

Web-based is Coming!

Options and Improvements on Remote Access Are Headed Your Way...

Many architectural and engineering firms are faced with the need to access mission critical data from a variety of locations including satellite offices, home, from a job trailer, client site or while travelling. While Ajera / PORTFOLIO users have always enjoyed the ability to access all aspects of the application remotely through Microsoft Terminal Services, the demand remains from clients for our products to become available as a web-based application. Ajera / PORTFOLIO was designed to become a web-based application, and with the advent of new technology Axium will soon be able to provide this capability.

Terminal Services vs. Web-based

Terminal Services (TS) has served the multiple office and remote user needs well. TS provides a secure environment and efficient performance to use Ajera / PORTFOLIO outside of a Local Area Network (LAN) environment. The downside to this approach has been for firms not already running TS for other reasons – this has led to extra hardware and software licensing requirements, as well as a somewhat advanced I.T. expertise to set up. A web-based environment can provide easier setup and less cost in terms of hardware, software and I.T. expertise.

Web-based Advantages

As Axium approaches web-based access for Ajera / PORTFOLIO users we looked carefully at the limitations of the current TS scenario, as well as the limitations typical of web-based applications. Axium's approach provides a much richer user experience... essentially no difference from being within the office walls! The application looks and works exactly as it does in a standard LAN (non-web-based) installation. Ajera / PORTFOLIO will use Microsoft's ClickOnce technology to allow the application to run over the internet without being installed locally. This means that the program would be available to you just as it would be on your desktop. After an initial connection, the application runs on its own, just as you would experience with any Windows-based application, and not within the restrictions of a web browser!

Security

You can rest assured your data is safe. All of the Security controls available to Ajera / PORTFOLIO users remain the same and web-based access is over the industry standard SSL (Secure Socket Layers) protocol.

Performance

Axium has taken great effort to analyze how data, the amount of data that is transferred between client applications and the server and where the processing of certain data takes place (whether on the client computer or the server). The in-depth analysis results in optimized performance and access speed for users. Due to the varying internet connections available, performance will differ depending upon the speed of the connection being used. With a common high speed connection (cable, fiber, T-1, etc) performance will be comparable to a LAN environment. There will still be some instances where performance will lag as large amounts of data are transferred, but most instances of that are limited.

Hardware / Software Requirements

The published minimum requirements for Ajera / PORTFOLIO will remain the same. This allows clients to keep initial costs as well as ongoing maintenance and IT support to a minimum. With web-based access clients can avoid the cost and complexity of Terminal Services. Our commitment to ease of use extends to our approach of installation and setup. The level of complexity and expertise is far less than is needed to setup common server items such as Exchange for Outlook.

Limitations

The advanced methods of providing web-based access for Ajera / PORTFOLIO, will not allow users to run the application from very restricted (locked down) environments such as a public library, or a client site where computer capabilities and access are tightly restricted.

Summary

With the coming advent of web-based access for Ajera / PORTFOLIO clients will experience the benefits of true remote access to all of their mission critical needs. All of this will be accomplished while keeping initial and long term costs low.