StartRemote ngrokHelper Edition v1.6

http://75r.de/startremote

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Deutsche Hilfe auf http://75r.de/software/startremote

Content:

ngrokHelper.exe v1.2.1

StartHelper.exe v1.6

StartRemote.exe v1.6

ngrokHelperDoku.pdf

ngrokurl.php   v1.0

What is this?

This tool gives You the ability to start programs on a remote machine without

the need to change port-forwarding settings on Your router or messing with IP v6.

Requirements

- Windows 7 or higher

- .net framework v4.6.1 or higher

- permanent internet-connection and known address of server (if run over the internet and not in a local network)

For using ngrokHelper:

- a free ngrok-account

- a internet-reachable webserver with PHP

How to do it

This text is just a quick start for advanced users.

Please visit http://75r.de/software/startremote for more detailed informations and tutorial video.

The components:

StartHelper.exe, the "server-application" runs on the remote-pc

StartRemote.exe, the "client-applicatin", with it You control Your server, runs on the local PC

ngrokHelper.exe - only needed if You use the solution over internet and DO NOT or CAN'T change portforwarding on Your router. Needs ngrok with an registered account (free).

Extract the .exe files in an own directory WITH WRITE-PERMISSIONS (If you choose c:\program files (x86),

set the permissions for write and change to USERS oder EVERYONE), or copy it into a directory within Your

documents.

Simplest setup, testing all on Your local machine:

- run the server "StartHelper.exe"

- confirm that this program could be dangerous

- confirm it's communication thru the firewall

- enter a listening port, i.e. 20888

- enter a password (twice to be safe)

- run the client "StartRemote.exe"

- confirm that this program could be dangerous

- check in it's options that address is set to 127.0.0.1

  and port is set to 20888 or the same, You entered in StartHelper.

- right-click on a button and choose "Edit"

- enter a text for the button

- enter "notepad" into the "Execute"-field in the remote-tab.

- click "Save"

- click "Connect"

- StartHelper should confirm the connection

- StartRemote shoud show "Connected." in the status-bar.

- Click on the button, You gave a text to

- StartHelper should show some information

- notepad should start om Your PC.

This is a local test. Notepad was started from StartHelper. When this app runs on a remote machine,

the started program would start on the remote machine.

You can define any program or batch to start. When StartHelper was started with admin-permissions, everythings is possible via batch or cmd-commands.

You can run cmd commands by defining cmd as Executable and as an example

`/c cd c:\windows & dir > %temp%\dir.txt`

as arguments.

run **StartHelper /HELP** to see it's help.

run **StartHelper /Port 12345** to change the listening port.

run **StartHelper /Password abc123** to change the password.

(StartHelper asks for the last two properties automatically at the first start)

run **StartHelper /SETAUTOSTART** to activate the autostart of StartHelper via registry (not needed when used with ngrokHelper!).

run **StartHelper /DELAUTOSTART** to remove autostart of StartHelper.

Setup in a local network

Do all the same descriped above by starting the two components on different machines.

In StartRemote set the address to the address of the server-PC instead of 127.0.0.1.

Internet setup with port-forwarding

The same scenario can be run over the internet by using a port-forwarding on Your internet-router:

You must have a IP v4 internet-connection.

Your server-IP must be fixed, at least known or published by an dynamic DNS provider (pcip.de, myFritz.net)

You must be able to setup IP v4 port-forwarding in the internet-router of the server.

If so, set a port-forwarding in Your router on the port You set in StartHelper.

Connect with StartRemote with the known IP or DynDNS-adress and the port You set.

Internet setup without port-forwarding or IP v6

If You can't change port-forwarding or have an IP v6 connection, the setup can be done with the help of ngrok.

- You must have an internet-webspace with PHP

- create a directory in Your webspace

- give write-permissions to this directory for everyone (i.e. CHMOD 777) or for the appache-user.

- copy ngrokurl.php int this directory

- go to ngrok.com and download ngrok

- register a free account at ngrok.com (!)

- You should receive Your authtoken by mail or read in your account-settings at ngrok.com

- copy ngrok.exe into a directory of Your choice

- run "ngrok authtoken <YOUR_AUTHTOKEN>" once

- ngrok is ready to use.

If You would run "**ngrok tcp 20888 -region eu**" (region for europe, check ngrok-doku for other regions), it will open a tunnel which makes a port-forwarding obsolete.

ngrok's window shows the public URL which You can type in StartRemote to use it.

BUT:

When You close ngrok and start it again, it will have a different URL/port, which You will need to know

everytime You use StartHelper/StartRemote (You could check it with teamviewer, but no need, when You have a webspace and use ngrokHelper!)

To use ngrokHelper:

- put ngrokHelper into a directory WITH WRITE-PERMISSIONS (maybe the StartHelper-directory, but take care

of the write-permission!)

- start ngrokHelper.exe once

- confirm that this program could be dangerous

- press any key, ngrokHelper ends

- If You had write-permissions on this directory, a new file **'ngrokHelper.ini'** was created

- open ngrokHelper.ini

- edit 'ScriptURL' to Your domain/path where You did save ngrokurl.php (must start with http: or https://)

- edit 'Path' to the directory, where ngrok.exe is (just the path without trailing 'ngrok.exe')

- edit 'Port' to the port You like to use with StartHelper

- edit 'PathPlusExe' to **PATH_TO_STARTHELPER\StartHelper.exe**

- edit 'AddonStartWorkingDir' to the **PATH_TO_STARTHELPER**

- save ngrokHelper.ini

When ngrokHelper is startet, it:

- checks, if ngrok is running or not

- starts ngrok with the given arguments of the .ini

- reads ngrok's publlic URL

- updates the internet-script 'ngrokurl.php' with the actual ngrok public-URL

- starts StartHelper (when StartHelper is derfined as 'AddonStart')

- ends automatically after 3 seconds

You can check the success of the script-update by opening

http(s)://YOUR_DOMAIN/YOUR_PATH_TO_SCRIPT/ngrokurl.php?a=get

It will give something like

`28.11.2018-04:58|tcp://0.tcp.eu.ngrok.io:14581`

This is the date/time of the update and the actual ngrok-public-url

You now could put '0.tcp.eu.ngrok.io' as adress and '14581' as Port into StartRemote and it will work.

BUT:

StartRemote can check the actual ngrok-URL automatically for You:

- open the options-dialogue of StartRemote

- fill out the 'Script-URL'-field (with beginning 'http: ...') with the domain/path/ngrokurl.php

- click on 'Get from web'

- it will retrieve the data from the script and You are ready to go.

- A line appears under the button 'Get from web' with the date/time information when the script was updated.

Even better:

When You check 'Get from web at startup', You will no longer need to check the latest ngrok-URL manually.

Isn't that cute?

So it is recommended to setup ngrokHelper for starting with windows.

This can be done with a command:

run **ngrokHelper /SETAUTOSTART** to activate the autostart of ngrokHelper via registry (for the current user).

run **ngrokHelper /DELAUTOSTART** to remove autostart of StartHelper.

run **ngrokHelper /HELP** to see it's help.

run **ngrokHelper <"PATH_TO_AN_INI\ngrokHelper.ini">** starts ngrokHelper with a special .ini-File.

Optional ngrokHelper.ini-parameters:
- edit NgrokWindowState and/or AddonWindowState to a window-state of ngrok and/or StartHelper with the syntax:

0 means 'normal window'   (default)

1 means 'minimized widow' (shows in taskbar)

2 means 'maximized widow' (shows in taskbar)

3 means 'hidden'   (doesn't show in taskbar)

- 'StartOnlyIfNgrokNotRunning' 0 or 1 means: StartHelper(or any other program under 'AddonStart') will not be startet when ngrok is not running, Yes/No

- 'KillNgrokIfRunning' 0 or 1 means: If ngrok is already running, it will be terminated and started agin, Yes/No

- 'StartOnlyWhenUpdateSuccessfull' 0 or 1 means: StartHelper(or any other program under 'AddonStart') will only be started,when the script-update was successful

Check **http://75r.de/software/starthelper/** for additional options of StartHelper.