



HOB GmbH & Co. KG
Schwadmühlstr. 3
90556 Cadolzburg

Tel: 09103 / 715-0
Fax: 09103 / 715-271
E-Mail: support@hob.de
Internet: www.hob.de

WhitePaper

The HOB Virus-Protection Plan for
Windows Terminal Server
HOB Local Drive Mapping and Virus Scanner

October 2009



The HOB Virus-Protection Plan for Windows Terminal Server — HOB Local Drive Mapping and Virus Scanner

“Mapping” local client drives is a convenient way for users to transfer files to the Windows Terminal Server (WTS) or to the application on the WTS. Microsoft first made this possible with the Windows Server 2003, where almost all drives available on the client are visible on the WTS. Here, “mapping” the local drives basically means providing full access. The HOB Enhanced Terminal Services with Local Drive Mapping already make this functionality available as of Windows 2000 Server. In addition, there are other useful features:

- Differentiated enablement of local drives or directories
- Read and write authorization for the enabled drives/directories
- Blocking of specific file types or file content
- Virus scan in the WTS of the files read on the client by HOB Local Drive Mapping (HOB enhanced Terminal Services)

To reliably scan the files on the client for viruses, HOB, together with the anti-virus specialist Kaspersky, has developed a special solution. In this solution, the data are checked for viruses before the application on the WTS accesses them, or before they are copied to the WTS’s file system. In the event of a virus being found, access is blocked and the user is informed.

Simple virus scanners read all files on the hard-disk drive in one operation and check whether they contain viruses. With Windows Terminal Servers, this can, for example, be taken care outside of normal working hours, and doesn’t interfere with anybody’s work. There are solutions for Windows that intervene in the Windows file system and run a check every time a file is accessed. This is, however, very time-consuming and noticeably slows down the work process. For Windows Terminal Servers, it is strongly recommended to avoid such solutions.

The HOB plan is therefore different:

In the HOB solution, the virus scanner in the HOB Enhanced Terminal Services on the WTS checks the data read by the client over HOB Local Drive Mapping. This slows down the read access, but in general this doesn't noticeably influence the user's work.

To totally protect the used Windows Terminal Server from viruses, HOB recommends that you scan the WTS and all connected file servers outside of normal working hours with third-party anti-virus software. This way, the scanning will not interfere with anybody's work. The use of anti-virus software from various manufacturers maximizes protection for your system. The probability of an undetected virus is thus greatly reduced.

Another advantage of the HOB plan:

Virus scanners that intervene in the Windows file system run in kernel mode, whereas the virus scanning in the HOB Enhanced Terminal Services runs in user mode. If a bug were to appear in the HOB virus scanner, only the HOB Enhanced Terminal Services would need to be restarted.

With other products, a fault in the virus scanner can cause a crash (blue screen of the WTS). This disrupts and detracts from the user's work, and can also cause a data loss.

HOB solutions use resources economically. User acceptance is a primary concern with all HOB solutions. HOB solutions bring with them experience and proven solution-finding approaches from the mainframe environment to the Windows Terminal Server solution.

For further information about Windows Terminal Server access, please see the white papers HOB RD VPN and HOB WTS Computing.