



How To: Passing Parameters to MetaFrame Applications

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Introduction

There are many applications that require startup parameters, and the parameters may be used for various purposes, such as user credentials, underlying database specifications, etc. In a traditional PC environment, startup parameters may be hard-coded as part of the application icon's command line; however, in a MetaFrame environment, hard-coding certain parameters is not practical due to the multi-user scenario.

Issue Description

Many clients wish to implement single sign-on (SSO) functionality to applications hosted in the MetaFrame farm. A simple way of implementing SSO in the MetaFrame environment is to pass user credentials to the application in the form of application startup parameters.

Note: This is not necessarily a secure method of providing application SSO, unless some form of encryption is used to mask the parameters.

Solution

A MetaFrame published application may be configured to accept parameters by appending "%*" (without the quotes) to the application's command line, as specified in the published application properties.

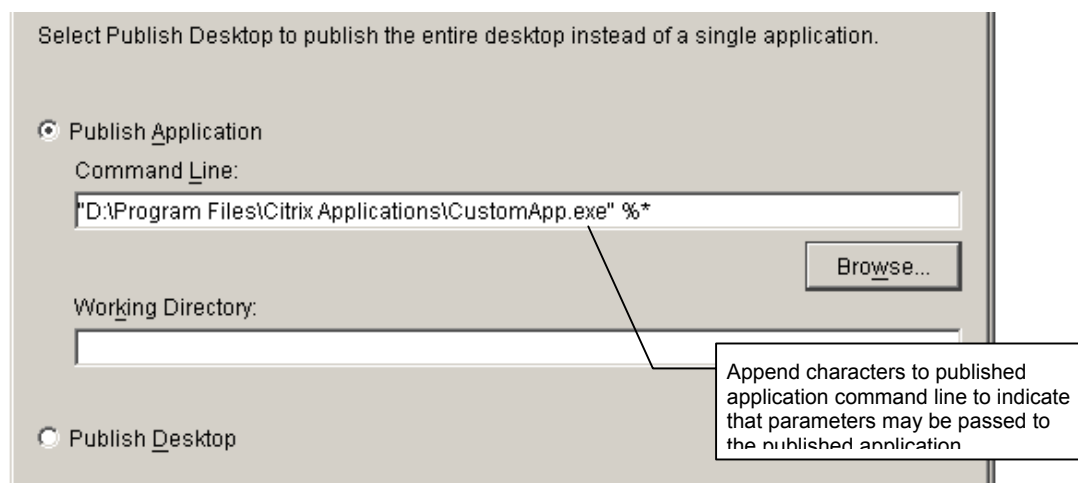


Figure 1: Append "%*" to published application command line

On the client side, the startup parameters may be appended to the value of the "InitialProgram" entry in the application's .ica file.

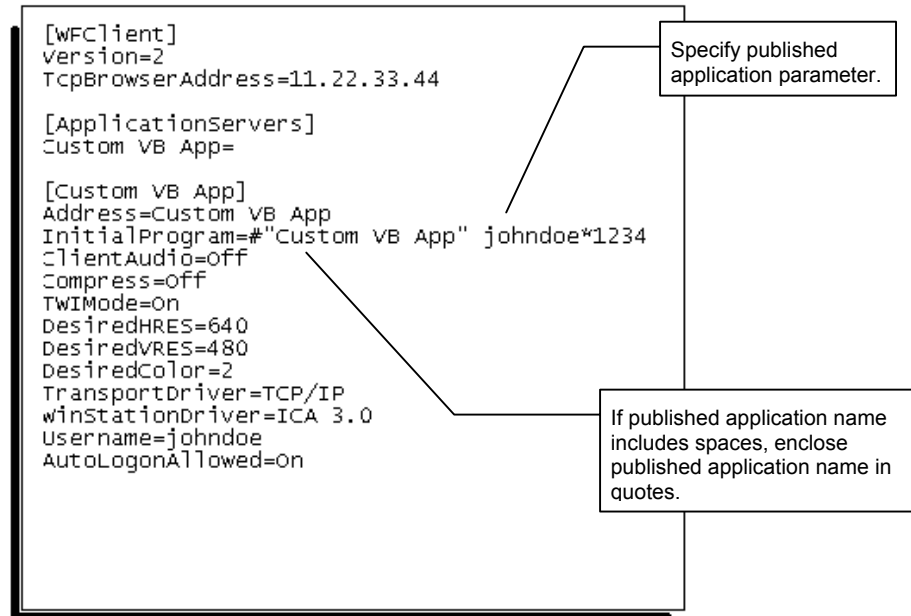


Figure 2: ICA file modified to pass parameter to published application

Summary

Passing parameters to a MetaFrame application is a simple method of enabling SSO to an application (provided that the application is coded to accept startup parameters as user credentials). Other uses may involve opening a specific Web page when publishing a browser, or supplying an application with database connectivity options in the form of startup parameters.



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