Using PuTTY – Telnet/SSH Emulator

Note: Although PuTTY is primarily used to connect to JOAN and check e-mail, it is actually a general purpose telnet and SSH application. It can be used to connect to many other computers including some online databases such as Dialog.

To Launch PuTTY:
Start > Programs > Internet Tools > PuTTY > PuTTY

Steps:

- Enter hostname (e.g. joan.simmons.edu if you want to check email using telnet or SSH)
- Choose desired protocol
- Click "Logging" on the left and set appropriate options.
- Click "Session" to get back and "open" at bottom of window to open the connection.
- If using SSH, you might be asked to verify the site and enter your username and password again.
- To continue the email example, once you've logged in, you will see a prompt that looks like this: $
- Typing "pine" and hitting enter will get you to the Simmons email server where you navigate primarily by typing commands and using the arrow keys.

What's It For Anyway?
Multi-user operating systems, such as Unix and VMS, usually present a command-line interface to the user, much like the 'Command Prompt' or 'MS-DOS Prompt' in Windows. The system prints a prompt, and you type commands which the system will obey.

SSH and Telnet are network protocols that allow you to run a client (PuTTY), which makes a network connection to the other computer (the server). The network connection carries your keystrokes and commands from the client to the server, and carries the server's responses back to you.

You might want to use SSH or Telnet if:

- you have an account on a Unix or VMS system which you want to be able to access from somewhere else
- your Internet Service Provider provides you with a login account on a web server. (This might also be known as a shell account. A shell is the program that runs on the server and interprets your commands for you.)

You probably do not need to use SSH, Telnet or Rlogin if:

- you only use Windows. Windows computers have their own ways of networking between themselves, and unless you are doing something fairly unusual, you will not need to use any of these remote login protocols.

Security Note:

- SSH is a recently designed, high-security protocol. It uses strong cryptography to protect your connection against eavesdropping, hijacking and other attacks. Telnet and Rlogin are both older protocols offering minimal security.

Some PuTTY Features:

Capturing Your Session

For some purposes you may find you want to log everything that appears on your screen. You can do this using the 'Logging' panel in the configuration box.

To begin a session log, select 'Change Settings' from the system menu and go to the Logging panel. Enter a log file name, and select a logging mode. (You can log all session output including the terminal control sequences, or you can just log the printable text. It depends what you want the log for.) Click 'Apply' and your log will be started. Later on, you can go back to the Logging panel and select 'Logging turned off completely' to stop logging; then PuTTY will close the log file and you can safely read it.

Copying and Pasting
Often in a PuTTY session you will find text on your terminal screen which you want to type in again. Like most other terminal emulators, PuTTY allows you to copy and paste the text rather than having to type it again.

PuTTY's copy and paste **works entirely with the mouse**. In order to copy text to the clipboard, you just click the left mouse button in the terminal window, and drag to select text. When you let go of the button, the text is automatically copied to the clipboard. You do not need to press Ctrl-C or Ctrl-Ins; in fact, if you do press Ctrl-C, PuTTY will send a Ctrl-C character down your session to the server where it will probably cause a process to be interrupted.

Pasting is done using the right button. (Selecting 'Paste' from the Ctrl+right-click context menu, have the same effect.) When you click the right mouse button, PuTTY will read whatever is in the Windows Clipboard and paste it into your session, exactly as if it had been typed at the keyboard.

It's possible for the server to ask to handle mouse clicks in the PuTTY window itself. If this happens, the mouse cursor will turn into an arrow, and copy and paste will only work if you hold down Shift. See section 4.6.2 and section 4.11.3 of the manual for details of details of this feature and how to configure it.

To learn more, there is a detailed manual available at:
Start > Programs > Internet Tools > PuTTY > PuTTY Manual