Remote File Access

Overview:

Your department profile (application data, documents, desktop, etc), and your personal web space, are all stored on a central server for the department. To transfer files to and from this set of folders, the department has in place an SFTP server.

For your user profile, single files can be drag-and-dropped in a Remote Desktop environment, but for transferring multiple or large files, or accessing your web space, or if you are accessing from a Mac, you will need to use the following software/configuration:

VPN:

Because of the sensitive nature of these types of services, remote file access is only available on-campus or through the campus VPN, if you are off-campus.

Follow the instructions at the MSU IT Knowledgebase Article #TB24726 to get the VPN installed and configured. Remember to connect to the VPN FIRST, before you try to connect to the department.

When done, do not forget to disconnect as well.

FileZilla:

The software that currently seems to work best from both PC and Mac is FileZilla – It is also free.

To install on PC, I recommend using http://ninite.com and selecting 'Filezilla' and following the instructions to install it – This makes sure you do not accidentally click the wrong thing and get extra stuff installed.

To install on Mac, use the link on https://filezilla-project.org to follow the links to download FileZilla Client (Not the pro version) – During the install, it will offer to install some 'partner software'. Skip that. You just want/need the main FileZilla program.

Configuration:

Once FileZilla is installed, you will use it to connect to the department servers.

I recommend creating a saved connection to make life easier in the future, so click the 'Site Manager' button:

And hit the 'New Site' button. You'll want to rename it something like 'STT Department Files' and/or 'STT Web Space'

Over on the right, put the computer to connect to
For your STT Profile, use 35.8.88.11
For your STT Web Space, use 35.8.88.5

Change the Protocol to SFTP

Change login type to 'Ask for Password'
Type your STT username

Hit Connect

If it is the first time you have connected, you will have to verify the 'host key' – just a fingerprint of the server. I recommend checking the box that says 'Always trust this host, add this key to the cache' – then it will not bother you anymore.

Operation:

The window that comes up after it connects will have your computer to the left of the window, and the remote connection on the right – for your web space, files are mounted at https://stt.msu.edu/~*username*/ OR https://stt.msu.edu/users/*username*/

Further Questions

If you have any further issues, please contact the IT department by whichever method you prefer:
In person: Wells Hall, Room C407
By phone: 517-432-4068
By email: huffordw@stt.msu.edu