

TPN Depot System – Installation on a Network

One of the problems that we seem to come up against is where a depot is running the program on a network.

If we consider a network with two computers then one will act as a master computer (normally a SERVER) and the other will act as what we call a SLAVE. In the case of the TPN system this really means that the program is installed on both computers, but the current data is only held on the SERVER.

Initially when we install the program it is installed on both computers. A separate copy of the program is installed on each and is normally held in a directory called TPN.

We only want the data to be held in one place, so we pick the SERVER as holding the current data. On this computer the data is held in a directory called TPN on its local C: drive. The SLAVE needs to look across to the SERVER and view the data in the TPN directory on that computer. We normally do this by a process called MAPPING A DRIVE.

All that MAPPING a drive means is that the C: drive on the SERVER becomes an accessible drive to the SLAVE computer. Because the SLAVE computer already has a C: drive the SERVER drive is given another driver letter. While valid drive letters are from A: to Z: it is normal to give this a drive letter of one between F: and Z:

In the example we are going to use the letter F:

After MAPPING THE DRIVE (see the Windows guide on how to do this) we need the SLAVE to look for its data in F:\TPN. We achieve this by going to UTILITIES in the program and then DATA PATHS. We simply browse for the F: drive and the TPN directory.

So to recap, the data directory on the SERVER will be C:\TPN while on the SLAVE it will be F:\TPN – this is indicated on the top line of the screen when in the program. You alter this in the program within SETUP and PARAMETERS.

Again the images must be in one place. Usually these are in C:\TPN\TPNIMAGES on the SERVER. So they are in F:\TPN\TPNIMAGES on the SLAVE computer. These are held in SETUP then PARAMETERS.

You must install the program on each computer that uses the system. You must not run the program from a MAPPED DRIVE on unpredictable result will occur.