

The Hillyheights IP-address Tracker

Instructions

1 Introduction

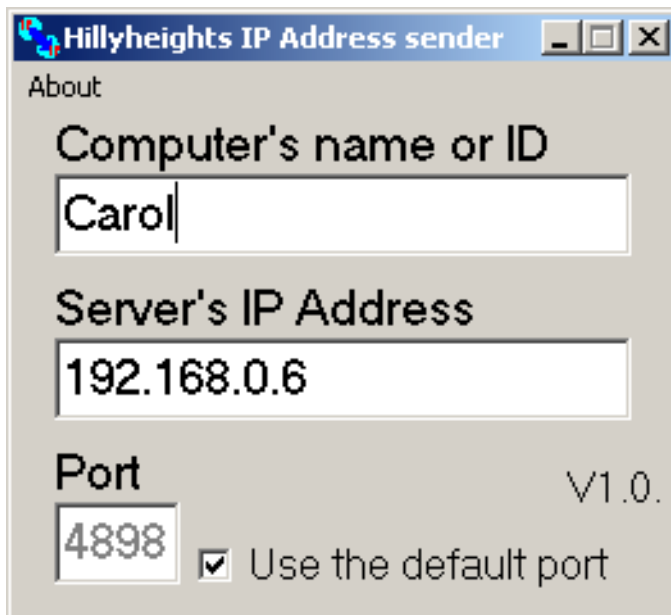
The Hillyheights IP-address Tracker is designed to work alongside remote administration software where someone connects to another's computer to help them, although there may other times when it could be useful. The problem with all these situations is that you need to know their IP-address before you can connect, but this may be dynamically assigned. The Hillyheights IP-address tracker is useful when you have a fixed IP-address, and you need to track the IP-addresses of other computers.

There are two halves to the Hillyheights IP-Address Tracker, the client and the server. The client is run on the computer, or computers, with the floating IP-address, and the server is run on the computer with the fixed address.

The client is designed to be run hidden such that it tries to send a tiny message to the server at ten-second intervals. The server can be reduced to an icon in the Windows System-Tray, which is normally at the bottom right-hand of the screen.

2 Installation of the Client Program

There are two programs for the client end: the main client program (DynamicIPClient.exe) and an additional program (ShowClient.exe) that is used to unhide the main program so that alterations can be made. To install the client, download these two programs and save them together in a suitable location such as the "program files" directory. Run the DynamicIPClient.exe program and a window like the one below will be displayed.



Enter an identifying name in the "Computer's name or ID" and enter the IP-address of the computer that is going to run the server program. Click the 'X' to close the window, read the question, and answer "Yes" for the program to hide itself and set itself to run each time Windows starts. The program is now permanently installed and hidden.

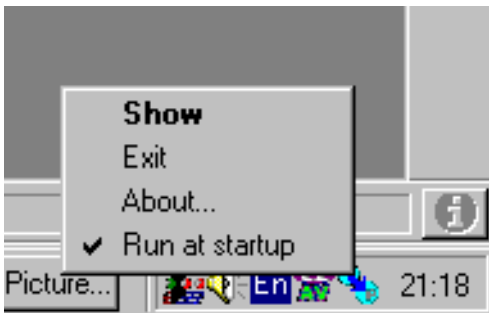
2.1 Altering the Settings or Stopping the Client Program

The client program runs hidden so, before its settings can be altered, it must first be made visible.

To do this, run the “ShowClient.exe” program and wait for Client's Window to be shown; this can take several seconds. It is then possible to alter the entries for the “Computer's name or ID” or for the “Server's IP-address”. Click the close box and choose either “Yes” or “No” according to whether you wish the program to continue running hidden with the new settings.

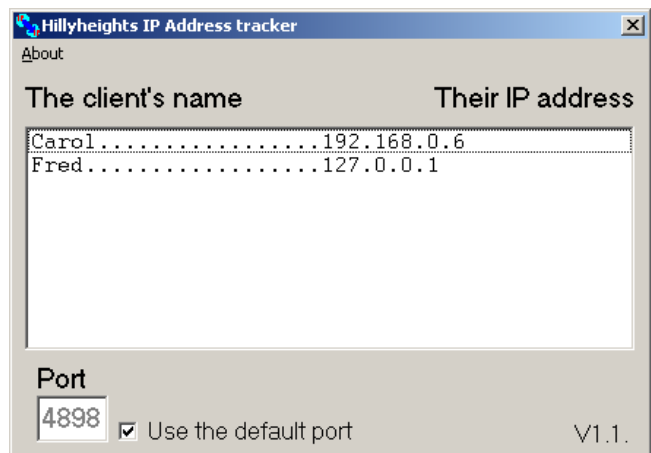
3 Installation of the Server Program

The server program needs to be installed on the computer with the fixed IP-address, the address of which was entered above on the client end. There is only one executable for the server end, DynamicIPServer.exe. To install the server, download this program and save it in a suitable location such as the “program files” directory. Run the program, and an icon will appear in the Windows System-Tray. Right-clicking on this icon will bring up a menu on which you can select if you would like the program to run at start up. “Run at startup” will be ticked if this option is enabled.



4 Using the programs

Once the client program has been installed as described in section 2.1 there are no further actions required, and it will send messages every few seconds. At the server end, pass the mouse over the System-Tray icon, and the IP address of any computer sending messages will be displayed with that computer's name, as shown below-left. If there are no messages being received the word “Waiting...” will be displayed. If there is more than one computer sending messages “More than one. Double-click to show.” will be displayed, and it will be necessary to double click the System-Tray icon to see a window, as shown below-right, to obtain the addresses.



5 Port Use, Firewalls and NAT

The programs have a tick box and a text box to permit you to change the port used. If you need to alter this setting, you will understand what it is for; it can normally be left unchanged. Those administering firewalls need to know that the only connection used is a simple TCP connection with

the server listening and the client connecting to it. The program is not directly suitable for use with NAT (Network Address Translation) at either end. It is hoped to add a redirection function to the server program on a later release. Using NAT at the client end will result in receiving the external address of the device doing the address translation.

6 Licence and conditions of use

These are available from the hillyheights.co.uk website, and they can also be displayed by selecting “About” on the programs' menus.