

Remote Access

Access your desktop wherever you go.

by Steve Smith

One of the most valuable arrows in a road warrior's arsenal is remote-access software. If you have a direct link to your desktop or just its files, you never again have to worry about leaving a key contact or document behind. The current crop of solutions generally use a Web-based approach, so you can tap into your stuff from any PC. The elite solutions let you slip onto your home or office desktop as if you were there, with full copy-and-paste and file-transfer functions that move across remote and host PCs. The downside is that most of these products do require various monthly fees to maintain. There are less-expensive and even free file-synchronization options in the mix as well, however. Your desktop: don't leave home without it.

GoToMyPC

Among the fastest and simplest remote-access solutions around, GoToMyPC is one of the veteran programs in the category, and it shows. The user-friendly interface connects a remote PC to the host via a Web site with full 24-bit color support. File transfers are fully intuitive drag-and-drop operations, and copy/paste works seamlessly between desktops. The latest iteration of the frequently upgraded program is even faster to start up and responds more quickly to commands across the connection. You can even hear audio over your remote connection, whether it's music streaming from your desktop or e-mail notifications. Other features that put this solution on top include remote printing, the ability to synch files and folders with a single click, and PocketView Wireless Access, which supports Windows Mobile devices.

\$19.95 per month; www.gotomypc.com

