

Uni-Spf Mouse Support

With V1.73 of uni-Spf, The Workstation Group has attempted to supply some limited support for the use of a mouse to position the text cursor. There is no current or planned support for full Copy/Cut/Paste support at this time.

This feature makes use of an obscure API created for mouse support within xterm's. Since it uses a communication channel between the application program and the actual terminal program being used by the end user, there must be support for this feature in that program. To date, three such programs seem to implement it and two do not.

Another issue for an end user is how to have both the mouse handling native to a terminal program as well as this new facility. For example, if a program is enabled to report mouse clicks to an application, it loses its ability to select text for the local Cut/Copy buffer.

1. The telnet/ssh client program PuTTY works well. To use native PuTTY mouse support, just hold the Shift key while performing mouse operations. A PuTTY user may choose to turn off this feature by going to the Terminal->Features dialog and checking the box for "Disable xterm-style mouse reporting."
2. The Windows telnet/ssh client program TeraTerm 4.6 also works well but you need to hold the Ctrl key to access native TeraTerm mouse support.
3. 'xterm' client on an XServer works since the interface was designed for it.
4. 'dtterm' client on an XServer had no apparent support. Don't confuse this mode with the more common usage of 'dtterm' as the TERM variable setting within one of the working ssh/telnet clients mentioned above. Cursor support does work in those situations.
5. The Windows Rumba Unix client does not appear to have any support for this interface.

It is possible that a user may not want to use this feature or that it does not work properly. The enablement and disablement is handled in the 'ispf' shell script which normally invokes uni-Spf. If an individual wants to disable this feature he or she need only establish the environment variable SPFMOUSECLICK to have the value OFF and the 'ispf' script will not enable it. Similarly, if a site wants to prohibit this feature, there is a line commented out in the 'ispf' script which needs only to be uncommented.