Contents

Welcome to use IF 1.5b ! New users may begin with "Introduction".
Experienced users please refer to "What's new." You should also refer to Cautions & Tips
before you use the advanced function such as "restart or timer download.

For help on using help, press F1 .

Introduction

This software ,"Intelligent Ftp.", is designed to facilitate users transferring files on Internet. Many users have experienced tedious waiting when they transfer files at the time network is busy or the file is quite lengthy. It is normal for them to wait minutes or even hours before files transfer completed. With "I.F." you can let this kind of labor to computer and relax your self. You can pick up your favorite files in the "i'net File transfer machine" dialog, and set the time at which you want to transfer (e.g. The "half-price" time of your ISP), then simply press "Start". Your computer, now act as a timed fax machine, will wait till that time, then connect to remote host, fetch files in the file list, then close this connection and connect to another ftp site appointed by you , fetch files, and so on. Finally, when all the files are transferred, the connection will be close and, if you use modem to connect to Internet, "IF" can also "hang-up" the telephone by sending commands to your dialer if you wish. "IF" can also handle common transfer errors, and using customized logic to retry connection or commands , if necessary, The whole process can be performed automatically, so you can go to do other things or even go to sleep while "IF" is working.

Other Features
1. "URL Shortcut" floating button: easy-going link with your Web browser. Facilitates getting files   in "instant", "batch" or "timed" mode.
2 Supporting download files from Web (http) server.
3. "Restart" function facilitates file transferring and makes it more efficient.
4. FTP Command line for experienced user to perform advanced operations.
5. Directory sorting and filtering: quick sort your file list in name, date, or size with name filtering . Helps you fast locate your favorite files.
6. Improved compatibility with Trumpet Winsock. Now timer download can work properly with trumpet winsocket dialer.
7. Open / Display remote files which associated with Windows, just as you double click them in file manager.
8. Directory cache: Speed up file listing of previous cached directory.

What's new in IF1.5B

(1) URL Shortcut

A floating button to facilitate you using "I.F. " with I.E., Netscape Navigator, or Spry Mosaic. In your web browser, you can send command to"I.F. " and add files to "Timer Download List" or download them immediately . All you have to do is to right-click the "Hyper" (blue) text, select "copy link location" or "copy document URL" in the pop up menu, then click the URL Shortcut   floating button. IF will get the document URL (Location), analysis the file name and protocol (FTP or HTTP) and display it in the "URL" dialog. Click "Add to list" will add this file to the Timer download list of "IF", or you can click "get now" to get them now from the Web server or FTP server.

(2) Restart transfer function
The "restart" command is a very useful function in ftp operation. When connection is broken in file transferring, user will get incomplete files. When the whole file is big, transfer again will be tiresome , and might be interrupted again. With the "Restart" function , you can transfer only the "un-transferred" part of the file and save your time. You need to specify a position in the file to restart transfer, then "IF" will automatically append to your local file or generate a new file.

(3) FTP command line
Experienced users can use this function to perform advanced ftp operations such as make directories, deleting files, change names on remote server. (Depends on user's privilege)

Improvements to IF1.5a:
◆   Automatic connection allow to launch a program (you dialer EXE) when going to connect. Enables automatic start 32 Bit winsocket by using start32.exe.
◆   Allow longer file/path name or shortcut name . Improved file display.(full name)
◆   Improved Timer download Engine, more robust & allow user adjust Timer out values to best adapt to users system.
◆   Directory cache: Speed up file listing of previous cached directory.

Shareware Declarations

This software is a shareware. You are encouraged to evaluate it and distribute it. However, after a 21-day trial period, if you like this software and use it, you should send in your registration form and US$19 to :
>   Xiao Quan, 26#315, BUAA
>   P.O.Box085, Beijing 100083
>   P. R. China

The registration fee should be in forms of check or international money order. You will become registered and obtain an upgraded commercial version of this software ,which is more powerful. (Since the upgrade version is delivered by e-mail, you must also indicate an e-mail address so that we can send the software to you.)
 *For people in China, the special price is RMB99.00 .

 If you met problems using "IF", you can report to :
 jamesxiao@iuol.cn.net .

 Optional components: Timer upload function module : Add US$15.
 Special timing or other re-developing requirements : Please contact author.
 License fee (commercial version) for including in other package or distribution: depends on quantity. Please contact author.

 Because of the complexity of the Internet and computer system,
 IN NO EVENT SHALL THE AUTHOR OF THIS SOFTWARE BE LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGES WHATSOEVER INCLUDING DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, LOSS OF BUSINESS PROFITS OR SPECIAL DAMAGES, EVEN IF THE AUTHOR HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES.

Installation & Setup

Installation:
1. Use pkunzip to extract iftp files to a specific directory.
   (e.g. c:\IFTP).
2. In windows3.1 :
   a. Click "File/New" from program manager. Select "Program
      Group", then press OK and enter "iFTP" or other name you
      like. Then press 'Enter'.
   b. Open file manager, change to iftp directory, and drag
      "IF15" and other icons to the new created program group
      window or other group you desired.
   In Windows 95:
   You can Drag "IF15" Icon from Explorer window to desktop to
   create a shortcut.

Setting up:
You need to setup automatic connect and shut down for timer download functions. Please
refer to
<u>Notes To use the automation "recorder"</u>

Notes To use the automation "recorder"

Setting up automatic connect:

If you are using dial-up method to connect to Internet, you probably have a dialer program. If your dialer does not have an automatic login function,(that is, needs manual input to log in), you can use the "intelligent recording" function of this software.
During "Setup connection", when "I.F" connect to certain ftp sites, several dialog window may pop up to user, asking for input. "I.F" can remember every window popped up during connecting and record actions done to these window. Since these actions are specific to certain window, and "I.F" play back only when the window is popped up again in proper sequence, It is much more reliable and "intelligent" than normal Windows Marco recorder. Please follow the prompt step-by-step during setup.
When a new window pops up, the "IF recorder" interface also appears. Click "record" to record actions to the window. By clicking "record", the "IF recorder" interface hides. The recording will begin at the time <u>when target window was activated</u>. The recording will automatically stops when the window is removed. Or, you can <u>press "F2" to stop recording</u> manually. If you click "Hide me!" or do not operate the "IF recorder" dialog, actions to that window is ignored. Some times, when an error dialog pops up during connection, you had better record your actions to that dialog. Check the "error" check on the "IF recorder" dialog and press "record", then "I.F" will remember this windows as "error window" type, which means actions to this window can be played back even if this window appears out-of-sequence (to other windows).After the connection is made, the "Internet File Transfer Machine" dialog (our main interface) will appear. You can exit the dialog and continue to setup automatic shutdown.
 <u>*If your dialer do not automatically start:</u> Fill the dialer EXE file name parameter in the "Dialer program" Edit box in Step2 of "Setup Connection" . If you are using Windows95's "Dial up networking", try fill in "start32.exe", which is a 32bit winsocket service startup program.

 <u>Setting up automatic shutdown</u>:

Setting up automatic shutdown is slightly different from Setting up automatic connect. You should take advantage of the automation function of your dialer. If your dialer can not automatically hang-up, you should select "Need Manually Hang up" in the "Setup dialer automatically shut down" Dialog.
Since many dialer hang-up the phone when closed, "I.F. " will send "Close" message to the dialer window to hang-up the phone and shut down connection to Internet. Please follow the prompt step-by-step carefully during setup. After you "capture" the dialer window in setup 2 and pressed "Close&REC" in step 3, "I.F." will try to close it. You should record actions to every dialog that pops up during hang-up. However, if you check <u>"Method 2" in dialog step 3</u>, "IF" will not try to close the dialer window, instead, it will directly bring you to that window and start recording. You <u>must press "F2" to stop recording</u>.

After setup auto-connect and hangup, you must exit and restart "I.F." before performing any FTP operations.

How to use

0. This software is a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) client application for Windows. You should config you system and connection parameters properly before "I.F." can work. It needs winsock.dll to perform network operation.

1. You should setup connection automation and method to connect to Internet. This will enable 'I.F.' to connect to your desired FTP server automatically in timer downloading. Click "automation setup" and select "setup auto-connect". You should fill in your e-mail address and select connection method. Then press next and follow the instructions step by step. Noted that two kinds of re-dial mode is supported, If your dialer program can redial automatically, you may chose "Direct connection" in the first page, or select "Spry" dialer. and chose "Automatic "the second page. If your dialer can automatic start when IF connects to a host, do not fill in the dialer program edit box. Noted that some language version of Win95 conflicts with Marco recording function of I.F., in this case, only the Direct connection can be used. (This selection also supports dialer programs that have automatic dialing and hang-up functions)

2. You should also setup automatic-shutdown function if you use modem to connect to Internet, This will enables 'I.F.' to automatically close connection and hang-up telephone (through your dialer program). If your dialer program do not have the function of auto-hang-up when idle for a period of time, or not reliable, you should record actions to close it manually.
(Please refer to <ins>Notes To use the automation "recorder"</ins>). If your dialer can automatically hang-up phone after certain time of Idle or by detection of "not using" status , you can chose "Automatic hang up" in this page.

3. You can connect to an FTP site by click "GO!" from the "File/FTP" menu. Then the "Internet File transfer machine" dialog will appear. This is the main interface for your FTP operation. Click "connect" button at the top left of the dialog to connect to an ftp site. (Please refer to "Main Interface and its usage" section below.)

4. If you want to perform an automated timer download of files , you should generate a list of files, so that "IF" can do it in a batch. Use "Internet File Transfer Machine" Dialog, click connect, check the "Timer download" check in the "Site login" dialog. After connected ,double click your desired files in left-hand file list box , the file name (include path) will be added to the right-hand file list box (download list) and display its name in "file name" edit box.. Detailed operation please refer to the <ins>Generate download file list: (For Timer download)</ins>
section below. After all desired files are added, click "save list" button (Located at down-right corner). The file list will be saved as IFTDL.LST under windows dir.

5. After setting time (by click the "setting button") and pressed "Start", "IF" will begin timing. You should not perform ftp operations manually on this interface. If you want to quit, simply press "Exit".

6. After timer downloading, select "Recent TDL Result" form "File/FTP" menu. Check for downloaded files and IFTDL.LOG for file's temporary name (if long UNIX file name was met while downloading) and IF_ERR.LOG   to see if   there were errors in   downloading.

Main Interface and its usage

In the main menu, select item File/FTP and click "Go!", The "Internet File transfer machine" dialog window will appear. This is the main ftp operation panel. It looks like a fax machine and the operation is similar.
There are two main things that you can do with this panel. First you can directly go to an FTP Site by pressing "Connect" button. A "Site login" dialog box prompts you for ftp host name, account(user name) and password. You can check "Timer Download" check in this dialog. This allows you to generate a list of files by which 'I.F.' may download automatically. After pressing the "OK" button, 'I.F' will try to connect to the site. Just like you are making an instant call. After connected, the contents of the site (file and directories) are showed on list box on the left-hand. Double click the directory names changes the directory. Select a file name and press "Get /Disp." will get the file from ftp site's current directory. You can choose save it, display it, or open it with existing associations. Before you change to another ftp site, you should press "close" button on the upper left of the panel. If the connection is problematic, such as you have wait for a long time for changing directory or listing, you may press "Abort" button on the bottom left of the panel, this will cancel the last command sent. Some times while 'I.F' is busy, some buttons are disabled. Press the 'abort' button also reactivate these buttons (not recommended).
The second thing you can do is to perform timer download. After you have generate a timer download list and save it(refer to Generate download file list: (For Timer download) for detail), you can press the setting button to set the time to begin and end. Then press "Start" button to start the waiting status. The dialog box are "shrunk" to prevent inadvertent operations that interrupt the process.

Buttons

Options

Buttons

Upper:
ISP Login: some dialer program may need this button to log in to ISP (startup dialer).
Connect - connects to a ftp site.
Close   - close the connection
Start : start the timer-download timer. (You must first setting the timer).
Setting: sets the start and stop time of timer-download.
Option: set application options.
- up / + Expand - resize the window.
Left-hand.
Get/Disp. - Get /Display/Open the selected file immediately.
PutNow - Put (STORE) the selected file to server immediately.
Restart -   Restart file transferring.   You should specify a file to append to and the offset. If the file is incomplete because of transfer interrupted, better enter an offset slightly less than its file length, because the last bytes of the file may be incorrect. Please refer to What's new in IF1.5   section 2 for detail.
 Command- By pressing this button, you can save the current remote
        directory to disk (displayed in unix format).You can reference
        the directory later.
Directory -- Directory operations. such as change dir., list contents, get current directory.
Abort -- Quit previous commands.
Double-click left-hand file list box:
        for directory, change to it.
        for file , add to "Timer download" list on the right, and display it in "File name" edit.

Right-hand.
URL Shortcut -- bring up the "URL Shortcut" floating button. Please refer to What's new in IF1.5   for detail
Add: Insert file names in the "File Name" List box to download list.
Get Left -- Get left-hand file (copy its full pathname to right-hand edit box.)   Equal to Double-click left-hand file list box:
Remove -- Remove a file or connection(and all files belong to it)
Save List -- saves timer download filename to disk.
Help -- Help of using main interface.

Caution: If file name is very long (>=100 bytes), please save current dir and refer to it for exact full path names. If you want to add this file to timer download list,, please enter full path name in the "File name" edit and press "Add" to insert it into current list.
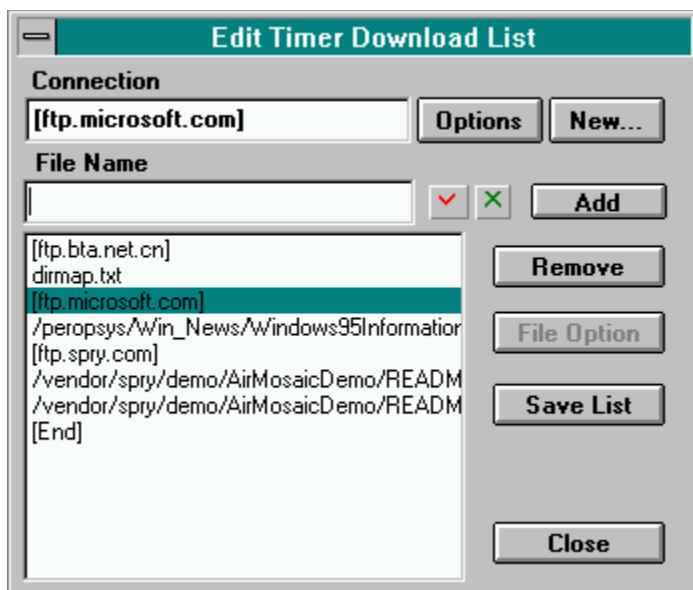
Generate download file list: (For Timer download)

In the Main interface, after you have connected to a ftp site as "Timer Download" mode (That is, with the "Timer Download" checked in the "Site login" dialog). Double-click a file name which you want to down load in the file list box (on the left). The file name will be added to the right-hand list box, and the full path name will appears in the "file name" edit box (on the right). You can change its name and click the confirm button. Click the "Add" button to add one item to the list.

Please Notice this operation will   take effect only when you had checked   "Timer Download" check in   the "Site Login" dialog. If you know the full path name of a file at this ftp site, you can   also directly enter it in the "file name" edit box without changing to its directory. and press "Add" to add to list. After all the desired file   names are added to the list, click the "save list" button and   the file list will be saved as "IFTDL.LST". (Previous list file will change to "IFTDL.BAK").

Edit TDL File list:
In our registered commercial version of this software, you will have a full function timer download list editor, which enables you to add/delete the connections and files. Setting customized retry "Logic" for every connection. Select "Edit TDL file list" from "File/FTP" menu. The "Edit timer download list" dialog will appear. To edit the properties of a connection, select "Connections" (which begins with " [") and press "Option" button in the same raw. In the "Connection property" dialog you can change its properties such as Site, user name, retry and "redo" times. Noted that the "Try times" means first time + immediately retry times, so must be 1 or grater. The "Redo" times is the times which retry again at the time all other connections are finished. Set it to "0" will disable this "Later retry" function. All retry times should <10.

In unregistered shareware version: Manually edit the timer download (Not recommended) Better to re-generate the list again. If you want to edit the list manually, please be careful about the numbers should be correct: TotalCNT is Total Number of connections. TotalCMD is Total Number of commands in one connection. Commands ("CMD X") and numbers begin from 0.

*After timer downloading, REMEMBER to select "Recent TDL Result" form "File/FTP" menu and check the "IFTDL.LOG" for downloaded file names (only contains unresolved names and names that conflicts with existing file names),"IF_ERR.LOG" for errors.

Options

Press the "Option" button on the upper right of the panel, an   "Options" dialog will appear. check or uncheck desired selections will affect program's behaviors.

*Beep if Error/Finished
 During timer download, if there are unrecoverable error occurs or when transfer finished , beep to notify user.

*Retry when Err (1 retry)
 Enable retry if error occurs in timer downloading.

*Confirm Changing Dir.
 A dialog   will pop up when you double   click directory. You can   change the directory name to get any valid directory on the ftp   server,   and needn't   changing   directory step-by-step.

*Try close any dialog(Not recorded) while timer downloading :
 This is a "Error recovery" function, it is   designed to deal   with unexpected error dialogs that may halt the automatic process. Such affects the continuation of the process   and waste link time. In case of such "unexpected" dialog(That is, the dialog did not appear when recording automate-connect actions) appears, this function will try to close the dialog after 50 seconds by sending "OK", "YES" or   "Cancel" to the dialog. (The time can be adjusted in INI file)
 Please noted that in "Direct connection" mode, this function is not available.

*Timer Download Dir.
 The directory to which "IF" will put downloaded files. Noted that if long UNIX file names are met in downloading, "IF" will generate shortened 8.3 file names. If file name exists, a temporary file will be generated at your "temp" directory. You can use "dir /od" command to find out what is the newest download files, and refer to IFTDL.LOG (at your windows directory) for long-file names.

*Download file viewer: Text editor to display downloaded text files. Usually "write" (Windows write of word pad) will be OK.

Use Timer Download Tips

1.You should close other applications which use winsocket (such as your WEB browser) in timer download. These applications affects the re-dial behavior of Dialer. (No restriction for "Direct connect" users).
2 Take advantage of Dialer's auto-functions. For example, you can set the dialer connect mode to "Auto " and Hang-up mode to "Auto hang-up"
3. Remember to check the "Timer download" check if you want to generate timer-download file list. Or the interface won't response when you double click left-hand file list) Also remember to press "Start" after you set the timer. (Or nothing will happened)
4. Place most reliable site first.
 Since the download time is limited, and errors which cause re-dial or re-connection may occur during the download   process, it is favorable to put the most reliable site you are going on the front part of your download list. Thus you can save time and reduce the risk of a single mistake cause the whole process of download stop.
5. Pick the time which the "traffic" on the network is low. Since the retry time is 1, a more "smooth" transfer increase the chance of successful transfer.
6. You can use this software at night while you are sleeping, but you'd better set your alarm clock to the time which the transfer should have stopped. This prevents further lost in event the program failed to hang up telephone, although this rarely happens.
7. Had better turn off your screen saver while timer downloading. Extra window might affects the playback of Marco.(you can turn off your display to save it)
8. After timer download, some process state is not cleared (to facillitate manual retry or continue). But if you want to perform a new timer download process or other "instant" ftp operation, please exit and restart "I.F."

Caution: Recording files located at c:\; ("IFREC.ACT" and "IFREC.DAT"), Do not remove them
Please refer to IF Files

Adjust timer parameters

In IF 1.5b, you can adjust the retry timer parameter in IF.ini so that "I.F." will better adapt to your system. Three parameters that can be adjusted are:

Connection time out value (in seconds)
By adjusting this value , you can change the waiting time of "I.F." for connection. If this time period is over and "IF" still have not connected to a ftp site, then "I.F." will retry.(Redial if select "redail retry" in option) for once.
Location: in IF.INI:
[Timer]
CNT_TIMEOUT=XXX
(Default = 220 sec, valid range: 50~610)

File operation command time out value (in seconds)
By adjusting this value , you can change the waiting time of "I.F." for ftp file operation. If this time period is over and "I.F." have not received any response from server, then " IF " will retry.(If select "retry" in option) .or goto next command.
Location: in IF.INI:
[Timer]
...
CMD_ TIMEOUT =XX
(Default = 75 sec, valid range: 15~360)

"Try close any dialog in timer download" timer value (in seconds) (Option)
Adjust this value to change the waiting time to close a unexpected dialog box (that have not appeared in the action recording of auto-connection setup).
Location: in IF.INI:
[Timer]
...
DLG_AUTOCLOSE_ TIMEOUT =XX
(Default = 50 sec, valid range: 10~510)

Noted that the default value have been tested under several environments. Normally you needn' t change them. The accuracy of timer is 3 second.

Important Limitations

This version of "IF" is a <u>shareware version</u>. Some restrictions are added to the software.
1. The max. number of connections in timer download is restricted to 3, The time you can set (start time and stop time) must within 24 hours from current time. The max. time span from start to stop is restricted to 3 hours.
2. Simplified retry logic: Now Only 1 sequenced retry (retry immediately after error occurs) is provided. Although this method is effective in handling many errors, it is better to let user to decide the times and method (retry immediately or some time later) of retrying. The upgraded version (see upper "shareware declarations" to know where to get) have included the above function.
3. No command-line parameters.
4. Although URL-Shortcut dialog can load files directly from HTTP server. Only in registered version can the files be added to timer download list.
5. The max. offset of "restart" is restricted to 2 MB.

If you register to the author, you can obtain an <u>upgraded commercial version</u> of "I.F", some features are:
1. Up to 32 connections are permitted. No time limits (start, span) are added.
2. No size restriction for "restart offset".
3. In URL-Shortcut dialog , can add files which locates at HTTP server to download list.
4. customized retry logic: User can decide the retry times and method (retry immediately or some time later) of retrying before timer downloading.
5. Have an download file list editor. You can add/delete files, connections in timer download list, and change retry properties of them.
6. command-line parameter support. User can specify time, through command line.

Cautions,Knowing Problems & Tips

The most important thing is to beware of the server's response to your command. No command (except Abort)can be send before previous command's response have come.

Difference of server response:
  Some of the FTP site's "LIST" response are not standard, (not in UNIX ls format), this may cause left-hand file list display incorrectly. (e.g. Can not see sub dirs.) In such case, you can use the "save dir." function in the "directory operation" dialog. (Pop up by "Directory.." button), save list (text mode) to an .TXT file, and use notepad or other editor to see its contents. Use "Directory operation" dialog to change dir.

Difference of winsocket
 Because there are many kinds of winsockect, we have not test "I.F" on every environment. If you have a winsock-compatible problem, you may try using SPRY winsock (16bit winsock.dll) or Trumpet winsock 2.1f with "I.F". Win95 TCP/IP stack users: if the 'Dial up networking' do not automatically start, try using the "start32.exe" to start it. (fill in the dialer program edit box in setup auto-connection page2)

Restart function TIP: In restart file transferring, you should specify a file to append to and an offset. If the file is incomplete because of transfer interrupted, better enter an offset less than its file length, because the last bytes of the file may be incorrect.
 Do not specify an offset greater than file length.

If file name is too long (>100 bytes), please save current dir and refer to it for exact full path name. If you want to add this file to timer download list, please enter full path name in the "File name" edit and press add to insert it to current list.

URL shortcut
*download TIP: Beware of the length of server response. If length is less than 200 bytes, normally it is an error message such as file not find. "I.F." will display a dialog to display this HTML format message. If it is "File not find", then needn't save this reply.
This function can be used as "background downloading" while your browser is loading other files. Note that "IF" can not connect to two or more FTP sites simultaneously.
*Please also noted that in IF , web operation such as query DNS and FTP operations such as RETRIEVE (Get) can not work simultaneously.

Cautions for Timer download:
1.You should close other applications which uses winsocket (such as your WEB browser) in timer download. These applications affects the re-dial behavior of Dialer.(No restriction for "Direct connect" users)
2 Take advantage of Dialer's auto-functions. For example, you can set the dialer connect mode to "Auto " and Hangup mode to "Auto hang-up" if your dialer support this function .

Cautions for the "Try Close any dialog while timer download" option
This is a "Error recovery" function, which is designed to deal with " unexpected " error dialogs (That is, the dialog did not appear when recording automatic-connect actions) and prevent them from halting the automatic process. If you choose "automatic logon" and "automatic shutdown" in setup, you will not record any window and actions. So this function may close your dialer status window (for "I.F." do not recognize it) in connecting. So in this case, you can turn this option off , or set a long waiting time for the timer. (The time can be adjusted in INI file, refer to Adjusting Timer parameters)
Another method is to set the auto-connection mode to "manual". Although you do nothing in the process of automatic process, "I.F. " will remember all the window appears, and wont try to close them in the "Try close any dialog" function. Please noted that in "Direct

connection" mode, this function is not available.

You should exit and restart "IF" after setup ot timer download before performing new ftp operations. (Because some process state is not cleared to facillitate manual retry)

Some 32bit network-related software may affect the "Capture" of dialer window in "Setup Auto hangup". In this case, restart windows and close all un-necessary windows and applications.

IF Files

IF   INI file: IF.INI , records option etc.
IF   Timer Download List file: IFTDL.LST (Current) and IFTDL.BAK(Previous)
IF   File loading log file (generated file names when host file name in-compatible with PC.)
IF   Error log file: IF_ERR.LOG at c:\;

IF   Marco recording   file: IFTDL.ACT,IFTDL.DAT , Located at c:\;
Caution:
1. Please DO NOT move them to other directory.
2.These files are cleared and re-write when setup automatic connect step3 is performed. Be sure to copy these files to other place ,if you want to keep previous recordings.
3.Please be sure the recordings can work before start timer download.
4.Had better turn off your screen saver while timer downloading. Extra window might affects the playback of marco.(you can turn off your monitor)
5.Use the "Clear old log files" function to delete the log files (IFTDL.LOG and IF_ERR.LOG) timely. New file names and errors will easily be located.