

## Bonus Chapter 3

# Peachtree and Networking

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### *In This Chapter*

- ▶ Installing Peachtree on a network
  - ▶ Modifying Peachtree settings
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**I**f you're not a geeky type of person who fools around with networking, skip this chapter. Go to lunch, take a nap, hug a tree, whatever. However, if you're the one responsible for keeping Peachtree running across your network, read on. You might find something in this chapter that you can use.

Peachtree Complete Accounting and above are the only multi-user products. You can't use Peachtree Pro Accounting or Peachtree First Accounting in a network environment. Also, to function in a network environment, you must purchase the multi-user license version of the product or purchase a single user copy for each PC on which you want to install Peachtree. Otherwise, two users can't access the data files at the same time.

## *What Type of Network Can Be Used?*

The most typical types of networks in use today are peer-to-peer networks and client/server networks:

- ✓ A *peer-to-peer* network environment allows each connected computer to act as a server or a workstation or both. Each computer can share its hard drive, printers, and other devices with all other computers in the network. This makes each computer on the network equal to the other computers — a *peer*.
- ✓ A *client/server* network environment has one computer — the server — acting as a central unit with several workstations connected to it. The server is where you store the data shared by the workstations.



Peachtree will not operate properly on a Novell network.



This chapter provides general guidelines for installing Peachtree on a network. You can also obtain guidelines providing specific system requirements for Peachtree to run successfully on various network types. Go to the Peachtree Web site at [www.peachtree.com/support](http://www.peachtree.com/support) and search the Peachtree Knowledge Base for networking.

## Where Do Files Reside?

Peachtree divides all its files into two main sets:

- ✓ **Program files:** Program files do not need to be shared. They need to reside on each individual machine.
- ✓ **Data files:** Data files must be shared in a networked environment. Data files include help files, the `status.dat` file, the `options.dat` file, the global taxable file, and form files as well as all company folders that include the data files when you create your Peachtree company.

In a client/server network, data files are stored on the server. In a peer-to-peer network — which doesn't have a traditional server — the administrator's machine is usually designated as the main computer. Ideally, this computer is the fastest and has the largest amount of available memory and hard drive space.

## Installing Peachtree on a Network

Peachtree must be loaded on a computer using administrator rights. Individual users don't need administrator rights to use Peachtree after it's loaded on their computers. However, they do need rights to modify the data on the server where the Peachtree data is located. Additionally, they need read/write access to the `C:\Program Files\Common Files\Peach` folder and to `C:\Winnt` or `C:\Windows`. They also need rights to the Registry for Peachtree.



This is important! You **MUST** install Peachtree on the system where the data files will be stored (the server) first. Key files are copied to the server during the installation process. After you install Peachtree on the server, then you can install on the rest of the workstations.

## *Mapping the drive*

During Peachtree installation, you'll be asked for a data path. So, before you install Peachtree on the workstations, you must map a drive letter to the server. (We like to use the letter *P* for our mapped drive. *P* for *Peachtree* — get it?) The data location you select must be a shared folder. Because peer-to-peer networks allow you to share the entire hard drive or only a particular folder, before you load Peachtree, you should know whether you're sharing the entire drive or just the Peachtree folder. If you're planning to share only to a particular folder, here are a few strategies to keep in mind:

- ✓ If you're planning to map Peachtree workstations to a specific folder, such as making *P:* point directly to the `\Program Files\Peachtree\` folder, your data path would read

```
P:\Company\
```

- ✓ If you are mapping the entire Program Files folder as *P:*, your data path would read

```
P:\Peachtree\Company\
```

- ✓ If you map the entire hard drive as *P:*, the data path would read

```
P:\Program Files\Peachtree\Company\
```

- ✓ If you're performing the Peachtree installation on the server, the program path and data path should be the same. However, when installing on the workstation, the program path should be on a local hard drive (`C:\Program Files\Peachtree\`), and the data path should point to the Company folder on the server computer: for example

```
P:\Program Files\Peachtree\Company
```

## *Installing the program*

When you insert the Peachtree CD into the drive, the Autorun screen should appear, welcoming you to Peachtree and offering you three choices:

- ✓ Install Peachtree Accounting
- ✓ Install Server Components Only
- ✓ Remove or Modify Peachtree Accounting

If installing on the server, you can choose either of the first two options. When installing on the workstations, however, you must choose the first option. During the workstation installation process, follow the on-screen prompts and pay close attention to the screen that asks for the data path. On the workstations, the data path should point to the mapped drive — to the Company folder.



Do not point the data path directly to YOUR company folder. Point the data path to the folder actually named Company.

During the install, Peachtree will advise you if it needs to add additional programs, such as Microsoft .NET. It's a pretty smart installation program; let it install what it needs.



Because installing Peachtree writes to the Windows Registry, you should restart your system after installation but before you use the application.



If you're installing to the server, be sure to warn any users who might be using other applications on the server that you're going to restart the system.

## *Just a Few Final Notes*

We told you this was really geeky stuff! Here are a few little ditties you might want to know if you need to make changes to your Peachtree settings.

### *Data folders*

For each company you create in Peachtree, Peachtree creates a folder in which to store the company information. The folder name comes from the company name. Generally, Peachtree takes the first three letters of the first word of the company name, the first three letters of the second word of the company name, and the first two letters of the third word of the company name. If your company name contains one or two words, Peachtree uses only those words but a total of eight letters if possible. Confused? Here are some examples:

- ✓ If your company name is All Business Service, Peachtree creates a folder named ALLBUSSE.
- ✓ If your company name is Marmel Enterprises, LLC, Peachtree creates a folder named MARENTLL.
- ✓ If your company name is Bo the Handyman, Peachtree creates a folder named BOTHEHAN.

- ✓ If your company name is Magic Fingers, Peachtree creates a folder named MAGFINGE.
- ✓ If your company name is Wanderbusters, Peachtree creates a folder named WANDERBU.

You get the idea.

## *The Forms folder*

During installation, Peachtree automatically creates a Forms folder and places it under the Company folder. This is at the same level as your company data folder. All Peachtree standard forms as well as forms that you customize are located in the Forms folder.

Peachtree uses an `.frm` extension for its forms. The first several letters indicate the form type, and the form name follows in a numerical format. For example, `INV01430.frm` is an invoice form, `PRC0130.frm` is a payroll check form. Peachtree standard forms all have a value greater than 1000, and customized forms have a value less than 1000. If you see a form named `APC00001.frm`, that means that it's a customized accounts payable check. You can read about customizing forms in Chapter 13.



Do not move the Forms folder to a different location unless you are changing the data path. See the upcoming section, “Changing the data path.”

## *Changing from single user to multi-user*

If you first installed Peachtree as a standalone program, but now you need to network it, we suggest that you uninstall Peachtree and then reinstall the program. Different settings are used when installing as a single user versus as a multi-user. You can uninstall Peachtree either through the Windows Control Panel or by inserting the Peachtree installation CD and choosing the Remove or Modify Peachtree Accounting option.

## *Changing the data path*

In Peachtree 2007 and later, if you need to change the data path location, you must uninstall Peachtree and reinstall it. You can uninstall Peachtree either through the Windows Control Panel or by inserting the Peachtree installation CD and choosing the Remove or Modify Peachtree Accounting option.

## *Special hardware and software issues*

This section contains suggestions — not requirements — for networking. However, we have found that Peachtree responds much better if you follow these guidelines:

- ✔ **Same Operating System:** Peachtree works best if all workstations use the same version of Windows. If you're using Windows Vista, for example, make sure that everyone is using Windows Vista. Peachtree might operate if you use different operating systems, but the risk for problems increases.
- ✔ **Latest Windows update:** Make sure that all workstations are using the latest update of their Windows version. To check for updates, visit [www.windowsupdate.com](http://www.windowsupdate.com) from each computer.
- ✔ **Same network card brand:** Make sure that all workstations have the same brand of network card. We've seen a number of instances where replacing the network cards so that all workstations use the same brand substantially improved Peachtree performance. We don't really know why it works better, but it does.
- ✔ **Enough memory:** Make sure the workstations have enough memory. If you're on a network, chances are your Peachtree data files will be larger than a single user simply because you have more people entering data. More memory means much better performance.

## *System Requirements*

For Peachtree Premium, the recommended system requirements (per Peachtree) are as follows:

- ✔ 1 GHz Intel Pentium III (or equivalent) for single user and 1.8 GHz Intel Pentium 4 (or equivalent) for multiple concurrent users
- ✔ 512MB of RAM for single user and 1GB for multiple concurrent users
- ✔ Windows 2000 SP3, XP SP2, or Vista
- ✔ 1GB of disk space for installation
- ✔ Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher required (provided on CD; requires an additional 70MB of disk space)

- ✓ Microsoft .NET Framework CLR 1.1 (provided on CD; requires an additional 150MB of disk space)
- ✓ At least high-color (16-bit) SVGA video; supports 800 x 600 resolution with small fonts
- ✓ Optimized for 1024 x 768
- ✓ 2x CD-ROM
- ✓ All online features/services require Internet access with at least a 56 Kbps modem

## *Integration/compatibility requirements*

- ✓ Excel, Outlook, and Word integration requires Microsoft Excel, Outlook, and Word 2000, 2002, 2003, or 2007.
- ✓ Printers need to be supported by Microsoft Windows 2000/XP/Vista.
- ✓ In-product demos require Macromedia Flash Player.
- ✓ Additional 55MB available hard drive space is required to install Guided Tour.
- ✓ Adobe Reader 7.0 is required and provided on CD (requires an additional 90MB available hard drive space to install).

## *Multi-user mode*

Multi-user mode is optimized for Windows 2000 Server or Windows Server 2003 client-server networks, and Windows 2000/XP/Vista peer-to-peer networks.

## *Terminal Services*

Windows 2000 or 2003 Server along with Remote Desktop Connection or Remote Desktop Web Connection client is required to run in a Windows Terminal Services environment. Only Peachtree Premium and above versions support Terminal Services.

