

Access all areas



Australian
Doctor.

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Remote access from your tablet is the perfect solution for doctors on the go.

WHILE on a recent practice visit, I spotted two GPs with their iPads out. One was playing the game Angry Birds, while the other had Medical Director open. This aroused my curiosity and I wondered how this was done, since there is no Medical Director app for the iPad.

Tablets such as the Apple iPad can be a useful adjunct for doctors on the move wanting to access their medical software to check on a patient's history, or to look at appointments or finances within their practice management software.

While you can't directly run Windows-based medical applications such as Medical Director or PracSoft on your iPad, you can view and control a computer at your surgery that has this software with a remote connection. In fact, you can use your tablet to remotely access any software installed on your practice computer. Therefore, if you have specific software for viewing X-rays or scans on your computer, these images are viewable on your iPad while you are remotely connected.

There are a number of ways to establish a remote connection. The two most popular methods are through the use of online services



such as LogMeIn, and the other is using remote desktop connection software, such as PocketCloud.

LogMeIn is available on all the three tablet systems — Apple, Windows and Android. The process is quite simple — all you have to do is go to www.logmein.com, create an account and then download and install the LogMeIn Ignition software (a paid app) onto your tablet. This

software will provide you with a way of connecting and controlling your computer to allow access to any software you have installed.

PocketCloud is another software application that allows you to remotely access your computer or server. It is available for both the iPad and Android tablets and can be downloaded as a free version or as a paid app — the paid version offers

MORE INFO

LogMeIn review

cnet.co/An06d

PocketCloud review

bit.ly/ki11uo

MobileMe

www.me.com

Dropbox

www.dropbox.com

SugarSync

www.sugarsync.com

additional functionality such as remote access to more than one PC.

PocketCloud can also connect you to your individual computer if your IT personnel have set up VNC software on your machine and made the appropriate changes on your firewall.

The only downside to remotely accessing your computer from your tablet is that you don't have a

mouse. It becomes a little tricky at first to perform right clicks and move windows around, but with a little practice, most window navigation tasks can be accomplished. While there is no physical keyboard, a dialogue box pops up whenever keyboard input is required and it is adequate for basic typing. If you'd prefer a full keyboard, there is a wide range of external keyboards available for most tablets.

Unlike the Android or Windows tablets, the iPad does not have a USB port for connecting a portable hard drive. This makes transferring documents on and off the iPad a challenge. One way of achieving this is by emailing documents to yourself and subsequently opening them up on your iPad. The other way of accessing documents is by using online document storage services such as Apple's MobileMe, Dropbox and SugarSync. These services allow you to upload and later download documents you have stored on the internet.

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