



Running SkillCheck on a Local Area Network

Overview SkillCheck's testing software has been designed to work on a number of different Local Area Network (LAN) configurations.

This document provides information on the network configurations on which SkillCheck has been tested and officially supports. It also provides guidelines for evaluating whether or not SkillCheck should work on your network if you are using a LAN configuration other than the ones listed as officially supported by SkillCheck.

Architectural Overview

Client/Server Model The network version of SkillCheck Professional is configured as a fat-client/ thin-server application. In a standard LAN-based network installation, virtually all application data processing takes place on the client, while the server acts as a simple file storage location and data repository.

Database Configuration Data transfer and storage are accomplished via ODBC/Microsoft Jet in conjunction with the Access database driver and files (MDB). System state information, as well as score records are stored in two serverside databases. SkillCheck software does not currently support other database types.

General Installation Procedure A standard network installation consists of one administrator's workstation, one or more testing workstations, and a file server on which the SkillCheck system is stored that is accessible from all workstations. Installation is performed by first installing SkillCheck onto the server from a workstation that will be used to administer the SkillCheck system (the Administrator's PC). After initial installation, a network connection/configuration application on the file server (NetSetup.exe) is run from the desktop of each workstation that will be used for testing.

NetSetup performs the following tasks: ODBC driver installation/update, desktop icon creation, and registry initialization. If necessary, NetSetup's tasks can be automated by a network administrator for batch installation. For more information, refer to the document titled "Network Installation of SkillCheck Professional". This document is included as part of the SkillCheck Online Manual and is also available within the supplied User's Guide.

This installation procedure must be adapted somewhat to fit the needs of thin-client platforms such as Windows 2000 Advanced Server and/or Citrix MetaFrame, but the same basic installation tasks identified above must be performed.



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LAN Support

The network version of SkillCheck Professional is designed to run on a traditional client-server LAN-based network.

Supported Client Platforms SkillCheck testing software is fully tested and supported on the following client platforms:

- Windows 2000
- Windows XP Professional
- Windows 2003
- Windows Vista

Supported Server Platforms SkillCheck testing software is fully tested and supported on the following server platforms:

- Novell 3.x or higher
- Windows NT 4.0 service pack 4 or higher
- Windows 2000
- Windows 2003

Supported Protocols SkillCheck testing software fully supports the following network protocols:

- NetBEUI
- TCP/ IP
- IPX/ SPX/ NetBIOS

Recommended Hardware SkillCheck recommends the following minimum* and optimal* hardware configurations:

Machine Role	Processor	RAM
Client (minimum)	Pentium 566MHz	256 MB
Client (optimal)	Pentium 800MHz	512 MB
Server (minimum)	Pentium 1.2GHz	1Gb
Server (optimal)	Pentium 2.4GHz	2 Gb

* Due to the wide variety and possible configurations of PCs and servers, it is not possible to guarantee that every PC/ server will perform adequately, even if they meet these minimum or optimal configurations. In all cases, the end user is responsible for supply, maintenance and performance of hardware.