WinPool* will now install a *Virtual Com Port* in the PC. The setup program will ask you which local COM port number you would like to have assigned as the *Virtual Com Port*. Select the port number *COMx* and click *OK*



- The installation program will ask you the location of the server. Ensure that you have the select the server that you installed the *WinPool* server. Enter the *IP Address* or the *Computer Name* of the *WinPool* server.

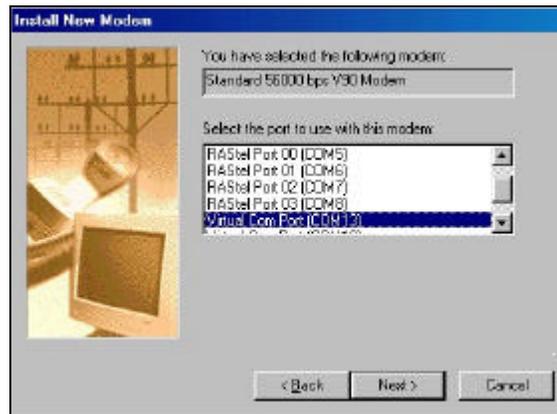


Note: The *Virtual Com Port* will not work if you select the incorrect location for the server. If you are uncertain as to the IP address of the server, enter the server name. You can find the server name by running *Windows Explorer* and using *Network Neighborhood* locate the server on your network.

- Click *OK* and WinPool will install the client software.



- Click *OK* to reboot the PC. Remove the *WinPool*
- You must now install a modem on the *Virtual Com Port*. From the *Start* menu select *Settings* then *Control Panel*. Double click *Modems*.
- On the *General* screen of *Modem Properties*, click *Add*.
- Check *Don't detect my modem...* and click *Next*.
- On the *Install New Modem* screen you will be presented with a number of modem type options. In general it is safest to select a standard modem type (*Standard 56000 bps V90 Modem*).
- Click *Next*. Select the *Virtual Com Port* as the port to use with this modem. Click *Next* and Windows will now install the new modem driver on *Virtual Com Port (COMx)*



- You now have a new modem device installed on your *Virtual Com Port (COMx)* which connects through to the modem pool on the server. The modem on *COMx* can be used exactly the same as any other modem that may be attached to a serial port on your PC.



Administration and Trouble Shooting

Starting and stopping *WinPool*

- ❑ To stop the *WinPool* server, at a command prompt type in ***net stop WinPool***
- ❑ To start the *WinPool* server, at command prompt type in ***net start WinPool***
- ❑ To reconfigure *WinPool* server run the program ***Program Files\WinPool\Config.exe***
- ❑ When *WinPool* has been re-configured it needs to be stopped and started again. Ensure there are no clients attached to the server as they will be disconnected. This may cause client programs to stop responding.

Support FAQ

- ❑ *When I try to connect to the shared communications port using Application x the program tells me that it cannot open the port.*
Does your server have a static IP address? If it doesn't then it may not be possible for clients to contact it.
When you installed the client did you specify the correct IP address of the server?
Are all of the available com ports on the server already in use?
Are you running the single user version of the server? If you are, then only one user will be able to connect to the server at once.
- ❑ *I have a modem connected to the remote com port and when I try to dial a remote sight the connection fails. The connection used to work, what could be going wrong?*
Because the communications port is shared and not simply the modem, *WinPool* is far more powerful than some other communications port sharing software. However this means that the virtual communications port at the client must have a modem installed on it that corresponds to modem that is physically connected to the communications port at the server. Since any communications port that is shared might be the one that the client is using, all of the communications ports should have the same type of modem attached. If this is not possible then try using 'ATZ' as an extra initialization string. This will work on most different types of modems.
- ❑ *I cannot auto-detect the type of modem that is installed on the server.*
The type of modem that you are using on the server may not be able to be auto-detected. Simply select the modem type manually, either from the list that comes with Windows 9x, or use the floppy disk that came with the modem for the installation.
- ❑ *I have a Winmodem/Softmodem and it doesn't seem to work.*
For this to work you need to have the software that came with your modem running on the server machine, not the client. If the Wnmodem that you have doesn't support Windows NT then you will be unable to use this modem for sharing.

On-line Support

If problems arise with *WinPool* then please first check out www.moreton.com.au/support.htm. Our support engineers are also most happy to help you. To help us correct your problems, please provide as many details as possible. You can email the engineers at support@moreton.com.au