

## Re: Connecting SCT to desktop

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Date: Tue, 05 Oct 2004 10:32:20 +0200

Chris L Peterson wrote:

> *On Mon, 4 Oct 2004 22:56:50 -0400, "Dennis Allen"*

> *<dennis@dennisallen.com> wrote:*

>

>> *Hi. Our club just finished a new observatory. It houses a*

>> *Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope with a wedge and permanent mount. We*

>> *got the scope connected to a laptop using the serial port to run*

>> *the scope and the parallel port for the web cam.*

>>

>> *We want to hook the telescope to the desktop computer in a nearby*

>> *building. We have two 100' cat5 lines from the new observatory to*

>> *the building with the desktop. Question. What's the best way to*

>> *control the scope and web cam from the desktop?*

>>

>> *Could we hook the desktop to the laptop? The laptop's ports are*

>> *used up, but could we hook up one of the cat5 lines to the USB*

>> *port? Could we remote control the laptop from the desktop? Both*

>> *computers are XP and both have USB ports. Any advice would be*

>> *greatly appreciated...Dennis*

>

>

> *Is the laptop in the observatory running XP Pro? If so, all you need*

> *to do is set up a local area network and use Remote Desktop (client*

> *on the desktop machine, server on the laptop) to remote the laptop*

> *to the desktop. It's very simple, and works great. No need for USB*

> *anywhere in the solution, just Ethernet.*

>

> *It would also be simple to convert the mount's serial port to*

> *Ethernet and control it directly from the remote computer, bypassing*

> *the laptop completely. But the webcam is probably always going to*

> *require a local computer.*

>

Yes, I'd definitely go the Ethernet way – much more reliable, especially over any distance more than a couple of meters. Even if the machines aren't running XP Pro, you can get the same effect using VNC – a free version is available at <http://www.realvnc.com/>

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Another advantage is that you can share files and directories between the laptop and the desktop (or even other computers) which would make copying images, etc. a breeze.

--Steve