



NC Tip #15: Local MWM

Customer Requirement

A customer plans to purchase 100 NC900 products and will be using a Motif Window Manager (MWM). The customer is concerned that having 100 MWM programs running on the company's host server will overburden it.

Definition 1

Window Manager is a special program that allows the user to move and scale windows, change a window into an icon, and expand an icon to a window on the screen.

Definition 2

Motif Window Manager is the most commonly used window manager in the UNIX environment.

Solution

The NCBridge/NC900 solution provides a local Motif Window Manager as a standard feature. Local MWM off-loads the customer's host server since each NC900 has its own Motif window manager running locally.

Overview

Each NC900 is authorized to run a Motif Window Manager that can be downloaded from the boot host where NCBridge software is installed.

Configuration Hints

If the local MWM is started using the xpsh client, the local MWM will be able to read the user's .mwmrc file and set up the user's own desired look and feel for the window manager.

The .mwmrc is a configuration file for MWM.

The xpsh client is a program that runs on a host computer and is used to start-up local clients on the NC900.

Benefits

A local client, such as the local MWM, offers three different benefits:

1. It off-loads the host computer
2. It off-loads the network
3. It provides a consistent high performance response to the user

Although a single Motif Window Manager does not require a large amount of resources to run on a host computer, if a customer has numerous MWM programs running on a host computer at one time, the users may see a sluggish response from the host server during peak usage hours. Since a local MWM does not run on the host server, but rather on each individual NC, it provides a consistent high performance response to the user as well as off-loads the network by up to 90 percent for some window manager operations.