

Enabling Macros In Host On-Demand Through EHLLAPI

Introduction

The employee's of the State of Wisconsin have developed many productivity enhancement tools that in the past took advantage of features of Attachmate for Windows. When it was decided to replace the state standard for terminal emulation with the IBM product Host On-Demand, a replacement solution for these productivity tools had to be found.

For the most part these productivity tools took the form of macros written in either Microsoft's Visual Basic for Applications (Excel, Access, or Word) or Attachmate's own Visual Basic language. The replacement solution that was chosen uses the IBM Extended High Level Language Application Programming Interface (EHLLAPI) to allow Microsoft's Visual Basic for Applications macros to talk with IBM's Host On-Demand terminal emulator.

If you previously had written macros using Attachmate's Visual Basic programming language those macros will have to be re-written using Microsoft Visual Basic for Applications (Excel, Access, or Word) or Microsoft Visual Basic. Host On-Demand does not have its own native Visual Basic Interpreter and instead uses Java.

In order to utilize the EHLLAPI tool you will first need to have a current version of Host On-Demand properly installed on your personal computer. If you do not have Host On-Demand installed please contact the Division of Enterprise Technology Service Center at (800) 572-8963 and open a ticket to have Host On-Demand installed.

Obtaining EHLLAPI

You may obtain the EHLLAPI software by clicking on the [Click here](#) link found on the Host On-Demand session screen. (Please refer to figure 1.) The Host On-Demand session screen is opened whenever Host On-Demand is started.

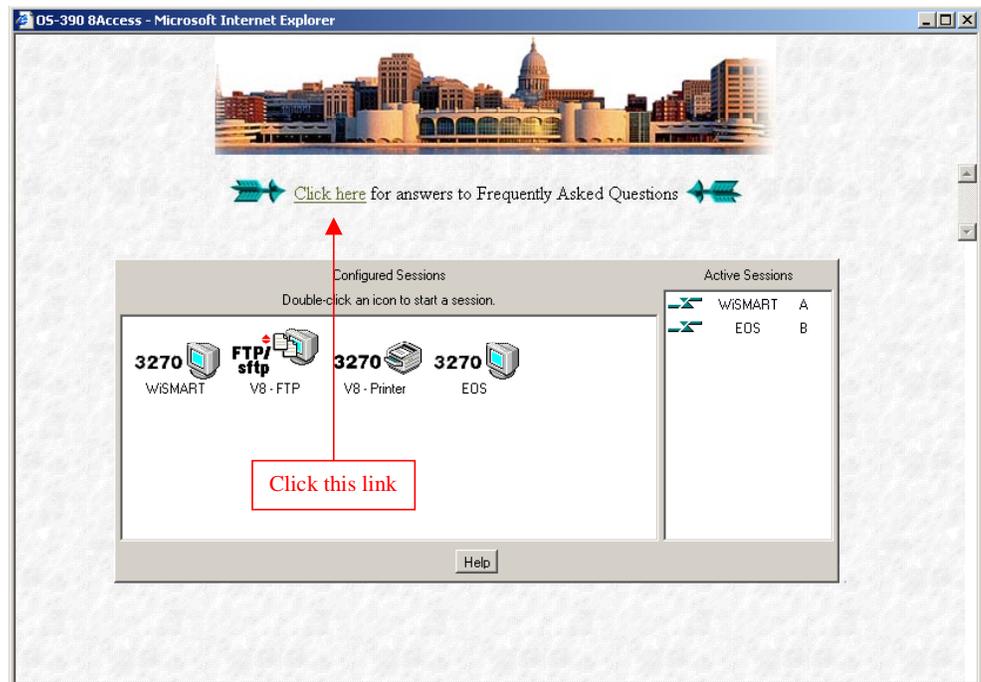


Figure 1

Once you have clicked on the link you will be presented with a screen showing a list of Host On-Demand Frequently Asked Questions (please refer to figure 2 on the next page.)

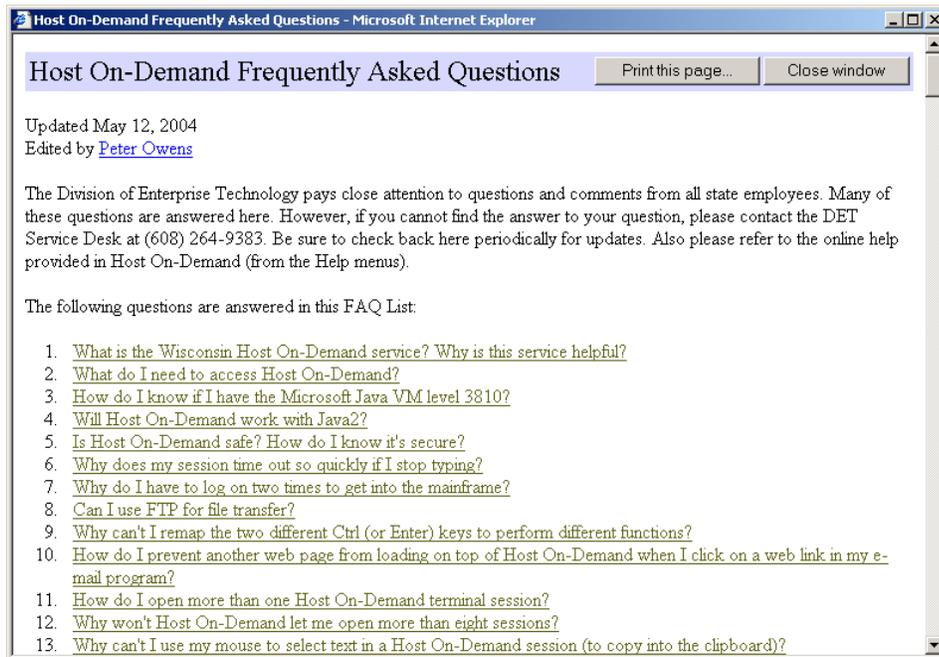


Figure 2

Scroll down to the 25th frequently asked question, [I use sophisticated scripts to automate mainframe tasks. Can I do the same with Host On-Demand?](#) When you click this link you will be presented with an explanation of Host On-Demand's own scripting language which is Java based.

Since the macros that have been previously written use Visual Basic the Java solution isn't the most appropriate so you can ignore the advice about contacting DET about Java. Instead click the link labeled [IBM EHLLAPI Enablement Tool V2](#).

After you click on the Enablement Tool link you will be presented with the dialog box (shown in figure 3 on the next page.) Click on the Open button to begin the installation.

In order to install Host On-Demand on your personal computer you will need to be an administrator or be a member of a group with administrator rights. If you are unsure of your administrator status go ahead with the installation and if you have trouble it may be because you don't have administrator rights.

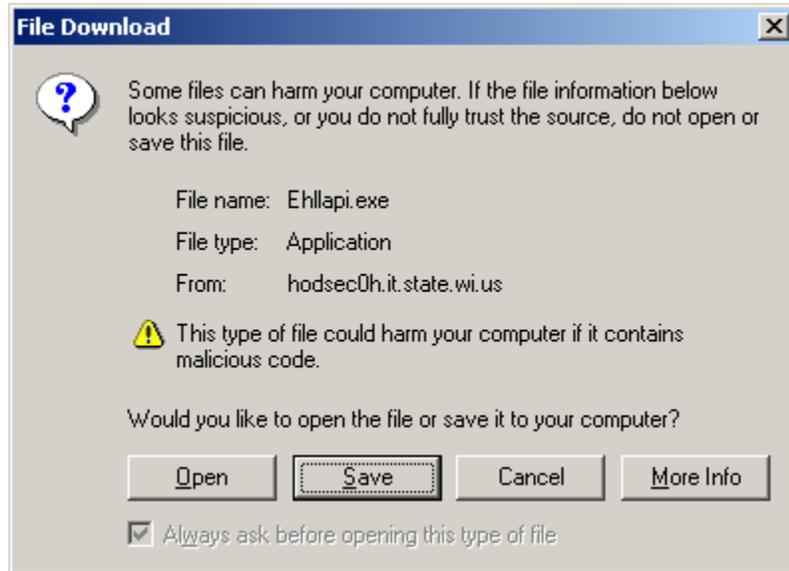


Figure 3

Installing EHLLAPI

Once you have selected open in the previous step, the setup program will automatically start (see figure 4 below). Click the Next button to continue the installation following the directions of the installation program. Several dialog boxes will be displayed indicating the progress of the installation. Accept the default information for installation.

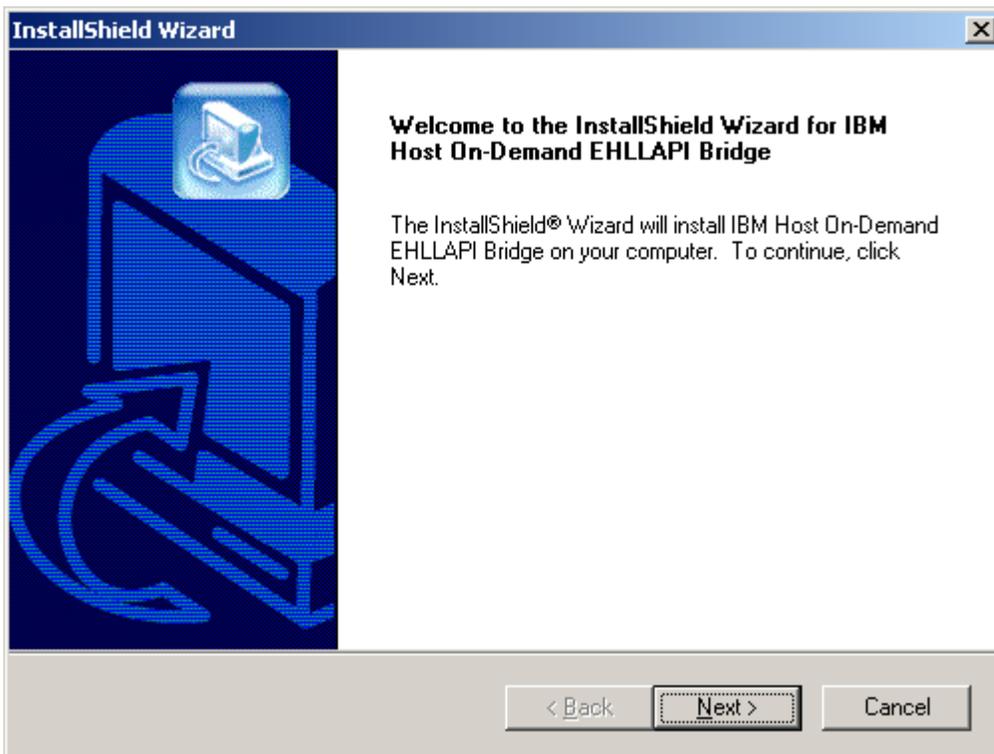


Figure 4

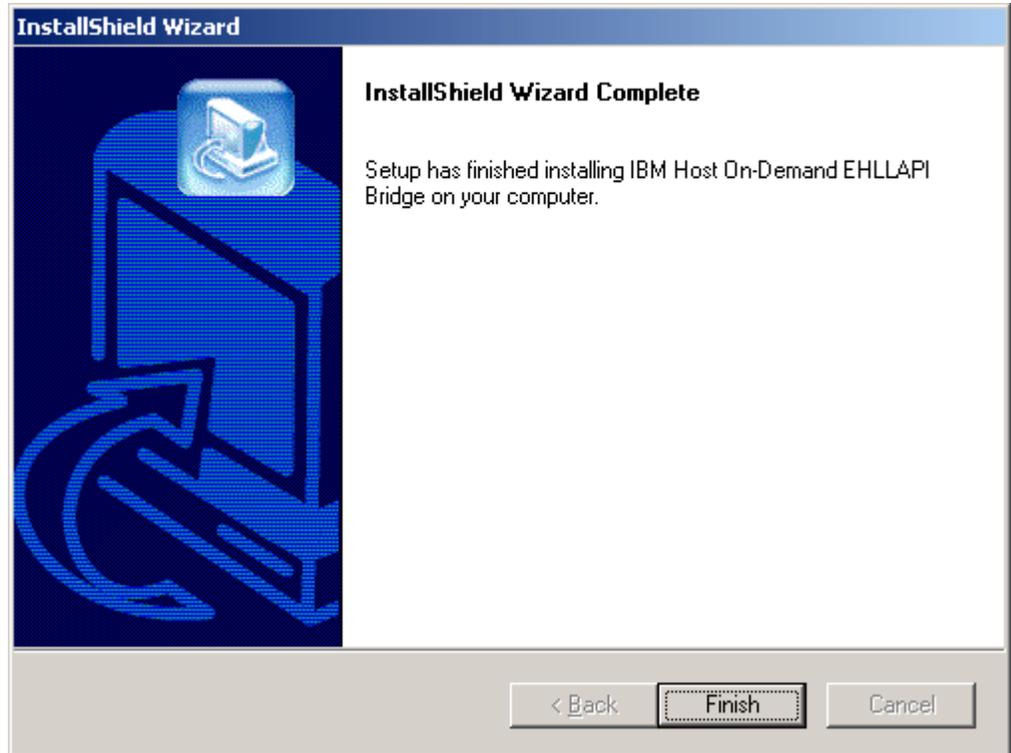


Figure 5

When the installation completes click on the Finish button (shown in figure 5 above).

Configuring Host On-Demand To Use EHLLAPI

Now that the EHLLAPI tool is installed Host On-Demand must be configured to recognize it. Start Host On-Demand as you normally would from your internet browser (unless of course it is already running) and proceed to the sessions screen shown in figure 6 below.

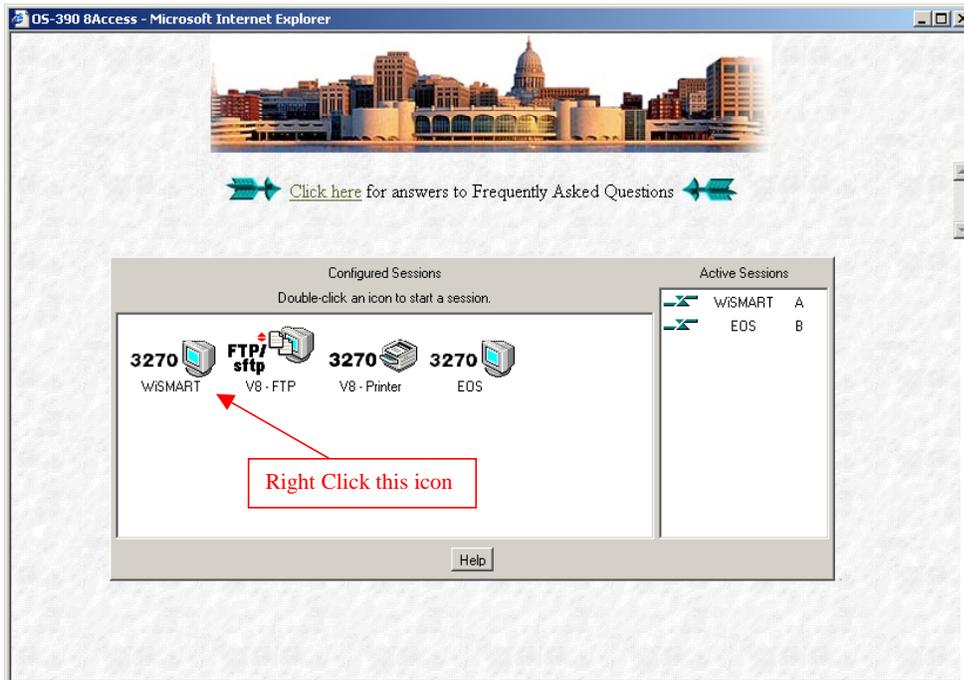


Figure 6

Right click with your mouse on the 3270 terminal emulator icon. The 3270 terminal emulator icon is a picture of a computer screen with the numbers 3270 written to the left of the computer screen. If you have more than one terminal emulator you need to configure both if you plan on running macros from both sessions. In the example above there are two emulators, one labeled WiSMART and the other EOS. When you right click with your mouse over one of these icons you will be presented with a menu, select the Properties option from that menu.

The window brought up by selecting the Properties menu is shown below in figure 7. Select the Start Options in the Preferences section located in the menu tree on the left pane of the window.

From the Applet/Macro dropdown box select the Applet option.

Type in the following text in the Name field:

com.ibm.eNetwork.hllbridge.HLLAPIEnabler

The name field is case sensitive so you must type the entry exactly as it is shown above or the EHLLAPI tool will not work and your macros will not run.

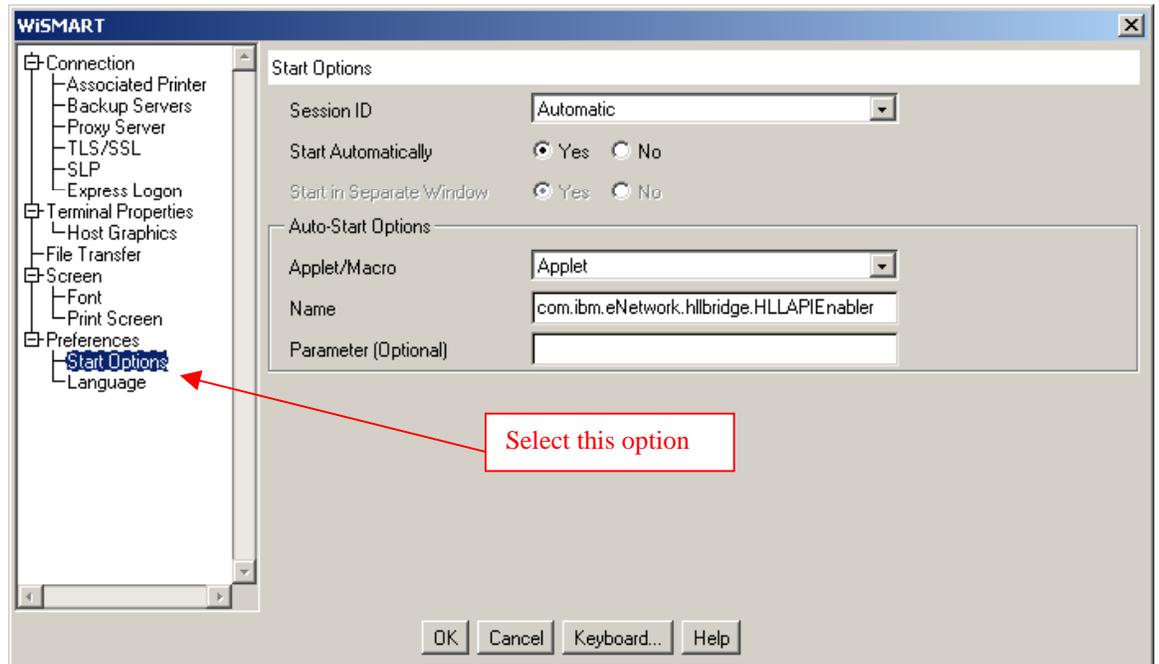


Figure 7

Once you have made these changes you can click the OK button to save the changes and exit this screen. You will need to close any sessions that were automatically opened when Host On-Demand was started and those sessions will have to be re-opened in order to take advantage of the new settings that enable your macros to communicate with Host On-Demand through EHLLAPI.

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At this point you should be able to run Visual Basic macros. Also be aware that upgrading from one version of Host On-Demand to another (unless done properly) will erase these settings so keep these instructions handy.

Good Luck!!!