

Installation of AccessGrid3 on a PC running Windows 7

Note: This is a working document, intended as a guide only, and may not fully cover your Access Grid experience.

1. Installation of the AccessGrid Venue Client:

- (a) Download the installer for AccessGrid for Windows XP using the link
http://www.mcs.anl.gov/fl/research/accessgrid/software/releases?file=AG3.2_bundled_installer_v3-3.exe
- (b) Switch to an administrator account if you have logged on as a limited user.
- (c) Run the downloaded installer (as an administrator), accepting all default settings and clicking Next and Finish as prompted by the installers. This will install a number of packages including specific versions of Python. You should now see the Access Grid 3 Venue Client icon on your desktop.

2. Configuring the Venue Client:

Launch the AG 3 Venue Client from the Desktop icon or the Start Button. You will be asked to configure the client. The information should be concise and accurate as it will be used to identify you during sessions. The critical value you should put in is Home Venue:

<https://vv3.ap-accessgrid.org:8000/Venues/default>

Leave the Profile Type as “user”. At some point the operating system will ask you to grant internet access permissions for several programs. These programs are working together to connect you to the Access Grid, so just grant access as requested, otherwise some components might not function properly.

3. Disabling the multicast beacon:

- (a) Open up Preferences from the Tools menu in the VenueClient Select Network
- (b) Uncheck “Run integrated multicast beacon client”; Click Save and close the preferences dialog.

If this is not done Access Grid will crash as soon as you try to navigate. Now if you open up the AG3 Venue Client and click the “Go” button beside the home venue address near the top of the Venue Client, you will be in the Asia Pacific Access Grid Lobby, and should be able see other participants (if any) in addition to yourself.

4. A minimal configuration for viewing remote seminars:

AccessGrid runs as a set of separate services. By default, you will be running an inadequate set of services. You can access the services by opening “Configure node services...” in the Tools menu of the Venue Client.

To view seminars given by others, you need to replace the VideoConsumerService with the HD version. To do this:

- (a) Remove the VideoConsumerService by right-clicking on it and selecting “Remove”
- (b) Add in the HD replacement by going to the Service Menu and selecting “Add...”
- (c) Select “VideoConsumerServiceHD” from the dialog that opens and click “OK”
- (d) Save this configuration by selecting “Store Configuration” in the File menu. It is best to save this as with a new name. Check the “Set as default” checkbox by all means, but do not save as a system wide configuration.

If you want not only to view but also to participate in the seminar through the microphone and webcam(s) connected to your PC, then in addition to the above steps, you also need to add in “AudioService” and “VideoProducerService” or “VideoProducerServiceHD” for your mic and each camera depending on the resolution of your camera(s) (some cameras might not be recognisable to the client venue), and have these services enabled. In addition, you need to make sure the “Talk” checkbox is checked in the program window of RAT (Robust Audio Tool) so that your audio input through the mic will be captured and sent to the grid.

5. Basic Use. The VenueClient has the following important features:

- (a) The menu bar and Icons. The icons allow you to stop and start various services which is needed on occasion to ensure communication. Tool-tips should pop up when you hover your mouse pointer over them.
- (b) The exits window. This shows locations that you can navigate to from the room (or venue) you are in.
- (c) The room stats: who is in the room, and what other services are provided (these features are not as commonly used)
- (d) A chat window (using Jabber). This almost always works and is the means of last resort in getting or providing assistance when other services are not working.

6. Navigation:

- (a) Click on the Home Icon (the little house with a red roof) in the VenueClient. By default you will be in the APAG (Asia and Pacific AccessGrid Gateway)
- (b) You will see other windows. One should be the RAT (the audio manager) and others that manage Video.
- (c) Save this location (it is a great resource, including expert assistance and specialised venues that may be required) by selecting “Add Venue...” in the Navigation menu
- (d) Double-click or Expand the “Institutions Lobby” exit
- (e) You will see a list of “exits” that lead to many Australian venues. Commonly used ones include RMIT and UNewcastle down the list
- (f) Navigate to the venue of choice.
- (g) You should now be able to communicate with those in this venue by chat. You should be able to hear audio sent by them and receive video as well. If not, try having the “Talk” checkbox checked in the program window for “RAT”.

7. Bridging and switching:

All traffic on Access Grid is brokered by a series of specialised bridges. If for some reason the bridge that you or another participant is connected to is not communicating properly then there will be a failure in transmission of audio or video (this can be a one-way or two-way failure).

UNSW does not presently run its own bridge, and is therefore reliant on the function of those run by others. You may frequently find that you have to switch bridges to get communication up and running. This can be done by selecting a new bridge in the Bridges drop-down menu in the Tools menu of the VenueClient. CQUni is very reliable, as are those bridges provided by ARCS. Auckland is frequently used also. It is not necessary for all participants to be on the same bridge (in fact, that may introduce problems if attempted by a large community) but advice will often be given in the chat window of which bridges people are presently finding to be useful.