

Webdesc User Manual

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What is Webdesc?

Webdesc is an online personal computer that enables ubiquitous personal computing. To access the Webdesc personal computer, all that is needed is a standard web browser. Once a user is connected to his Webdesc computer, it functions exactly as a regular desktop would. The data, files, music, media, programs, and preferences on the user's regular computer will be on his Webdesc personal computer instead. The beauty of Webdesc is that its personal computers are not tied to specific machines – they can be accessed from anywhere with an internet connection.

Computing today is not truly mobile because data, applications, and user preferences are linked to a specific machine – the computer which houses the hard disk where this information is stored. Therefore, computer users can only access their saved information when they are physically next to their computers. While notebook computers attempt to address this issue by making the computer that houses the data and applications portable, they do not solve the core problem which is that one's computer-based work environment should be independent of any specific device. It should be wherever you are, not wherever your machine is.

Webdesc integrates multiple technologies to provide a seamless online computing experience. It employs remote desktop technology to provide remote access to online Webdesc computers which are virtualized on Webdesc's server farms.

Who are you, and why are you here?

Although this manual will not likely answer this age old question (read on, it just might), the following is a list of criteria of which Webdesc seeks to address.

- **Accessibility.** Webdesc allows one to access to their personal computers all the time regardless of where they are.
- **Ability to Share and Collaborate.** Webdesc aims to remedy the problems with current sharing features which are generally slow and have limited storage capacity.
- **Housekeeping.** In addition to anti-virus and anti-spyware software, frequent and visible software updates and other related computer maintenance detracts from normal productive use of the computer.
- **High Cost of Computing.** Consumers are spending substantial sums on personal computers and the associated software. Consumers that can afford this expense might prefer to incrementally spend elsewhere especially if they feel that computers are already too complex and too feature-rich. Consumers that cannot afford this

expense it are unable to upgrade at the pace of technological innovation (and their wealthier counterparts).

- **Loss of Data.** As consumers use their computers more often and in new ways, it becomes increasingly important to protect the accumulating data, files, and media from loss.

Webdesc addresses all these needs. It provides you with a simple intuitive tool that enables you to live and share your life on your computer while eliminating the headache, worry, and wasted time of day-to-day computer maintenance.

Getting Started

Creating an account with Webdesc is a simple process. Currently you must obtain an invitation code during the beta period to utilize the service (In the future, an automated sign up process will be implemented in which payment and other information will be collected). Once you have obtained an invitation code, you may then create a new account on www.webdesc.com. Enter the requested information, be especially careful entering your username, password, and e-mail address, as these will not be able to be changed after registration. Webdesc will then send you a confirmation e-mail to make sure that the e-mail you gave us is actually yours. Simply click on the link in the email and you will be taken to our site. Once you have completed this step, you may log in and use all of the services that Webdesc offers. The only requirements for using Webdesc is a Java enabled web browser.

Webdrive

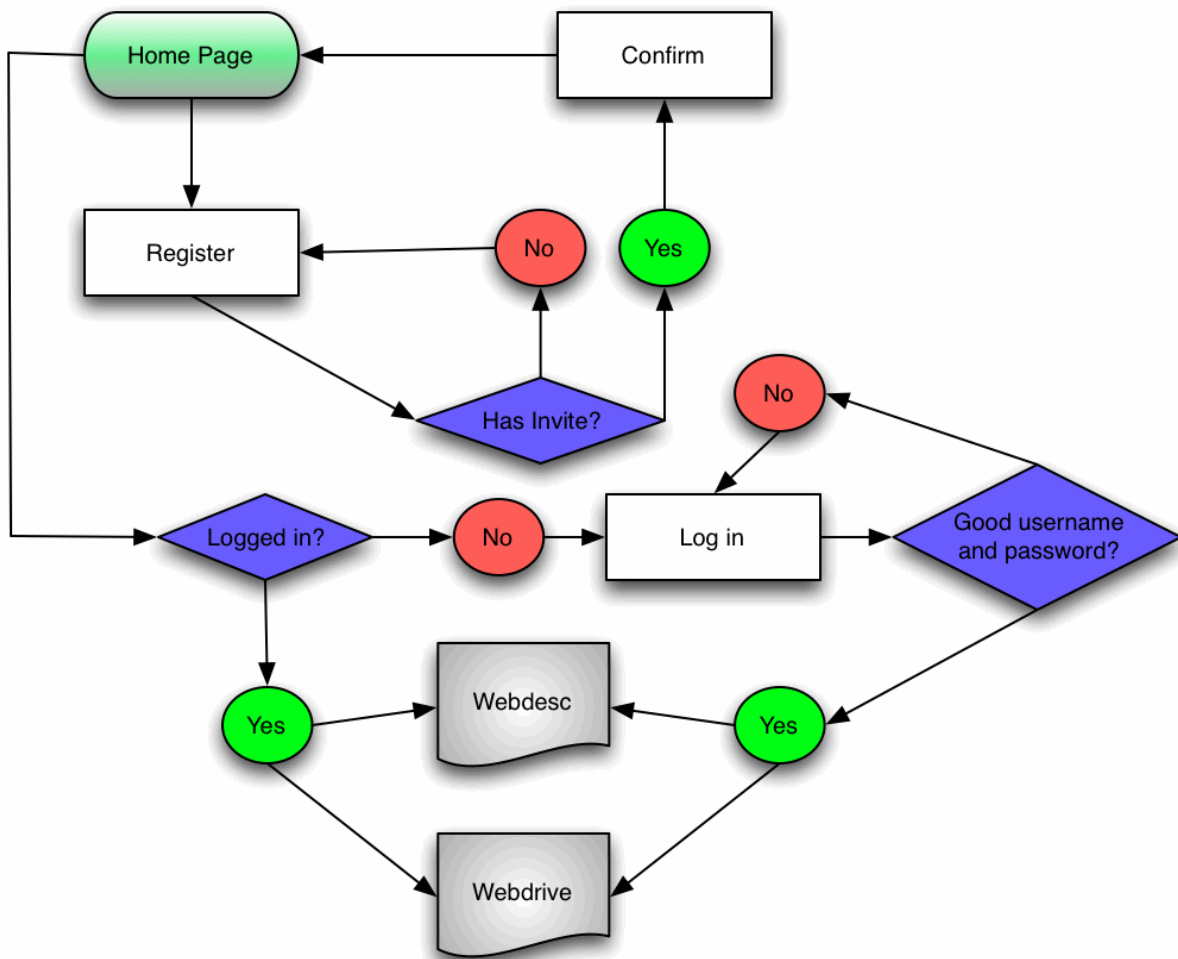
Your Webdrive is key to transferring your files to and from Webdesc. To utilize your Webdrive, you may use either the web based interface, or a WebDAV interface.

To use the web based interface, simply connect to www.webdesc.com/webdrive using any web browser, select the Webdrive option, login using your Webdesc login and password, then follow the on-screen instructions to manage your files.

As the WebDAV interface is currently in an early stage, setup is not possible for most users. In the future, it will be possible to download a small application that will configure your Webdrive to mount on your local computer given your Webdesc login and password.

For advanced users with a knowledge of how to set up WebDAV on their computers, the uri which corresponds to a user's webdrive is <http://webdrive.webdesc.com/~username>. When you are prompted for your password you should use the username and password combination that was used to sign up for Webdesc.

Case Diagram



Case Description

All user activity will start at the **home page**. If the user is logged in they may access their **webdrive** (file storage) and **webdesc** (virtual desktop). If they are not logged in they will be prompted to **log in** to the system. If the user is able to provide the correct login credentials they will then be redirected to their **webdesc**, if they can not they will be prompted to attempt to **log in** again or **register**. From the webdesc page they may either launch their virtual desktop or access their webdrive.

If the user is not registered they may go to the **register** page. Here they will fill out a standard registration form in which they must provide an invite code. If the invite code is valid they will receive an email with a **confirmation** code and a link. They can either click the link or enter the confirmation code at the appropriate page. If this is entered correctly they will be allowed to **log in** and access their **webdesc** and **webdrive**.