

The Geeks *Speak*

Be Productive in your Bunny Slippers

The GeeksSpeak is a periodic electronic publication of Hargraves Computer Services offering helpful tips on various computer-related issues.

<http://www.hargraves.net>

Don't you just love that commercial with the gal who teleconferences from home while wearing her bunny slippers? How many ways would your life improve if you could just work from home now and then as productively as you do in the office? I guess I'm one of the lucky ones; I've been doing this for years. That's how I can fix things right away without making you wait while I drive across town to you. But it's getting easier and less expensive now for the non-geeks to do this, too!

To pull it off, you need a little infrastructure, much of which you already have. You need broadband internet both at home and at work. Most of you have that anyway, or your kids would leave home!

In the past you had to purchase expensive software like PCAnywhere, and pay big bucks for an internet connection with "static IP", that is, a fixed location on the internet, for your office computer. The good news is that with the advent of Microsoft Windows XP Professional, Remote Desktop capabilities are built into the operating system, eliminating the need for remote control software. You can run the client software to connect to your office PC on any old version of Windows, even older, slower computers, with no extra licensing requirements and no costly hardware upgrades at home!

All we need now is a fixed location on the internet so we're not aiming at a moving target, right? Ugh, that's expensive. Upgrading your dynamic IP DSL service to static IP will at least double, perhaps triple, your monthly DSL charges!! How do you explain to your boss that he or she needs to pay three times as much so you can work in your bunny slippers?

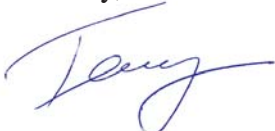
But wait, there's hope! Thanks to DynDNS.org, we can install a small (FREE!) client program on your pc that will update a secure directory with your dynamic IP address every time it changes. The Dynamic DNS service allows you to create an alias that will resolve to the current IP address of your host pc. At home, you'll simply enter in your alias to point the Remote Desktop client to your office pc. Of course, we'll have to make a tweak or two on your router and/or firewall to keep everything nice and secure, and may have to make a visit in person to both your office and your home, but once it's set up there are no more recurring costs.

Voilà! Bunny Slippers!!

... and that's it for my soapbox speech of the month!

As always, we thank you for your continued business.

Sincerely,



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