Client Access is Dead! Long Live ACS

Steve Bradshaw

Technical Director – i-UG

Friendly Techie at Rowton IT

Before we begin a quick "Thank You"

- Most of the slides in this presentation from IBM
- So I would like to acknowledge that and say thanks to

Tim Rowe and Wayne Bowers IBM Rochester

You will see my comments in red as we go along

Setting the Scene

- What you are about to see is not new (GA June 2013)
- It is however, relatively unknown
- It is a key part on IBM strategy going forward
- It has been my "daily driver" for 5 years
- It has been rock solid in that time
- IBM are adding features all the time, typically 2 updates a year
- Please ask questions as we go
- I hope to have the answers

Why Bother with ACS

What's wrong with IBM i Access for Windows?

- Firstly, it's just that "for Windows"
- It is cumbersome to centrally manage i.e. deploy, update and administer the client on user workstations
- IBM has "Stabilised" and now withdrawn it
- It is not supported on Windows 10
 "Not supported" does not mean "it doesn't work"
 It means it's untested and if you have a problem you are on your own
- Put another way, you are one Windows Update away from disaster

Agenda

- Introduction
- Deployment
- Configuration
- Migration

Introduction

Application Packages

- ☐ Core offering (platform independent)
 - 5250 display and printer emulator
 - Data transfer
 - Printer Output
 - IFS File Manager
 - Console consolidation
 - Database Tools (Run SQL Scripts, etc)
 - Other misc features



- Windows Installer MSI Package
- Data drivers (ODBC, OLEDB, .Net)
- Printer drivers
- ☐ Linux Application Package
 - RPM and Debian Install Packages
 - ODBC driver







Note: you don't need to use Application Packages to use Core

Dependencies - In "Steve" Speak

 The IBM i Access Client Solutions core platform independent product has no conflicts with either of the Linux or Windows packages.

You can run ACS and IBM i Access for Windows on same PC at same time without conflict

• IBM i Access Client Solutions **Application Packages** are built using the exact same infrastructure as the IBM i Access for Windows and IBM i Access for Linux products. Therefore they are **mutually exclusive**.

ACS uses the same software for OBDC / .Net / Printer drivers, **you can't** install both versions. If you have them already you don't need to install them, they're the same

 IBM i Access Client Solutions does not provide any Navigator interface instead relying on the IBM Navigator for i web based infrastructure that was introduced with IBM i OS 6.1 and has continually been enhanced since

IBM's want you to use ACS for day to day access from desktops and IBM Navigator for i for admin functions you performed in the old Windows Navigator GUI client to access your Nav4i you can do so direct http://{YourSystem}:2001

Note: the Performance Tools in Navigator for i (Nav4i) are fabulous.

IBM i ACS – Platform Independent

- Runs anywhere that has Java™
 - Java 8 or later
 - Java 8 or 11 Recommended
- •This includes:
 - Windows
 - Mac
 - Linux
 - AIX
 - IBM i



IBM i ACS – Not all versions of Java are the same

- There are many versions of Java
 - Oracle has decided business should pay for theirs https://powerwire.eu/do-i-need-to-pay-for-java



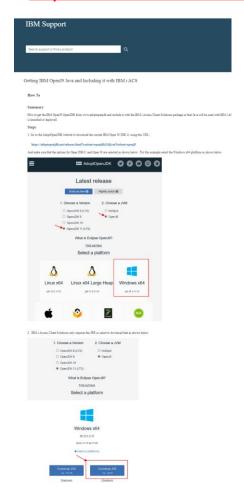
IBM i ACS – Not all versions of Java are the same

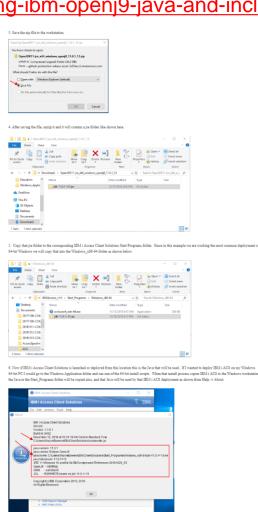
- •IBM ACS can run with it's own version of Java
 - I recommend you use OpenJDK with ACS
- •If you use any other version of Java on the PC it will co-exist
- If you don't want your users to have Java available, you can limit OpenJDK to just run ACS

IBM i ACS – Using OpenJDK with ACS

•IBM ACS Website gives you full details on how

https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/getting-ibm-openj9-java-and-including-it-ibm-i-acs





Product Availability

- IBM i Access Client Solutions is identified as LPP 5733-XJ1
 - Not an IBM i OS installable LPP
- The GA version of the product is available to customers with valid SWMA and IBM i OS 6.1, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4 and is downloaded from the IBM i Access Client Solutions or IBM Entitled Software Support (ESS) websites
 - Technote with example instructions
 - http://www-01.ibm.com/support/docview.wss?uid=nas8N1010355
- Product distributed in zip files
 - Platform Independent Core Java product
 - From IBM i ACS website: IBMiAccess_v1r1.zip
 - On ESS: IBM_i_Access_Client_Solutions_LCD#_*.zip
 - Contains product jar and other supporting files
 - Windows Application Package
 - IBM_i_Access_Client_Solutions_-_Win_AP_LCD#_*.zip
 - Contains 32bit and 64bit Windows installers
 - Linux Application Package
 - IBM_i_Access_Client_Solutions_-_Linux_AP_LCD#_*.zip
 - Contains Linux RPM and Debian installers

Product Details

- Supported connecting to IBM i OS 7.4, 7.3, 7.2, 7.1 and 6.1
 I've tested it with 5.4 and it worked just fine
- IBM i OS supports IBM i Access Client Solutions exactly the same as IBM i Access for Windows
 - Checks the same 57xxXW1 Licenses for 5250 and Data Transfer
 - Connects to the same IBM i Access Host Servers on the same ports in the same way
 - Exit programs will continue to have the same impact
 - Application Administration local policies will still be applied
- No new firewall policies should be required

Deployment

Deployment

- IBM i Access Client Solutions is **not installed** to the client operating system, **it is deployed**. You just copy the image somewhere and you can run it
 - There is no Windows Based Installer (setup.exe) installation program for the core of the product.
- Access Client Solutions Deployment
 - The deployment involves the client bundle being placed wherever it is desired to be executed from, and determining where the product settings are going to be stored.
- Client Bundle
 - Contains the Java executable Jar, properties file, platform specific start executables and javascript start samples, product documentation, and licensing notices.
 - All that is required to be deployed is the Java executable Jar
 - The rest is optional
- No JRE distributed
 - IBM i Access Client Solutions does not deploy a specific JRE
 - Relies on a Java 1.6 or higher (Java 1.8 recommended) JRE to be accessible on the client OS
 You need to install Java 8 or 11 on your PC to run ACS
 Avoid Java 9,10,12 & 14

Deployment: Initial Questions

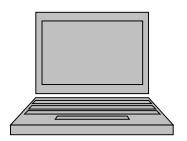
• When thinking about deployment, ask yourself where you want to put:

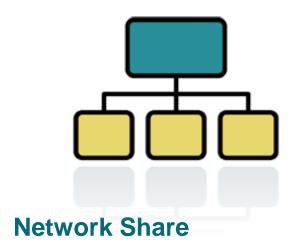
1. the product image? (executable java jar file)

2. the user's settings? (system configurations, 5250 sessions, etc.)

Deployment: Options

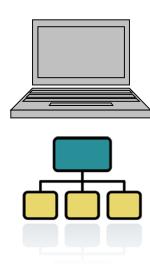
Computer (local)





USB Thumb Drive

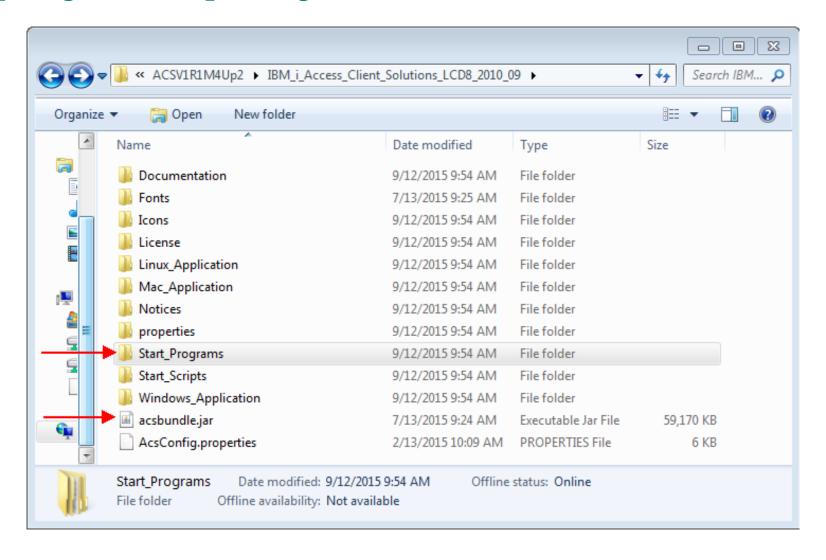




Hybrid Network and local

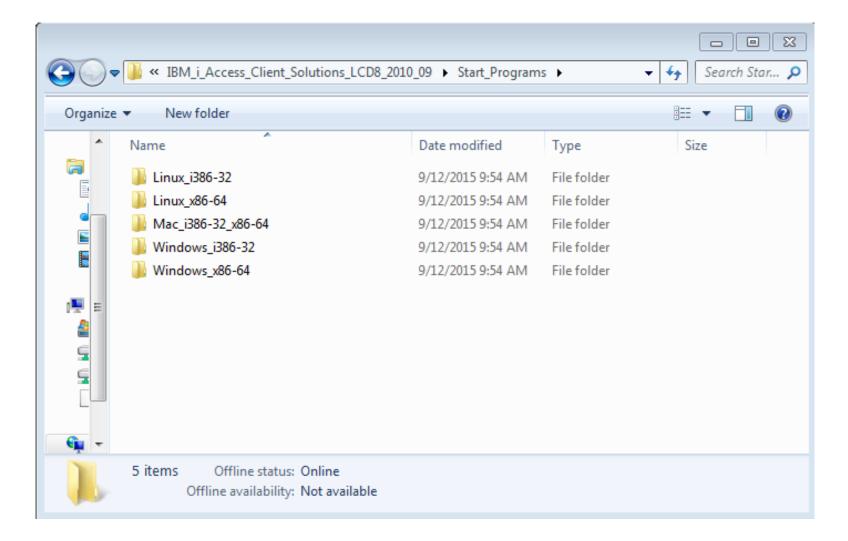
Basic Local Deployment

What you get in the package



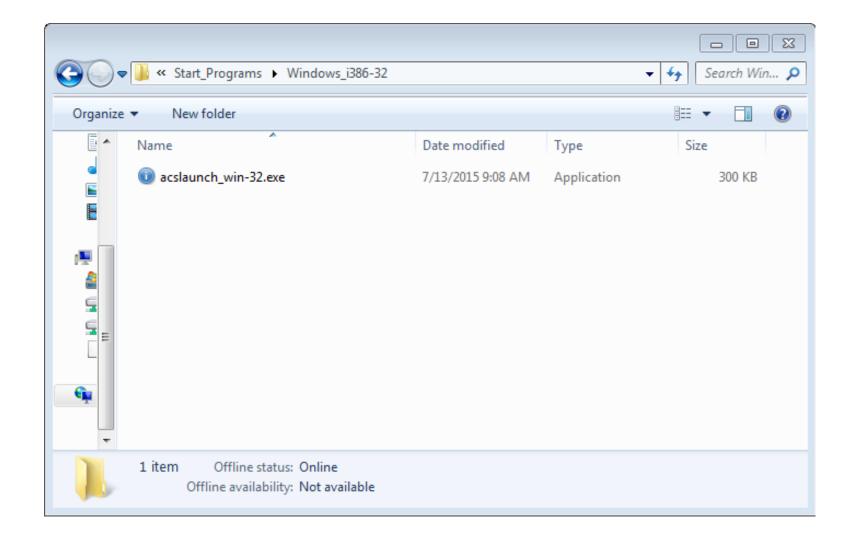
Basic Local Deployment

Start Programs – Operating System specific launch executables



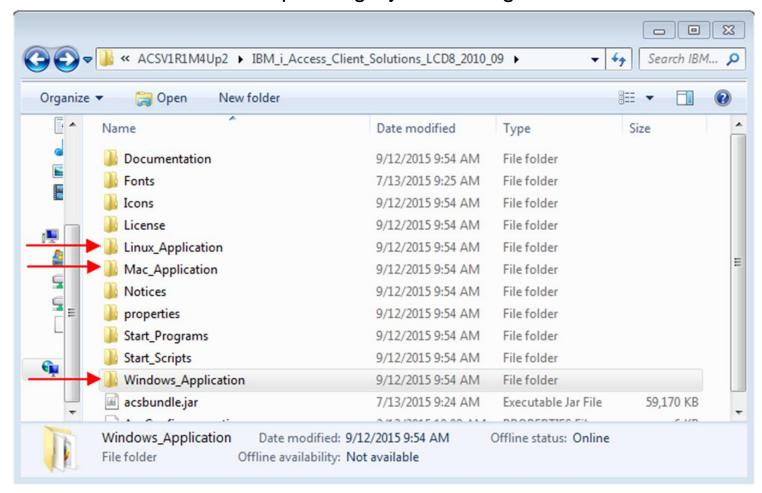
Basic Local Deployment

Start Programs – Operating System specific launch executables

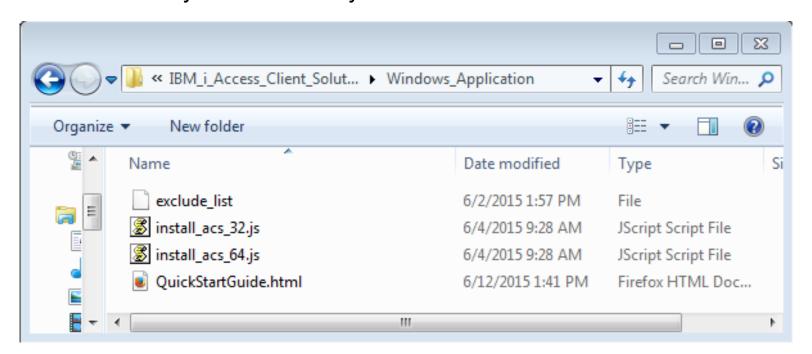


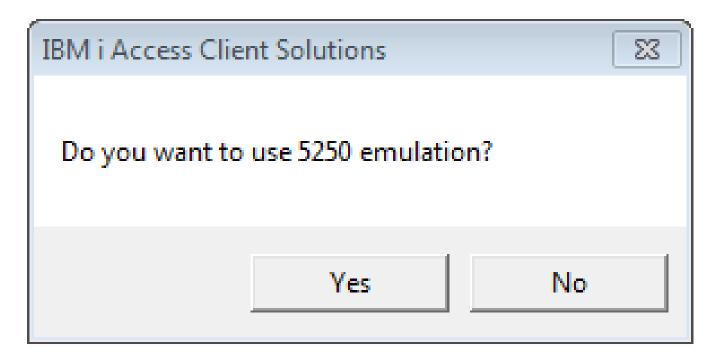
Provided Deployment/Install Scripts

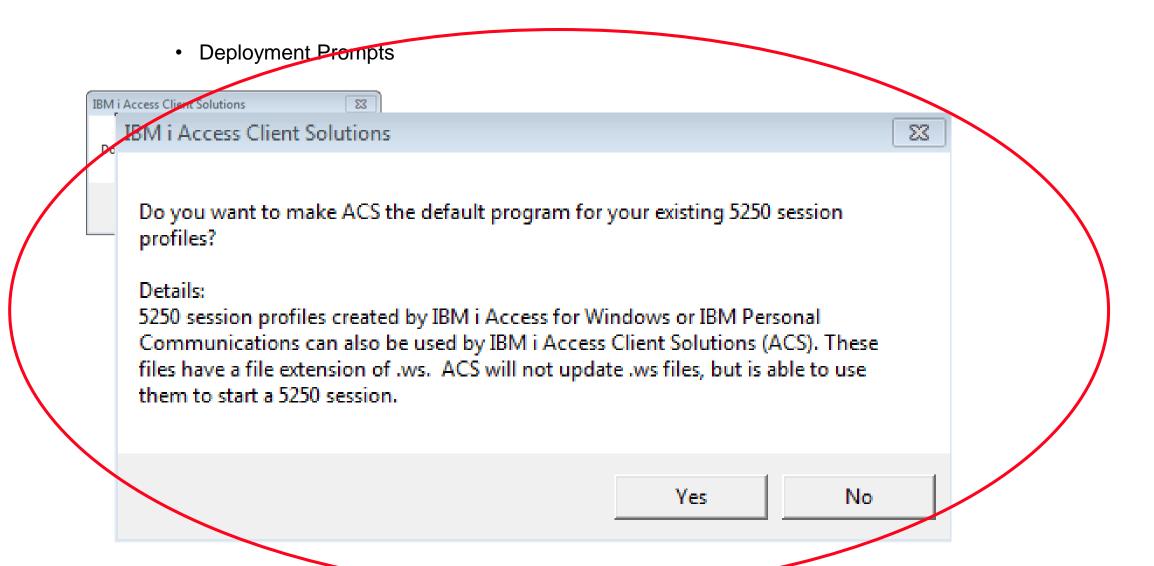
- IBM i Access Client Solutions v1r1m4 provided Operating System specific Application deployment scripts to make deployment easier for an user
- Javascript will copy the IBM i Access Client Solutions deployment to a specific location that makes sense for the Operating System being used.

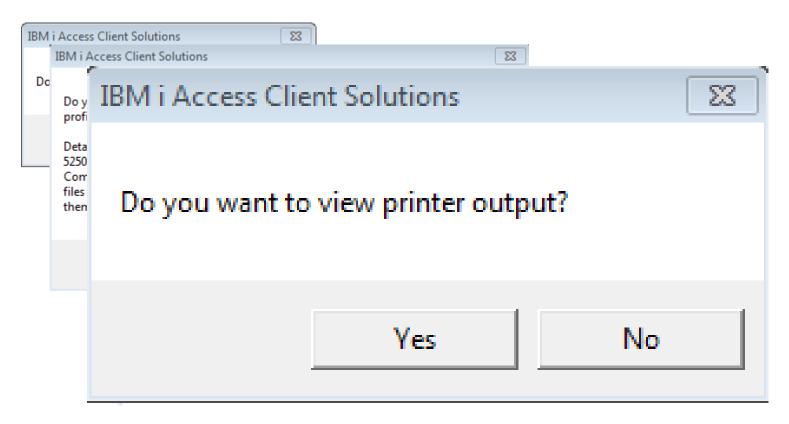


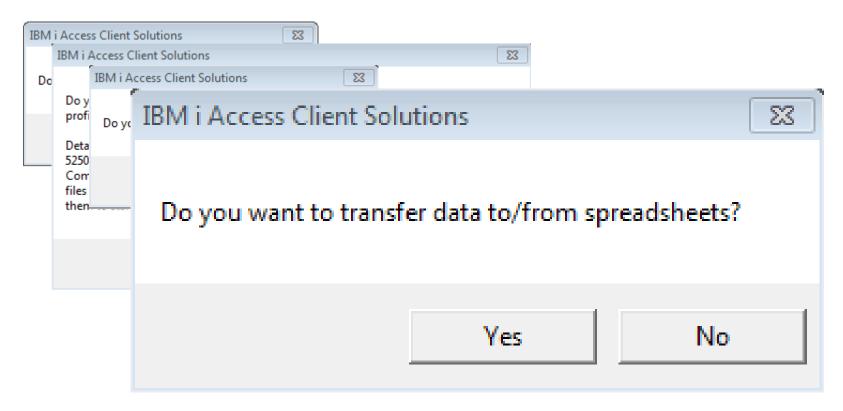
- Provided install_acs Javascript on Windows will copy the IBM i Access Client Solutions deployment to C:\Users\<WindowsUser>\IBM\ClientSolutions.
- Deployment will ask the user which functions they want to use, if it should create shortcuts on the Desktop for the Main User Interface and 5250 Session Manager. It will also create file associations for the .hod, .bchx, .dttx & .dtfx if they haven't already been created.

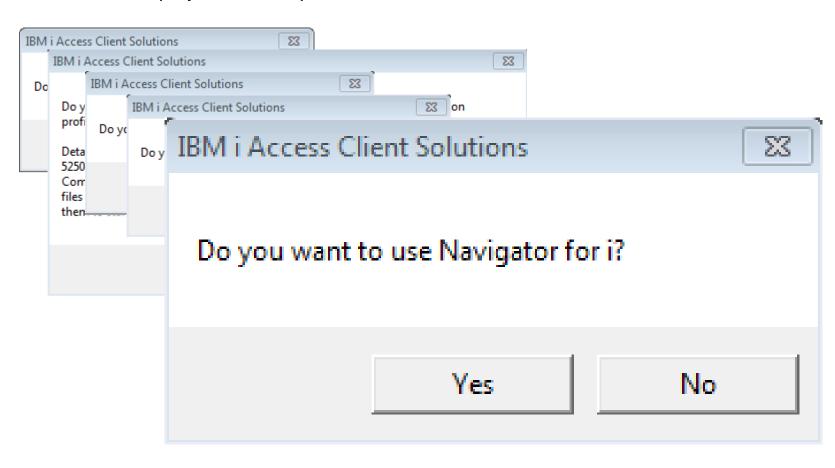


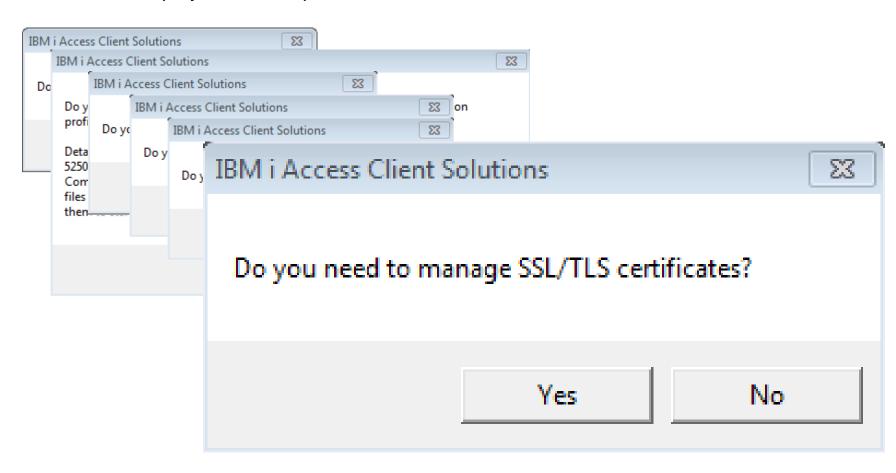


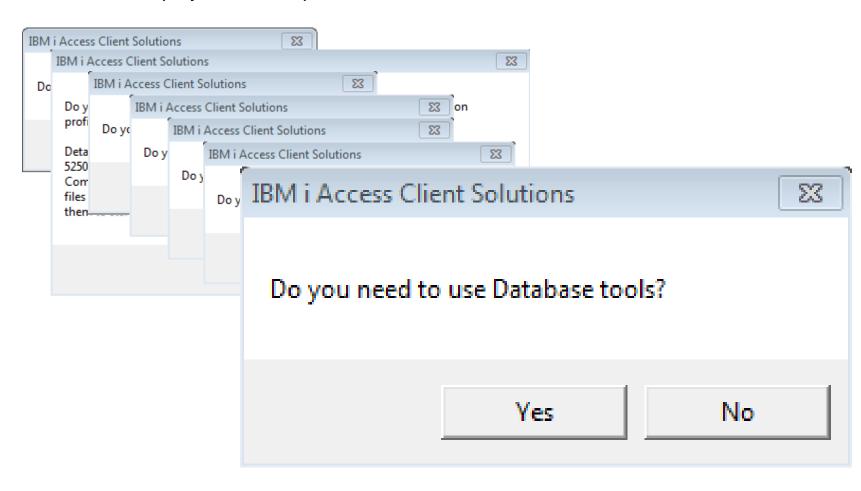


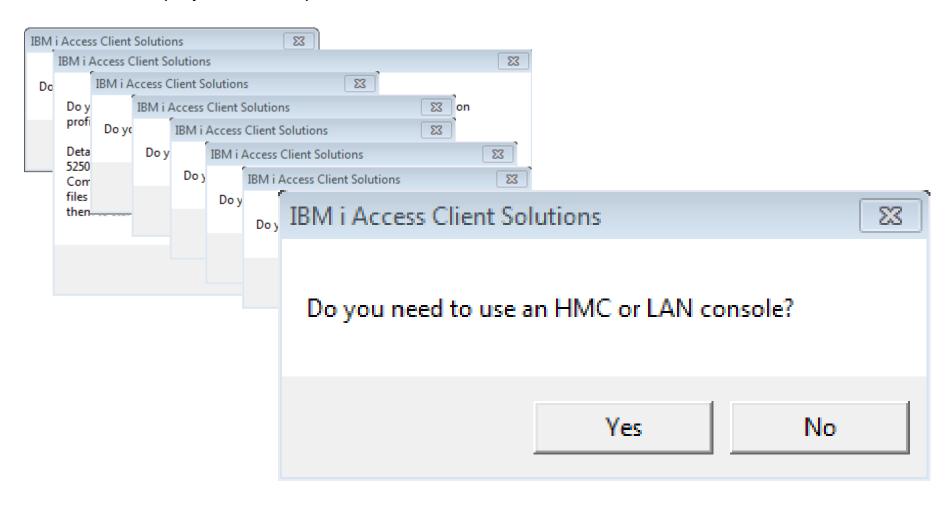


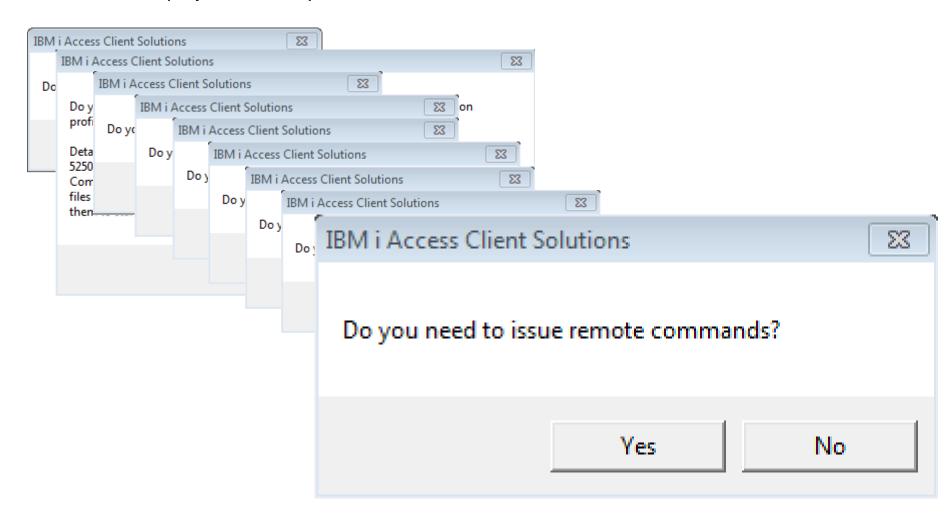


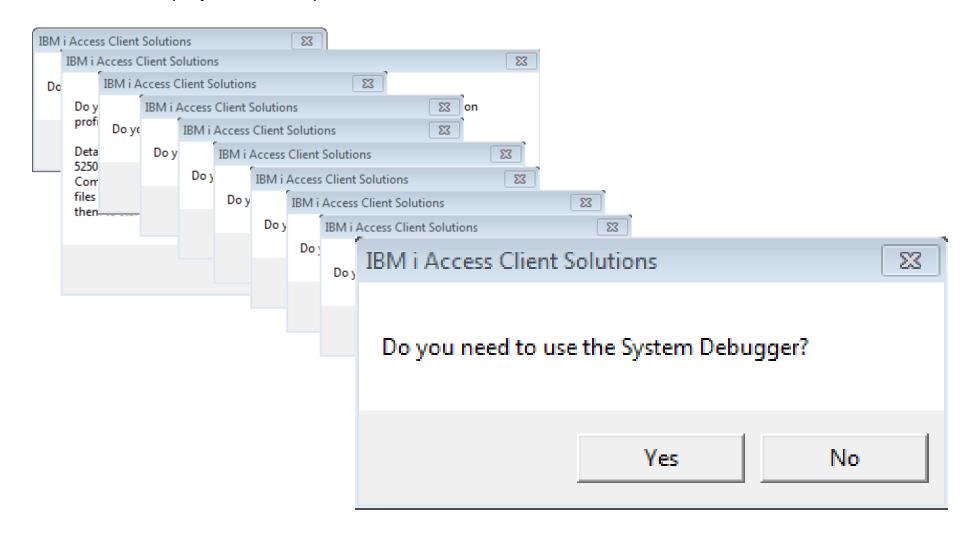


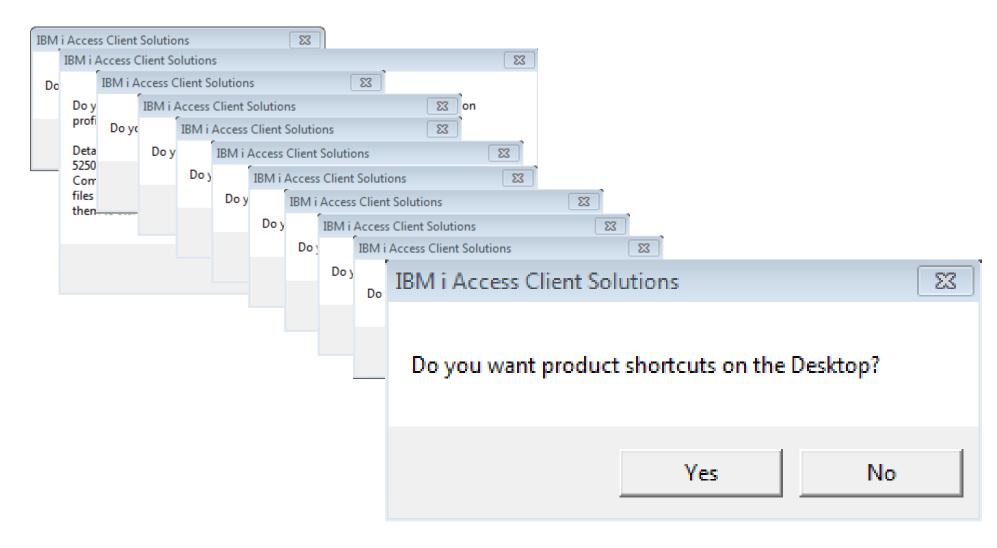


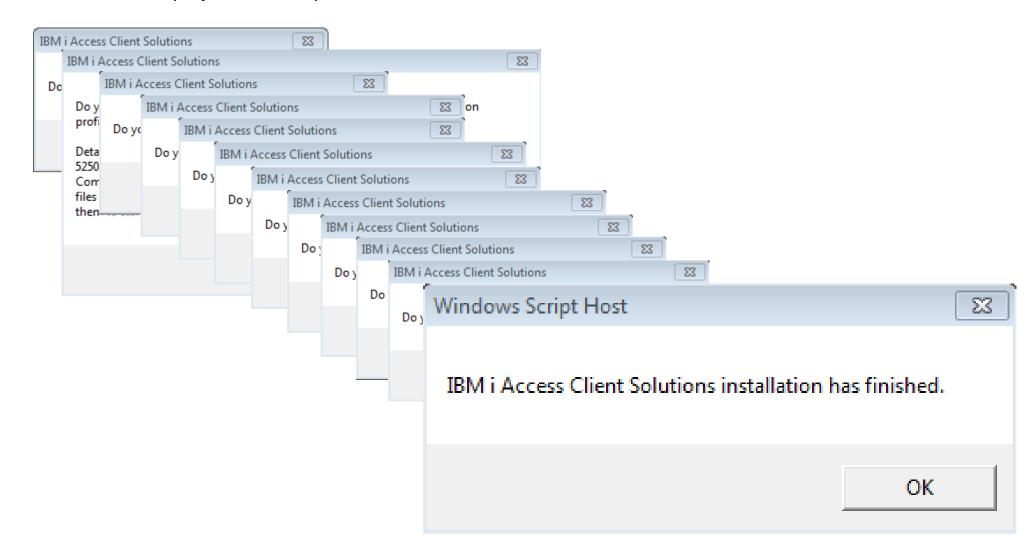


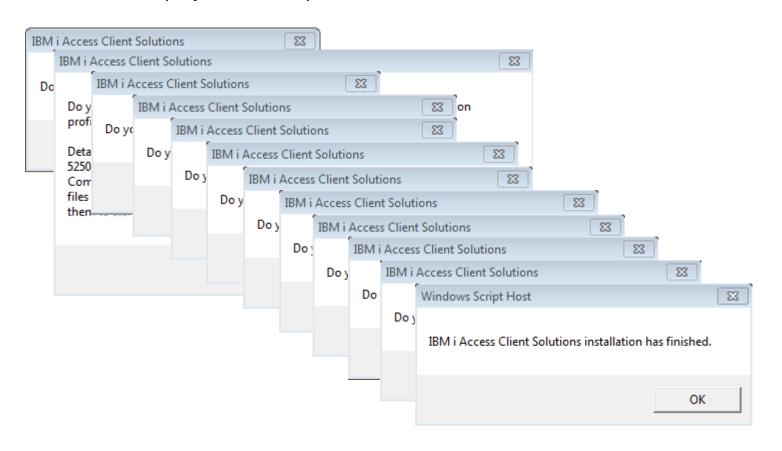


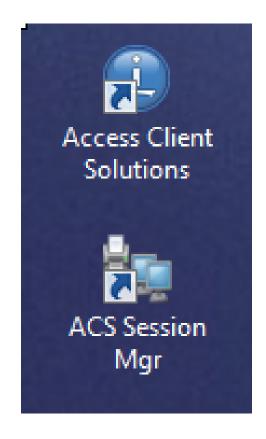








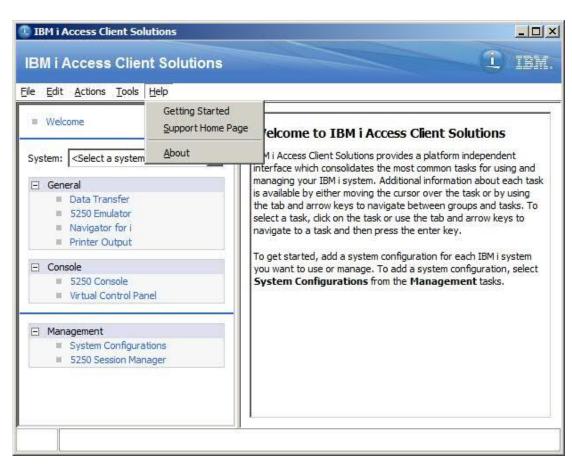




Getting Started

- Main User Interface provides an easy to use launch point for features
- Product contains Documentation folder containing "QuickStartGuide" and "GettingStarted" documents
- "GettingStarted" can also be launched from Main User Interface

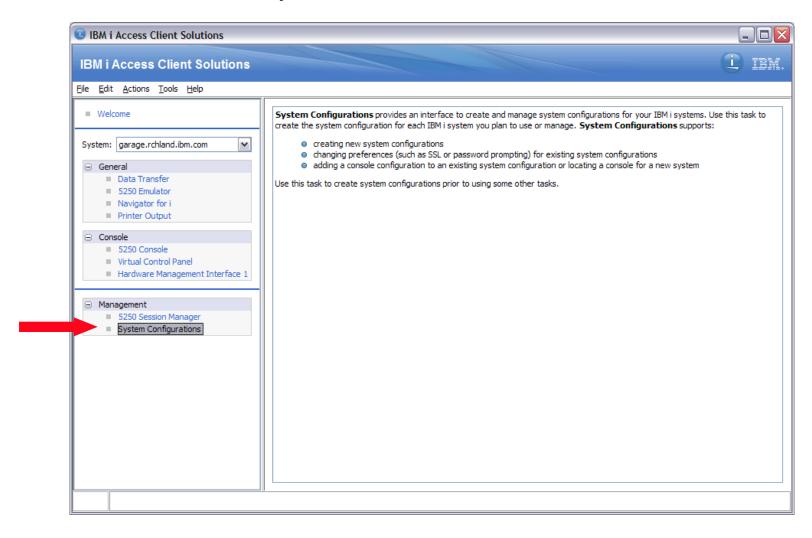
 Take a moment to try the Getting Started option on your PCs now



Configuration

System Configurations

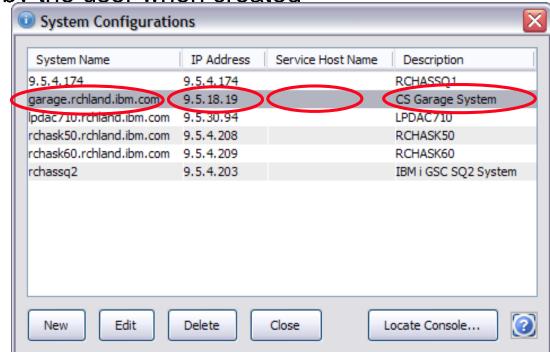
 Use the System Configurations panel to store connection information on the IBM i Systems that will be used



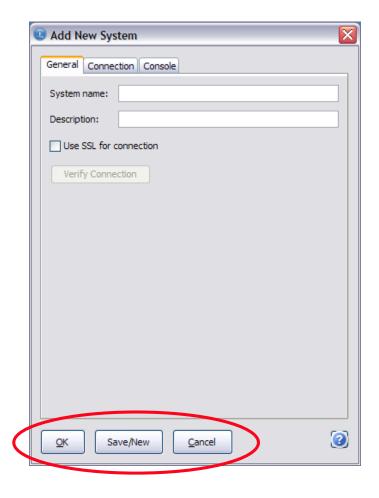
System Configurations

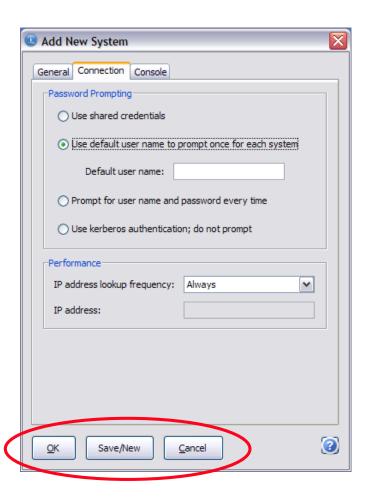
- Create, Edit or Delete connection information for IBM i Systems that are used.
 - System Name: What is entered by the user to connect to this host
 - IP Address: What the PC's DNS environment last returned when connecting to the System Name
 - Service Host Name: The HMC / System's Console host name or IP address as configured

Description: Defined by the user when created



New System Configuration

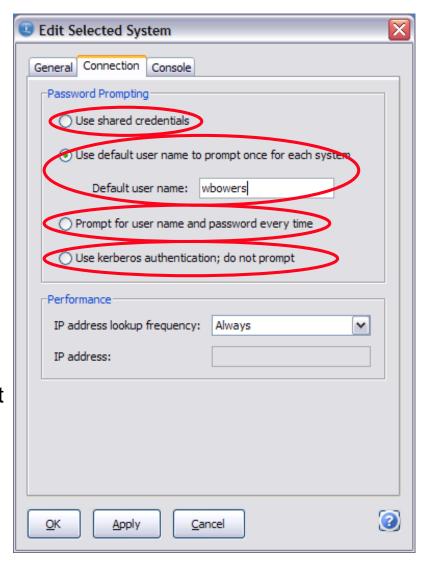




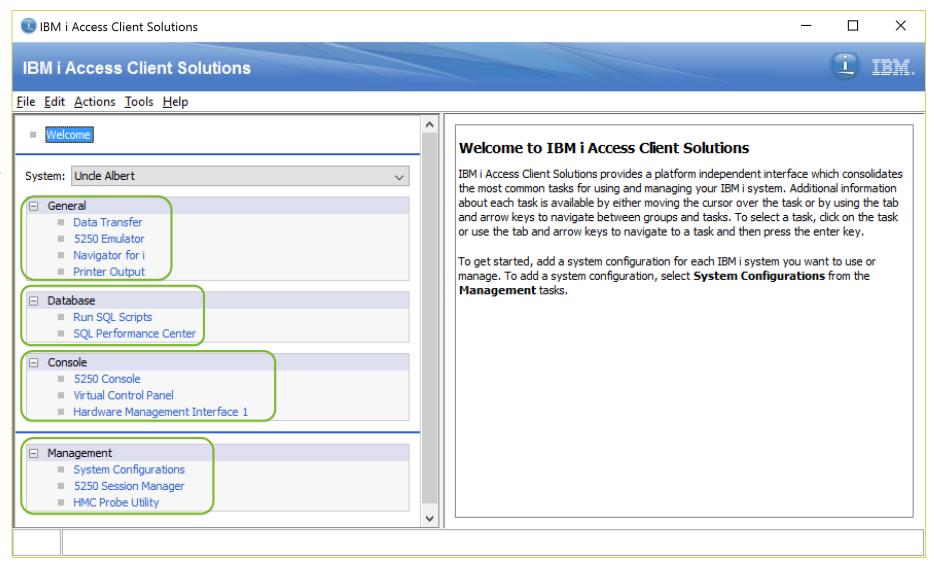
- OK Saves the information entered and closes the panel
- Save/New Saves the information entered and clears the panel
- Cancel Closes the panel without saving anything

Authentication Options

- Use Shared credentials
 - Prompt for logon credentials that will be shared by systems using this option.
 - The credentials will be saved until the user logs off
- Use default user name to prompt once for each system
 - Caches credentials for duration of desktop session
- Prompt for user name and password every time
- Use kerberos authentication; do not prompt
 - No further IBM i Access Client Solutions configuration needed



Exploring the Interface

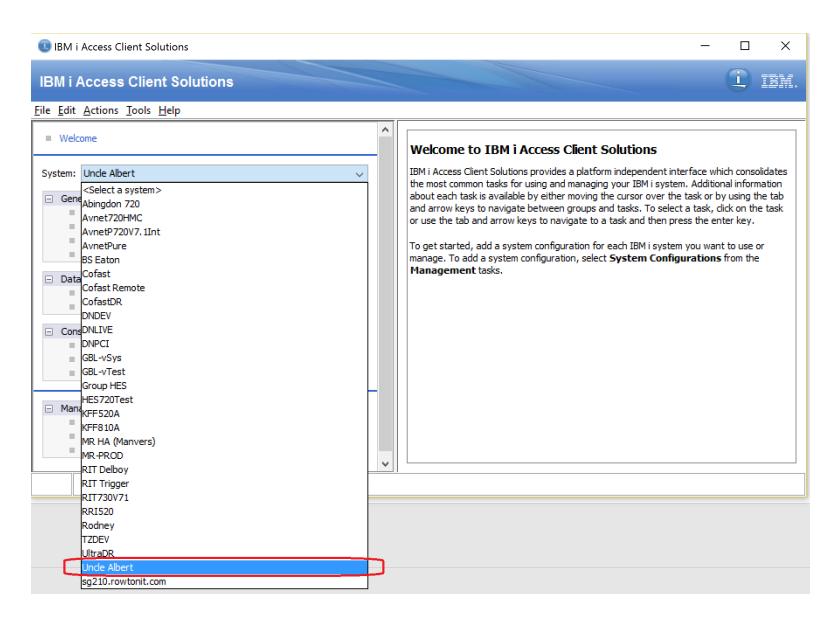


Function Selection

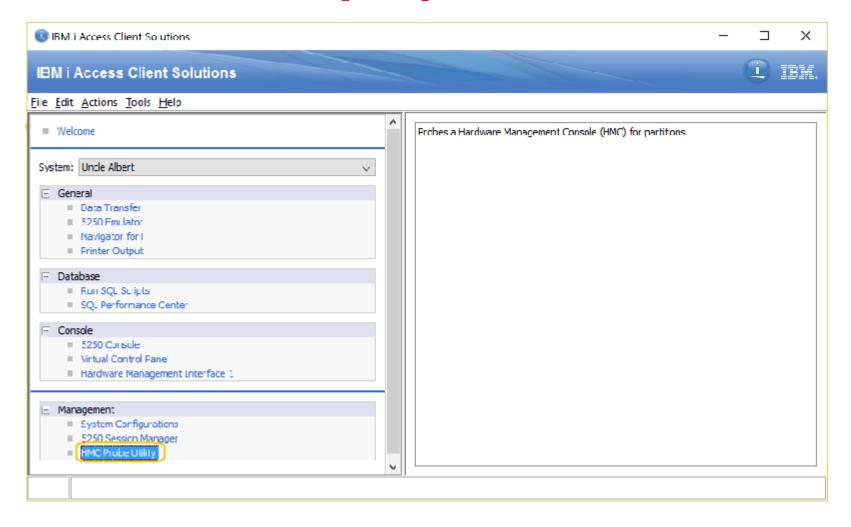
Grouped into four sections based on function type

Exploring the Interface

System Selection choose from the pull down list



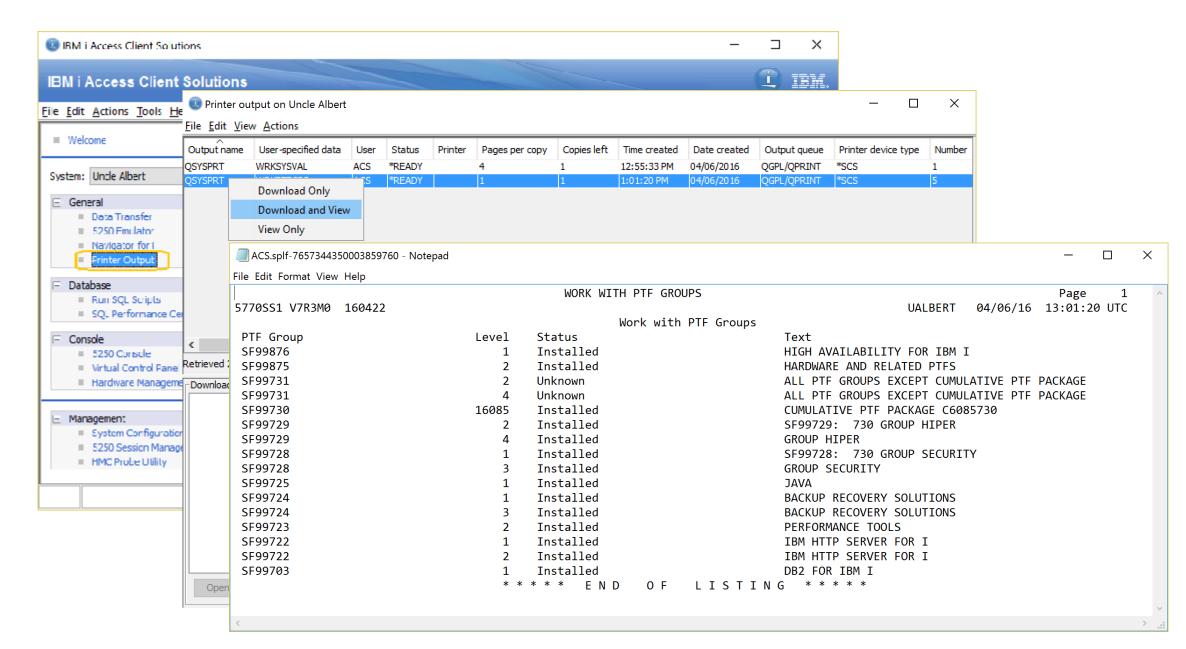
Exploring the Interface



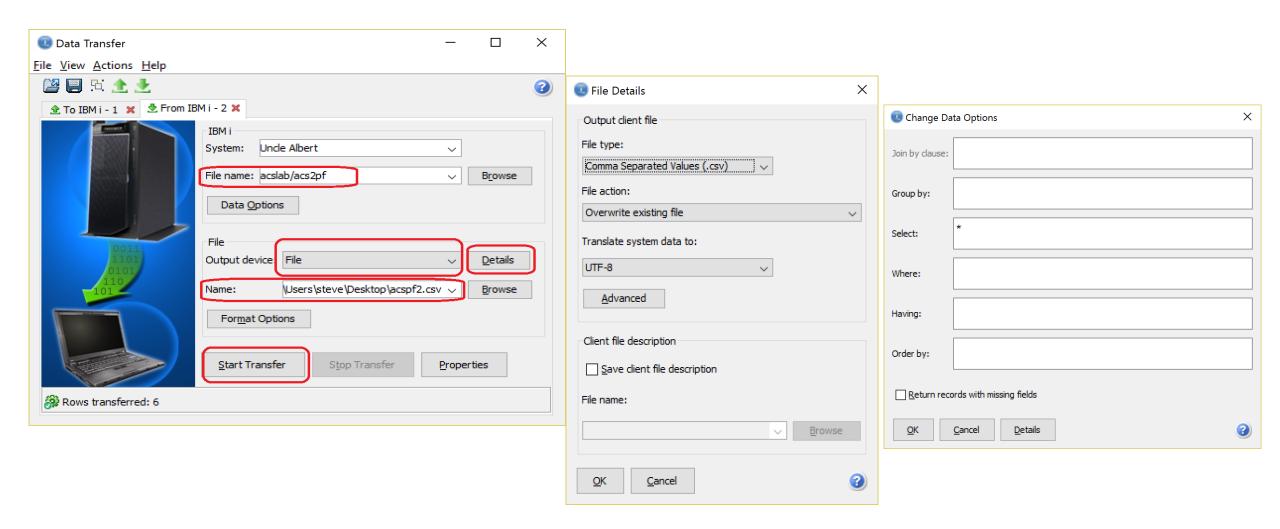
Help Text

Context sensitive
Changing base on
what you have
selected

Printer Output

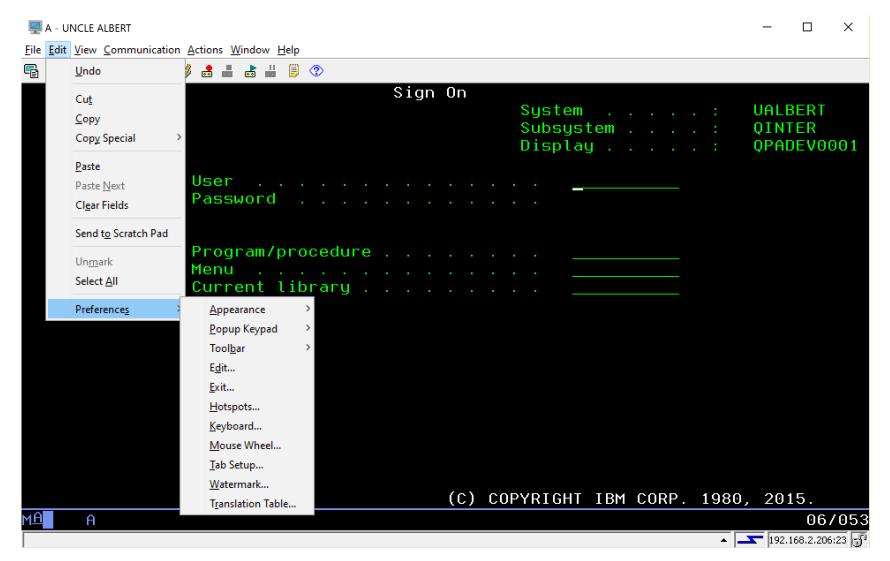


Data Transfer

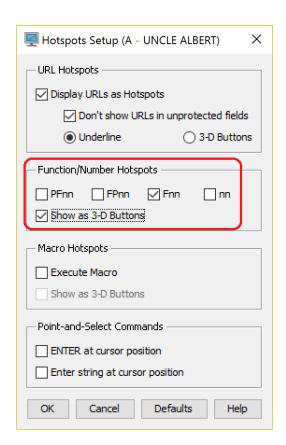


The customisation options are similar to the current IBM i Access for Windows emulator

Customising 5250

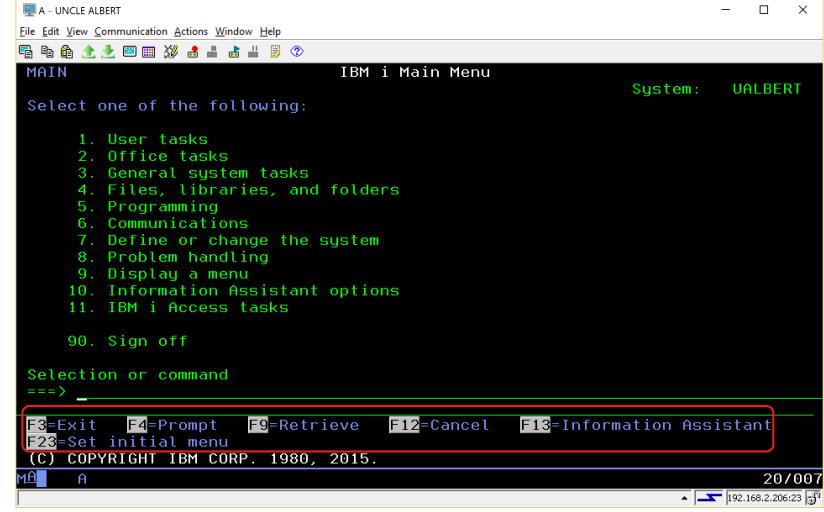


The customisation options are similar to the current IBM i Access for Windows emulator



My favourite is enabling 3D Hotspots

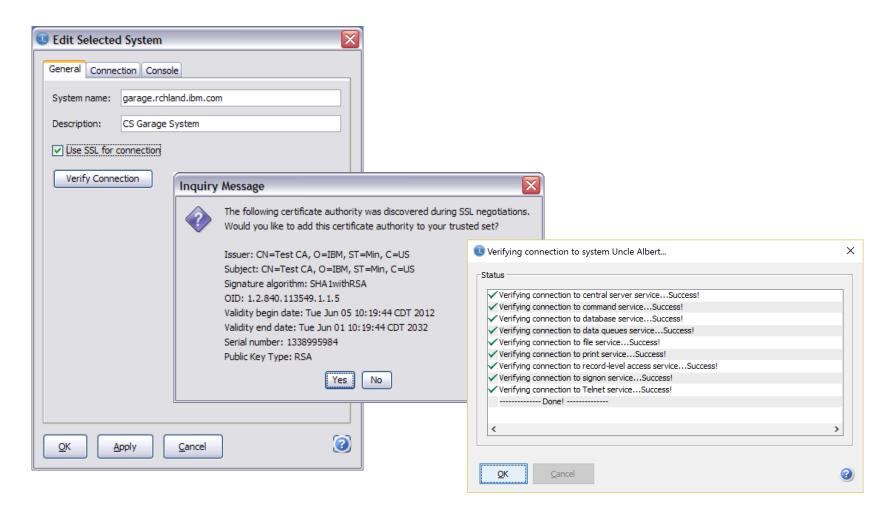
Customising 5250



5250 Emulation Improvement

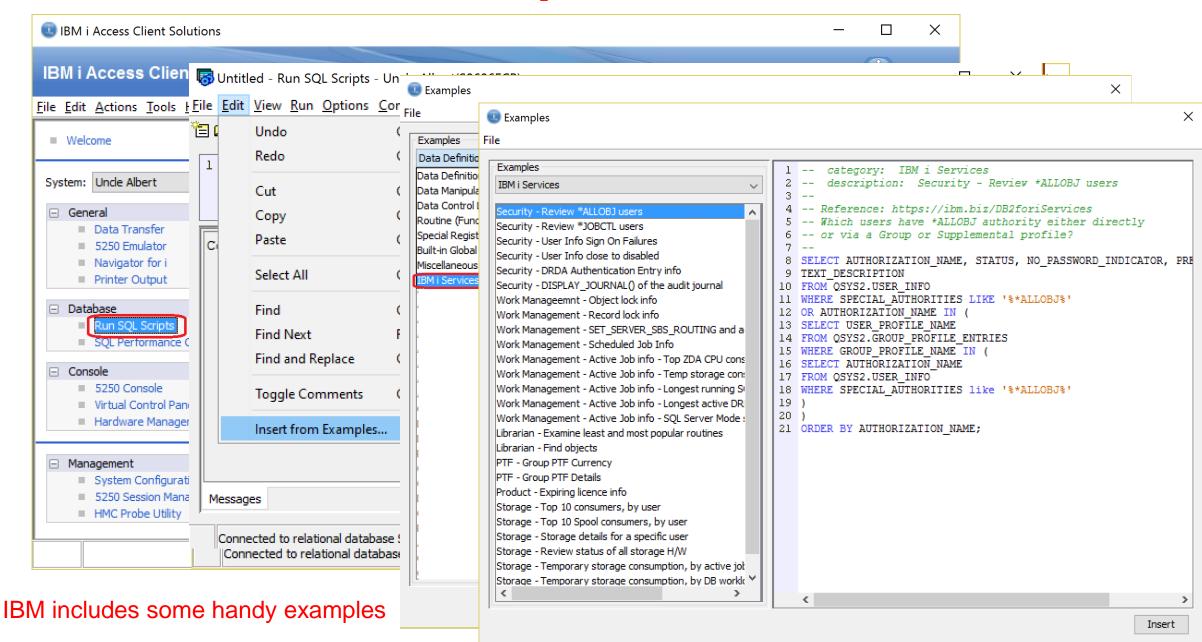
- IBM has enhanced the emulator
 - Copy & Paste now work with Ctrl c & Ctrl v
 - Copy & Paste now select and paste data more predictably
 - You can choose Tabbed or separate windows for the browsers
 - You can put a watermark in the background of you screen
 - This can be image or text ideal for branding or differentiating systems
 - New Screen History function
 - o Turn this one to create a storyboard of what you did in lead up to current screen
 - And those are just the ones I've found

Use SSL

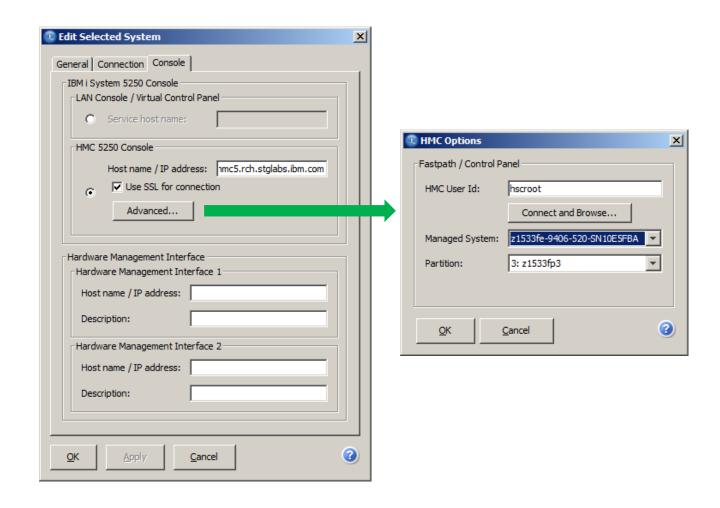


- Use SSL specifies that the connection will be secured
- If the Certificate Authority negotiated is not trusted, the user will be prompted to add to trusted list
- · There still is a Key Management utility if needed

Run SQL Scripts

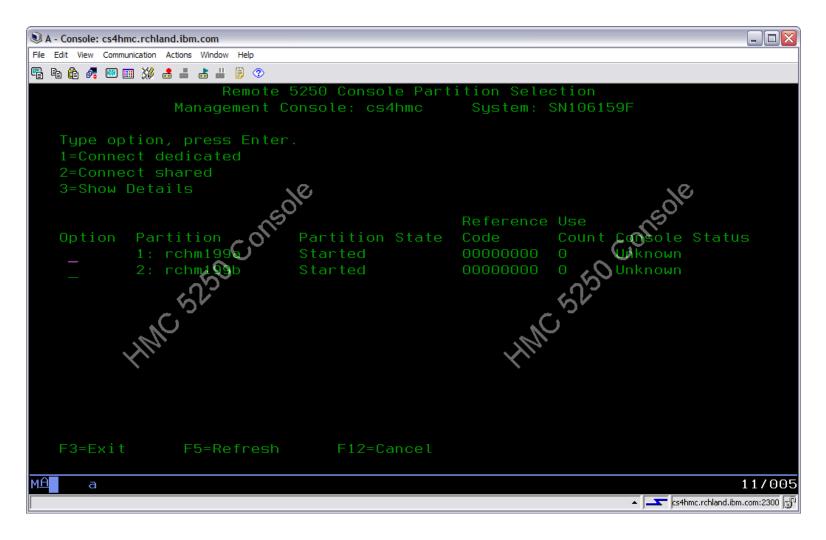


Console Configuration



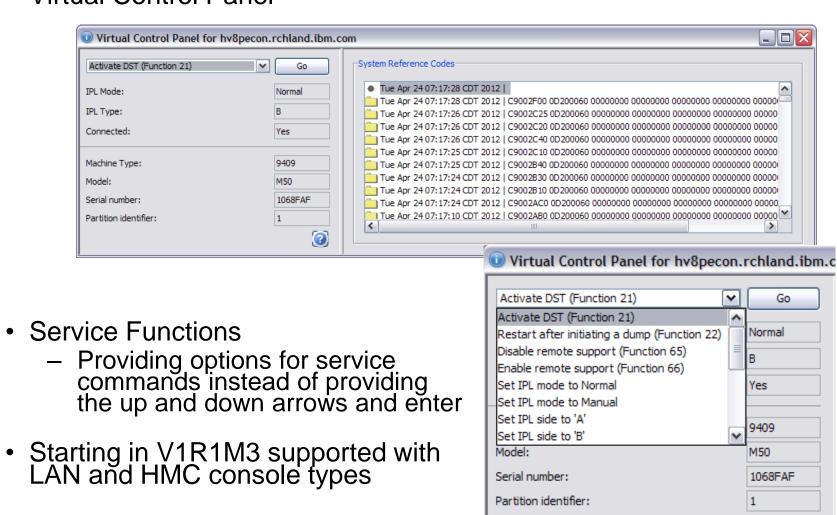
5250 Console

• 5250 HMC Console



Virtual Control Panel

Virtual Control Panel

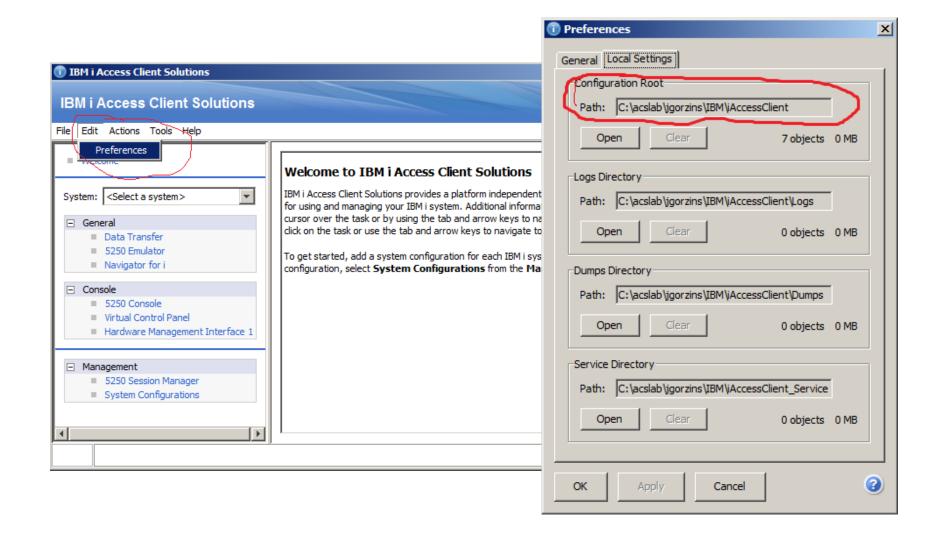


AcsConfig.properties

- IBM i Access Client Solutions uses a product configuration file, named "AcsConfig.properties"
- AcsConfig.properties is simply a list of configuration properties and values.
- These properties may also be specified on the command line
 D<property>=<value>
- One such property is

com.ibm.iaccess.AcsBaseDirectory

Verifying Location



Limiting Functions

- There are two approaches to limiting the functions that the user has access to when running IBM i Access Client Solutions
 - List of Excluded Components tied to the product deployment
 - Runtime restrictions stored on the client workstation

Excluding Components

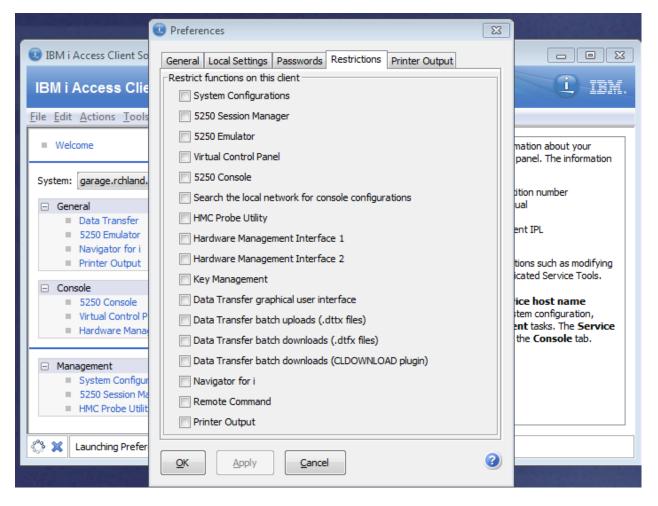
- Deployed via AcsConfig.properties file next to or within acsbundle.jar
 - Property must be set:

com.ibm.iaccess.ExcludeComps

- Set this property to a comma-separated list of function keywords
- The function keywords which may be specified are:
 - DATAXFER Data Transfer to/from IBM I
 - EMULATOR 5250 Display/Print emulation and 5250 Session Manager
 - KEYMAN SSL certificate management
 - OPCONSOLE Operations console and Virtual Control Panel
 - RMTCMD Remote Command (available from the command line)
 - SPLF Printer Output
 - HWCONSOLE Hardware management interface
 - L1CPLUGIN Navigator for i

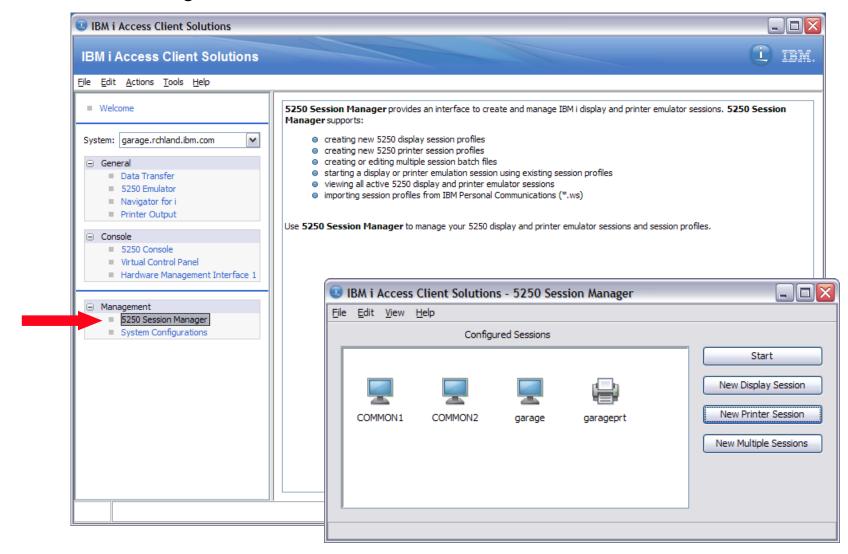
Runtime Restrictions

- Can be set via the IBM i Access Client Solutions application when ran with Administrator or Root level authority.
- GUI interface from Edit -> Preferences

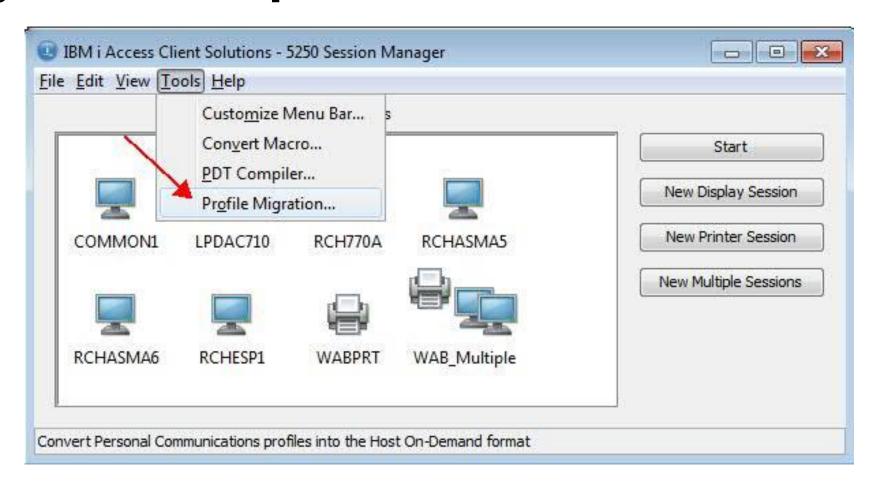


- IBM i Access Client Solutions provide several tools to assist with migrating from the IBM i Access for Windows client environment to IBM i Access Client Solutions
 - 5250 Migration Tools
 - Workstation file and keyboard map migration
 - Macro migration
 - Legacy File Associations
 - Data Transfer
 - Saved Data Transfer migration
 - System Connections
 - CWB* Commands

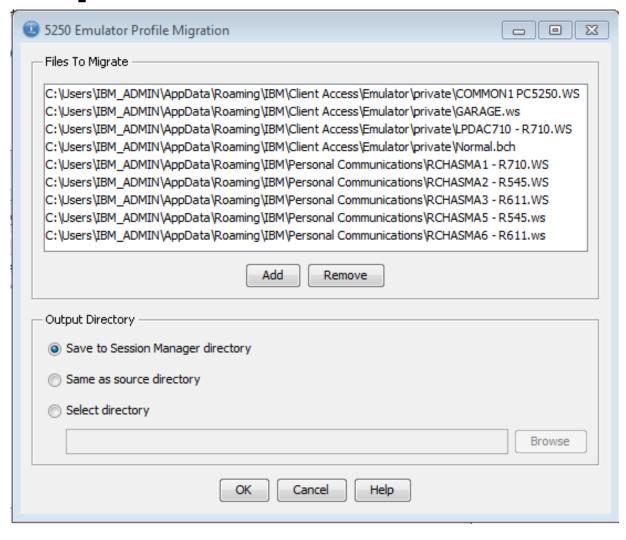
• 5250 Session Manager



Migration – 5250 session profiles



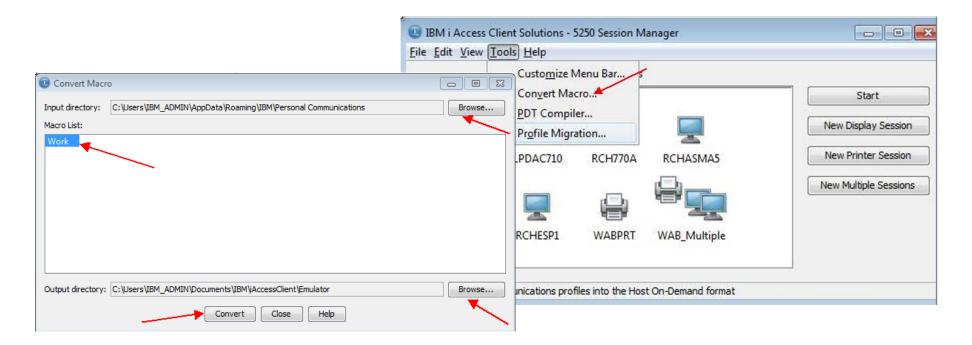
Migration – 5250 session profiles



Migration – 5250 session profiles

 Key mappings are also converted. A converted .kmp file will be saved in the same location that the new .hod file is created and will be referenced by that .hod file.

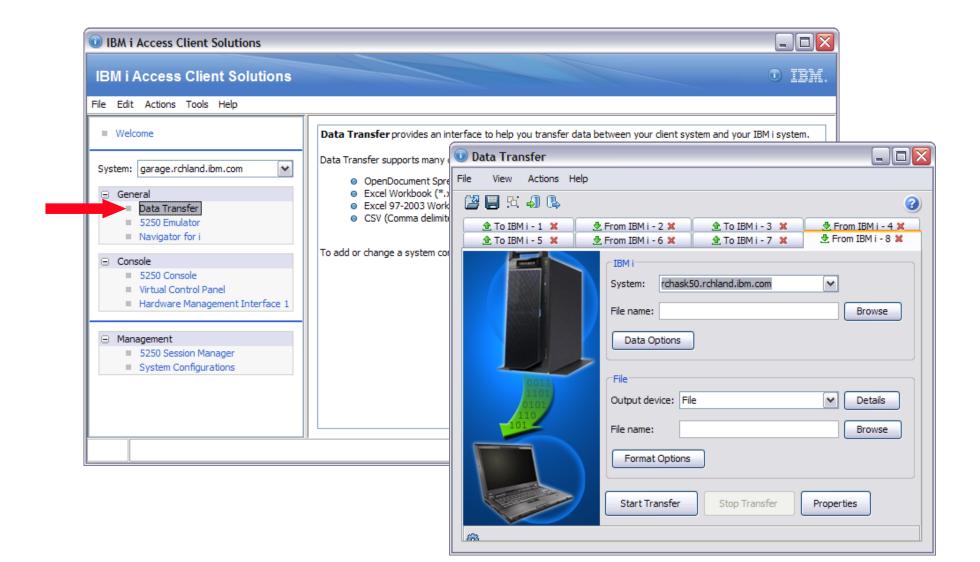
Macro Migration



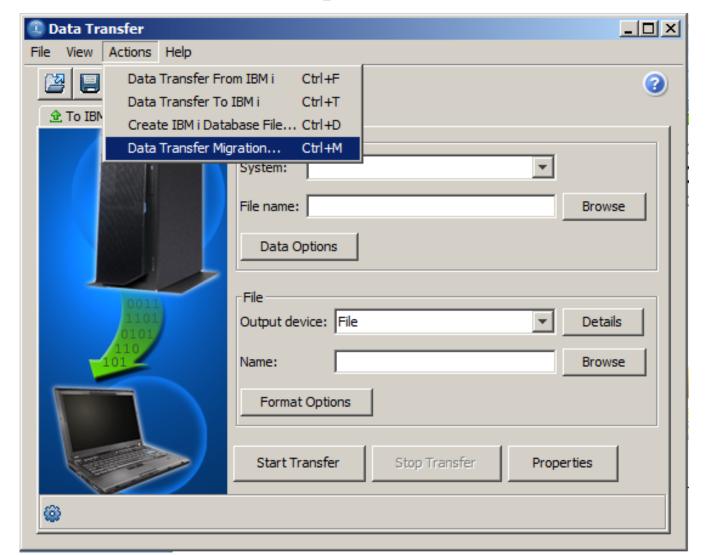
 Create File Association for IBM i Access for Windows saved .ws or .bch file to be opened with IBM i Access Client Solutions



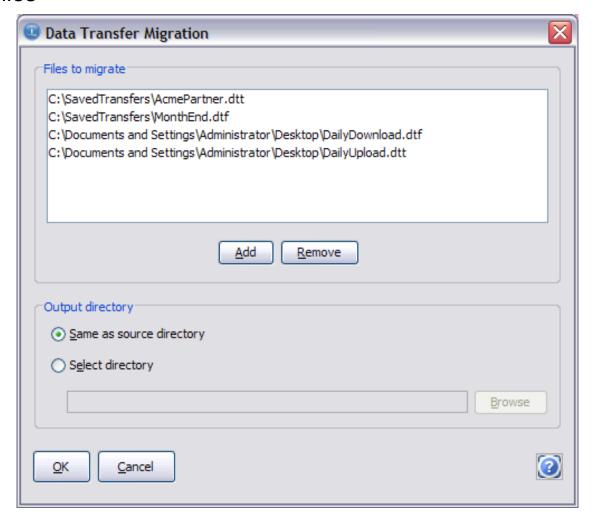




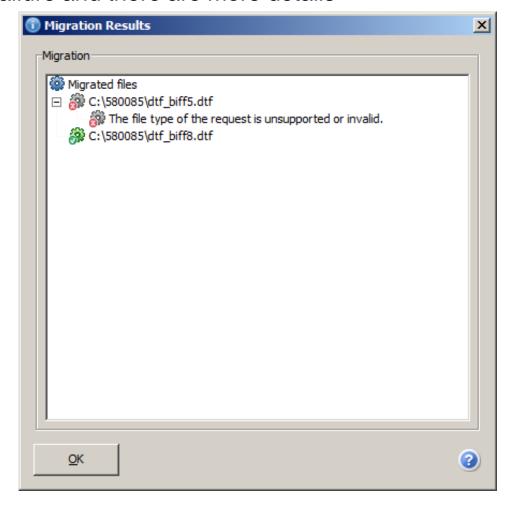
Migration – Data Transfer saved requests



 Migrates saved .dtt and .dtf files to IBM i Access Client Solutions .dttx and .dtfx files

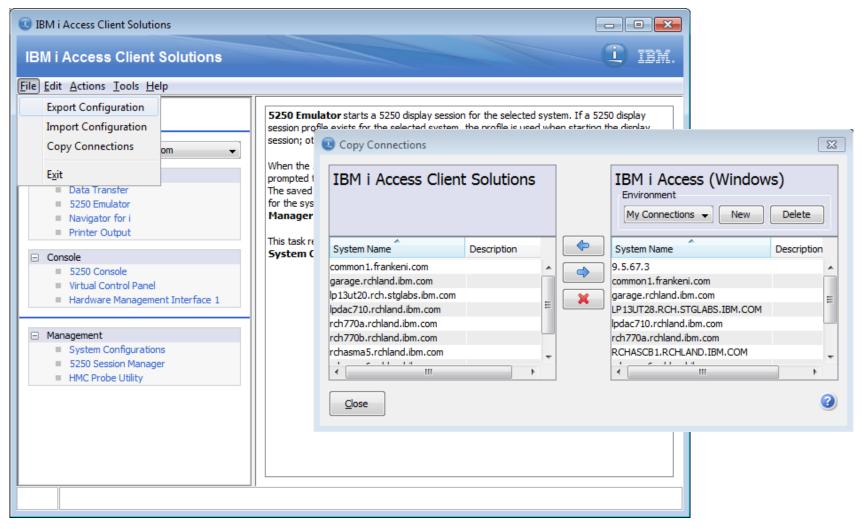


- Results of Migration
 - Green check indicates success
 - Red x indicates failure and there are more details



System Connections

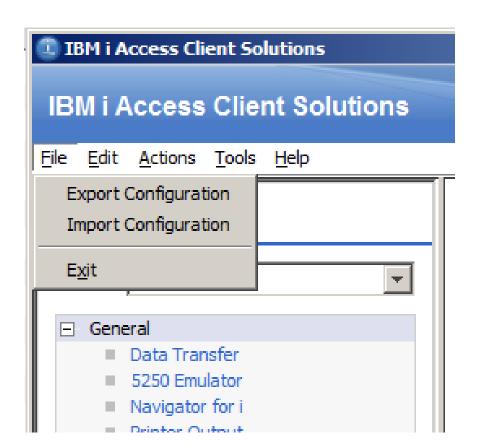
 IBM i Access Client Solutions Copy Connections can be used to move System Configurations



Export/Import

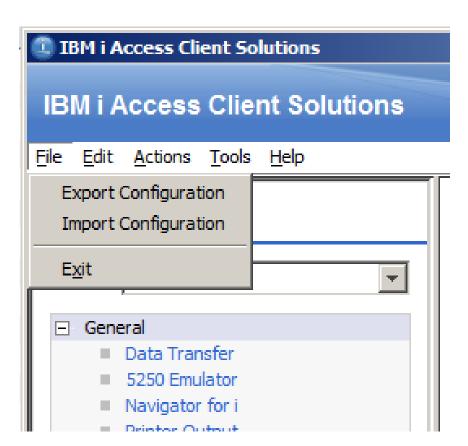
- IBM i Access Client Solutions has a mechanism for saving (exporting) and restoring (importing) a user's settings and preferences.
- When a configuration is exported, all information is stored in an <u>export file</u>.
- Stored data includes emulator session profiles

This is not an IBM i Access for Windows Migration tool. It is and ACS to ACS migration tool.



Export/Import

- An export file can therefore be used to
 - Back up settings
 - migrate settings from one PC to another.
 - Propagate settings to multiple PC's



CWB* Commands

• IBM i Access for Windows provided several CWB* commands

CWBPING Connection Verification
 CWBCFG System Configuration
 CWBLOGON Credential Caching

- IBM i Access Client Solutions provides they same types of capabilities via what are called Plugins passed with Parameters to ACS.
 - Basic syntax is

```
acslaunch_win-32.exe /plugin=<name>
    [/system=<system>] [/options]
```

Or

Questions??