

LapLink Gold 11.0

Review by: Chuck Reisz

LapLink Gold 11.0 is manufactured and sold by **LapLink Inc.**

Price: Available from LapLink.com. The download version is available for \$139.95. Physical shipment is \$179.95; the boxed version includes both a serial cable and a parallel cable. Upgrade from previous version is priced at \$109.95. Purchase also available thru resellers including CDW, PC Mall, Staples and others at prices ranging from \$141.99 to 179.95.

System summary: LapLink refers to LapLink Gold 11.0 as “the Standard in Remote Control and File Transfer”. In addition there are other system capabilities including Print Redirection and Voice Chat/Text Chat. In brief, LapLink Gold facilitates the sharing of information between computers.

System Requirements:

Supports Windows 95/98/NT4.0/2000/Me/XP

Intel or compatible 486DX or higher processor

24 MB RAM (32 recommended)

25 MB of hard disk space

Optional: Sound Card, speakers and microphone for Voice Chat

Installation: Installation was a little bit testy at times. I used the typical installation and the loading of the programs onto my computers went smooth.

LapLink works under mixed operating systems. My Desktop is running with Windows XP while the Laptop has Windows Me as its operating system. This mixture in itself provided no problems.

LapLink Gold 11.0 does have an uninstaller included.

Features: Included features are: **File transfer** by moving or copying. **File synchronization** to keep files on two computers up to date by updating only files that have changed. **Print redirection**, that is to direct a print file from one computer to another computer that the first is connected to. **Voice and text chat** capabilities while connected to a second computer. It has **multi layer security** for the files and computers. It supports **different connection modes** including serial cable, parallel cable and USB cable as well as modem to modem and Internet connection. The system facilitates **remote control of a computer** thru the connections made. The remote control should be especially useful when an offsite person is trouble shooting a computer.

My experience: I elected to connect the two computers thru a cable connection and chose the parallel cable because of better speed when compared to the serial cable. Only after a trying period attempting the parallel connection did I discover that parallel

connections are not supported by Windows XP. Once the misunderstanding on ports was resolved the connection went really smooth.

The main interface for file transfer and synchronization once connection has been established is a split screen with the files available on each computer shown in explorer fashion in respective parts of the screen. File transfer is as simple as clicking on a file on the computer you are moving or copying from and dragging it to the desired location on the second computer. This operation is easy and smooth. Transferring large files that are already compressed is very slow using a serial connection. USB connection should provide major timesavings where large files are being moved.

SpeedSync, which is LapLink's patented method of comparing files and only transferring those files that have changed worked like a charm and is a time saver.

I had a little trouble getting print redirection set up but after several tries I succeeded and once set up, it is available for future sessions.

I tried to test its online capabilities by connecting to a site that once was maintained by LapLink for such tests and evaluations only to find the computer is no longer maintained online.

All difficulties I had with this system were startup type glitches. Once past startup I did not encounter any problems. It runs smooth and is user friendly. The built in interfaces are easy to follow. If you have enough need for this type of system to justify the cost, I would recommend LapLink Gold 11.0. I have not been exposed to competing products and cannot provide competitive comparisons.

Documentation: Included with the "boxed" version of the system is a Quick Start Guide. A full Users Guide is available on the thru the LapLink Web Site. Personally I prefer printed manuals when installing, testing and implementing a system.

Product Support is available thru the Internet only. There is a knowledge base for LapLink Gold 11.0. Text chat service is available Monday thru Friday 8 am to 5 pm Pacific Time. The few questions I submitted by Internet were answered in about 24 hours.