

TECHNOLOGY ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST



PC World Canada

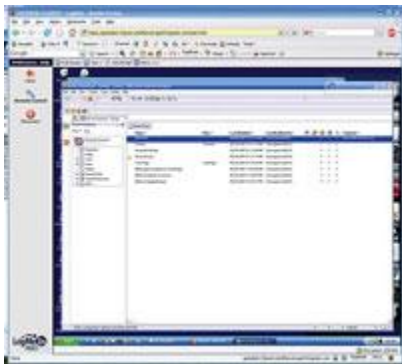
Get to your data...anywhere and anytime Remote access to data and apps at home

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<http://www.pcworld.ca/news/column/4658e03e0a0104080004cfa92ea44ea3/pg0.htm>

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Yet another approach that remains viable is to leave all of your data on your system at home, and simply access that PC remotely when you need to.



The best free service going is [LogMeIn](#). Install the software on the host PC (the system where your data resides), and leave the machine on when you're away. To access that PC from any other computer, just visit the LogMeIn site, enter your user info, and select the system that you want to connect to. An identical version of that computer's desktop will appear in a window, giving you full control over the PC, as if you were sitting in front of it. LogMeIn offers various levels of service, including a Pro version that costs \$70 per year per PC or \$13 per month per PC.



[GoToMyPC](#) is a similar and perhaps better-known alternative to LogMeIn. We found the two services practically identical except in price. GoToMyPC sells a single level of service, with prices starting at \$20 per month for access to one PC, graduating upward based on the number of additional computers you want to connect to. LogMeIn offers virtually the same capabilities in its free version.

Use a USB Thumb Drive to Pocket Your Desktop

If you don't want to depend on the Web to store or edit your data, you have another option: Keep your data and your applications on a thumb drive. USB thumb drives may be a dime a dozen, but they're endlessly useful, especially now that utilities are available to make your drive work as a clone of your desktop, which you can access thereafter via any PC, whether it's Web-connected or not.



Most impressive is [MojoPac](#): It's the truest version of a mobile desktop we've seen to date. After you install MojoPac on your thumb drive and add data, the MojoPac desktop--a custom interface similar to a regular Windows desktop--pops up. Here you can install any Windows application, just as if you were using a regular PC. MojoPac even temporarily transforms your thumb drive into your system's C: drive. Once you have installed an app on the MojoPac-enabled thumb drive, it will work on virtually any PC you plug the thumb drive into. Wrapping your brain around the concept takes some time, but the software works well and is compatible with any USB device, including Apple's iPod. The bad news: The software costs \$50 after the 30-day trial expires.

You can obtain similar functionality from [Ceedo](#) (\$30), which includes a number of applications within its system. However, you'll need a second \$30 piece of software, called Argo (downloaded within the Ceedo program), to run applications--such as Microsoft Office apps and Lotus Notes--that are not part of the system.

Another option is [MigoSync](#) (\$30), a program that lets you synchronize e-mail, share data files, and replicate the look and feel of your desktop. Unlike MojoPac, however, MigoSync won't let you store and carry any applications that aren't already designed for installation on regular thumb drives.

If you're a do-it-yourselfer, you can manually outfit a thumb drive with the data and the applications of your choice. The result isn't the seamless experience that MojoPac offers, but it works pretty well. Your first stop should be [PortableApps.com](#), which is stocked with free programs that will run directly from a thumb drive without requiring a standard Windows installation. If you're a fan of open source, PortableApps provides plenty of choices, ranging from Firefox to OpenOffice to GIMP (the Photoshop alternative)--all of them ready to run from your preferred USB device.

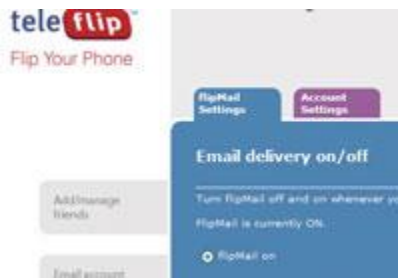
Dial In to Your Data From Any Web-Enabled Cell Phone

Blackberry and Treo owners have long known the joy and the pain of having access to e-mail and critical documents at all times.

But you don't need to purchase a fancy PDA phone to get in on the action. If your cell phone has any Web browsing or text messaging capabilities, you can check your e-mail while you're on the road and you can retrieve files from your home computer.

A few new services aim to bridge the gap between cell phone and PC. One of the most promising of these is the free [SoonR](#), which may be the most full-featured application in this group. SoonR turns any Web-capable phone into a remote-access tool. Just install the compact SoonR application on your PC and leave it running in the system tray when you head out. SoonR interfaces with your inbox and gives you access to files in your My Documents folder, or in any other folder you care to share. SoonR also works remotely

with any PC desktop search system you use.



Once you've found your file or e-mail, SoonR displays it on your cell phone in miniature. If you use a regular cell phone, you'll have to do some scrolling, panning, and zooming to see everything; on a larger smart-phone screen, however, SoonR displays very nicely. You also can elect to e-mail the file to another, bigger device, which might be preferable when viewing things like PowerPoint slides.

For users with modest needs, a number of services allow basic cell phones to access any e-mail account. [TeleFlip](#) lets you forward your home or work e-mail to your cell phone. Simply sign up for the free service, tweak your e-mail account as requested, and you're in business. Messages sent from individuals you specify (and only those you specify) arrive in the form of short, standard text messages. Don't expect much: Messages may not exceed 120 characters, and (obviously) attachments are not allowed. The service breaks larger messages into pieces; you set the maximum number of pieces permitted before TeleFlip should truncate the rest.

Of course, even though these services are free, text and data service charges from your cellular carrier still apply. And if you do not have an unlimited data or texting plan, these fees can add up quickly. Also, the faster your wireless service (EvDO and HSDPA services are speediest), the better.

