

Getting ATG to run using Windows Task Scheduler

ATG normally runs as a console application on the server. Often it is set to automatically launch as soon as the console is logged on. However in some shops this sometimes presents a bit of a coordination challenge. There is always the possibility that someone will close the ATG application, or will logoff the console session. Or possibly a remote desktop session will be launched with the same username as the console, and which may auto-start its own copy of ATG.

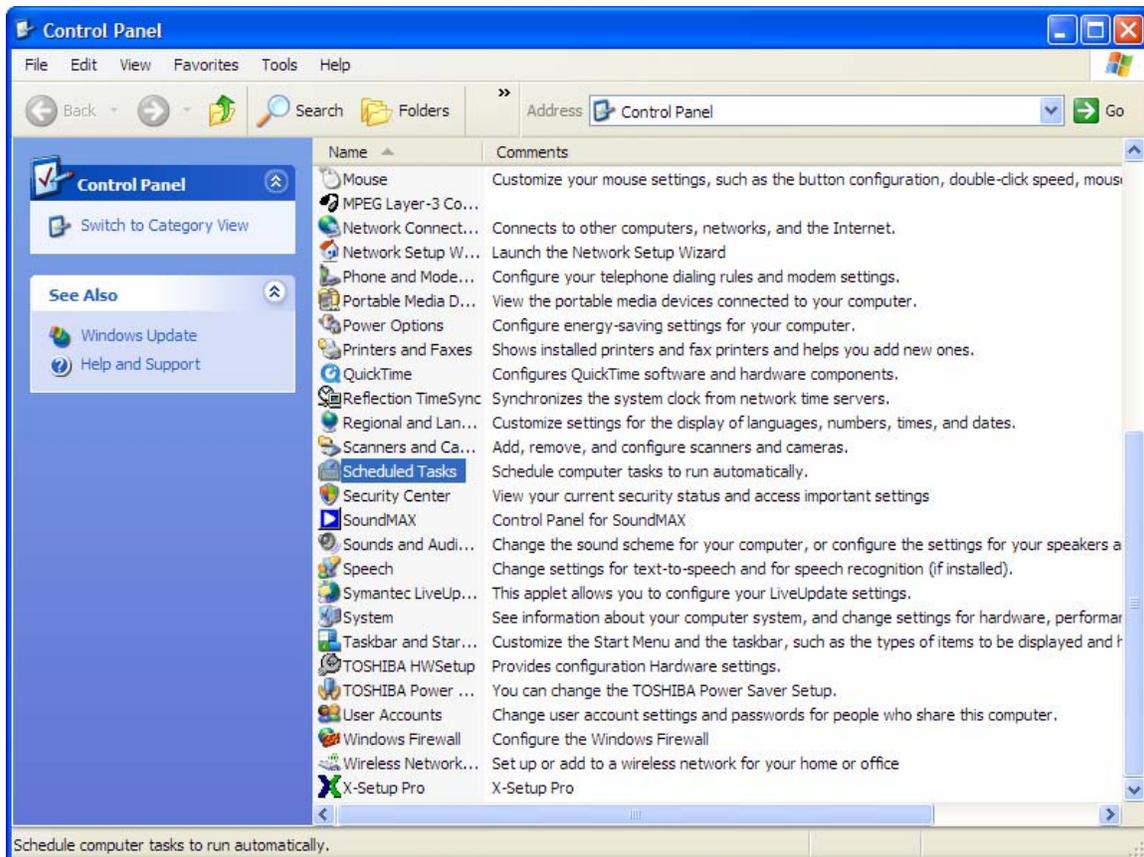
Here is an approach that uses the Task Scheduler inside Windows to launch ATG throughout the day, without requiring any special coordination effort on the part of the users of the server. With this approach ATG is not launched from the Startup program group of any user.

Example: we will schedule ATG to run every 15 minutes throughout the day and night, except during the time that the nightly backup is running. The backup starts at 11:15 PM every night, and takes a few hours. It is always done by 3:00 AM.

Therefore we will set ATG to run every 15 minutes from 3:00 AM to 11:00 PM.

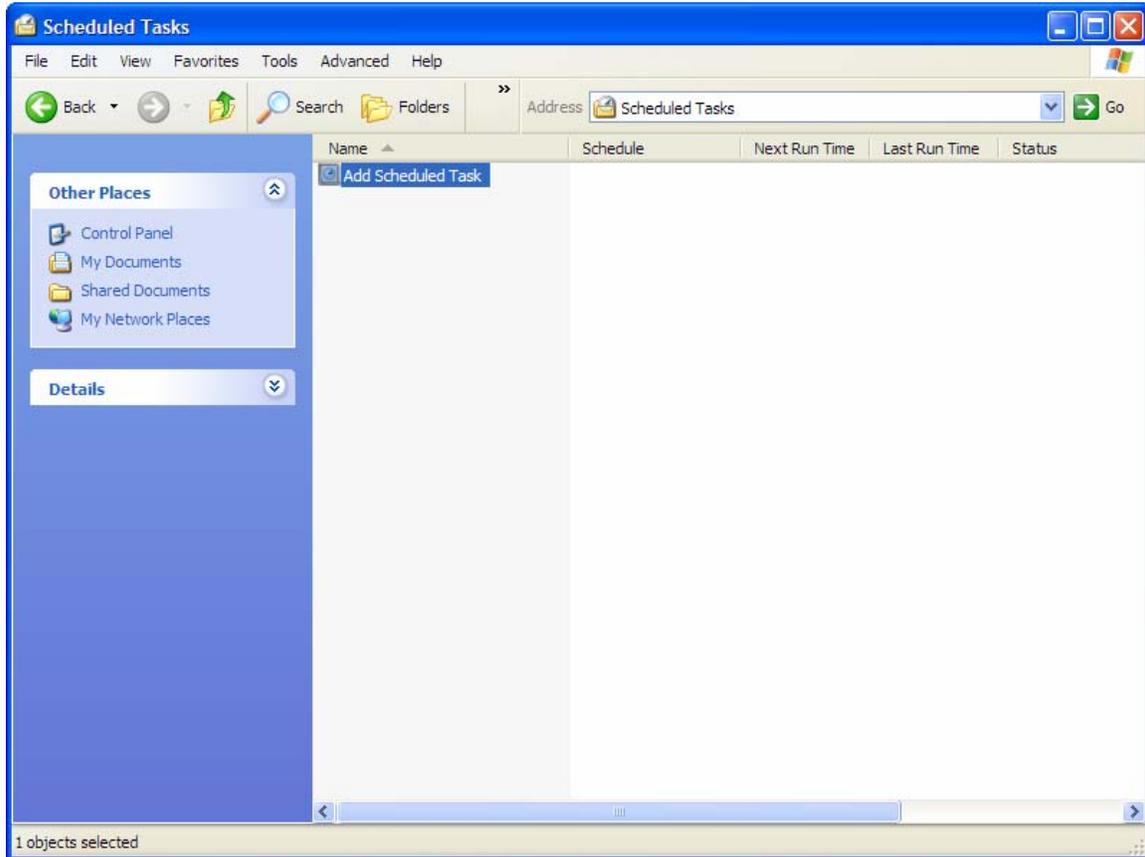
Setting up the Scheduled Task

Launch Task Scheduler from the Windows Control Panel:



Double click on Scheduled Tasks

Add a new scheduled task:

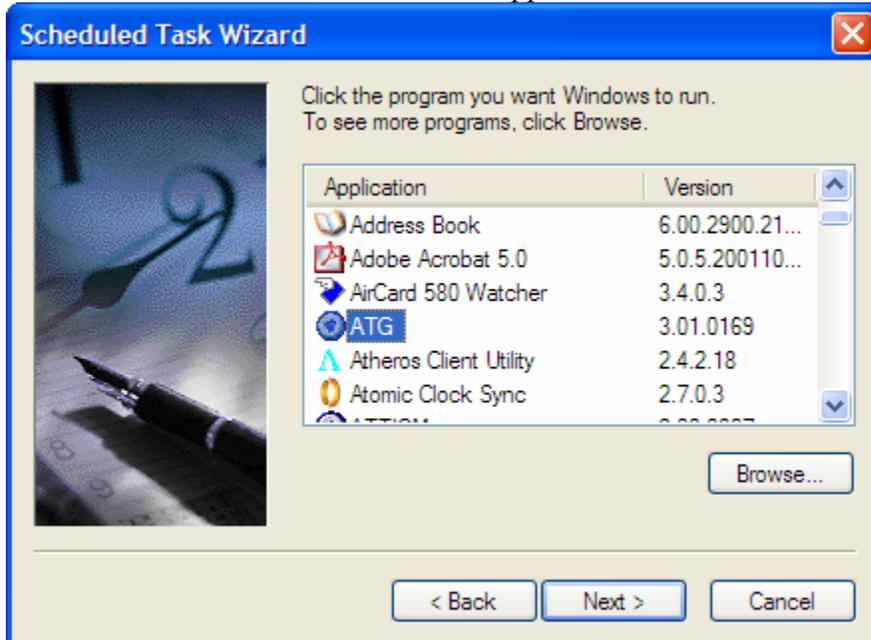


Double click on Add Scheduled Task.



Press Next.

Choose ATG from the list of installed applications:



Press Next.

Select Daily:



Press Next

Choose the time you want it to start running every day. That is, choose the first time you want it to run every day.



Scheduled Task Wizard

Select the time and day you want this task to start.

Start time:
3:00 AM

Perform this task:

Every Day
 Weekdays
 Every 1 days

Start date:
02/10/2006

< Back Next > Cancel

Press Next

Enter the user name and password of the user who should run ATG:



Scheduled Task Wizard

Enter the name and password of a user. The task will run as if it were started by that user.

Enter the user name: mike

Enter the password: ●●●●●●●●●●

Confirm password: ●●●●●●●●●●

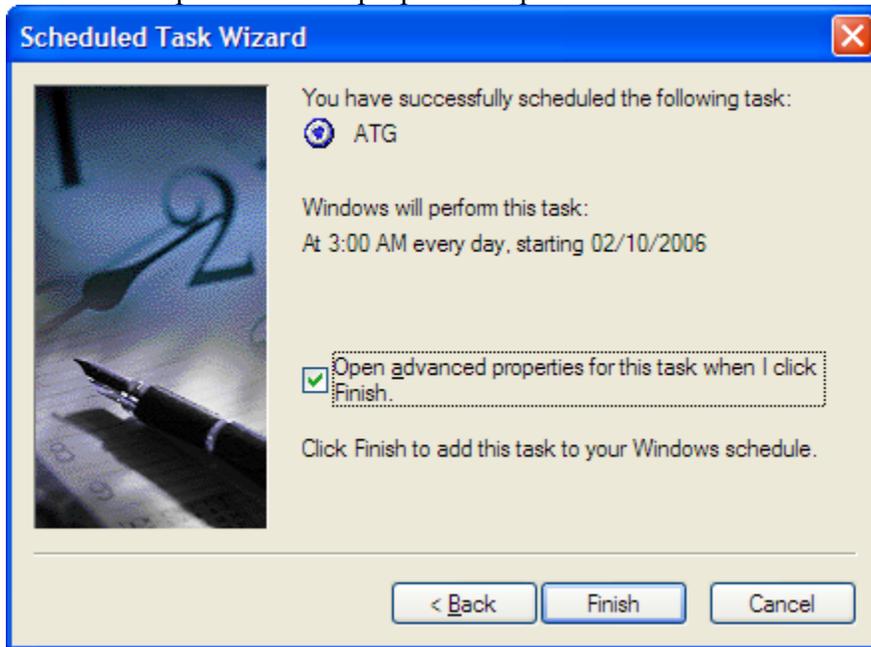
If a password is not entered, scheduled tasks might not run.

< Back Next > Cancel

If the console is logged on as this user when ATG is launched, you will see ATG running. If the console is not logged on, or is logged on as another user, ATG will run invisibly in the background.

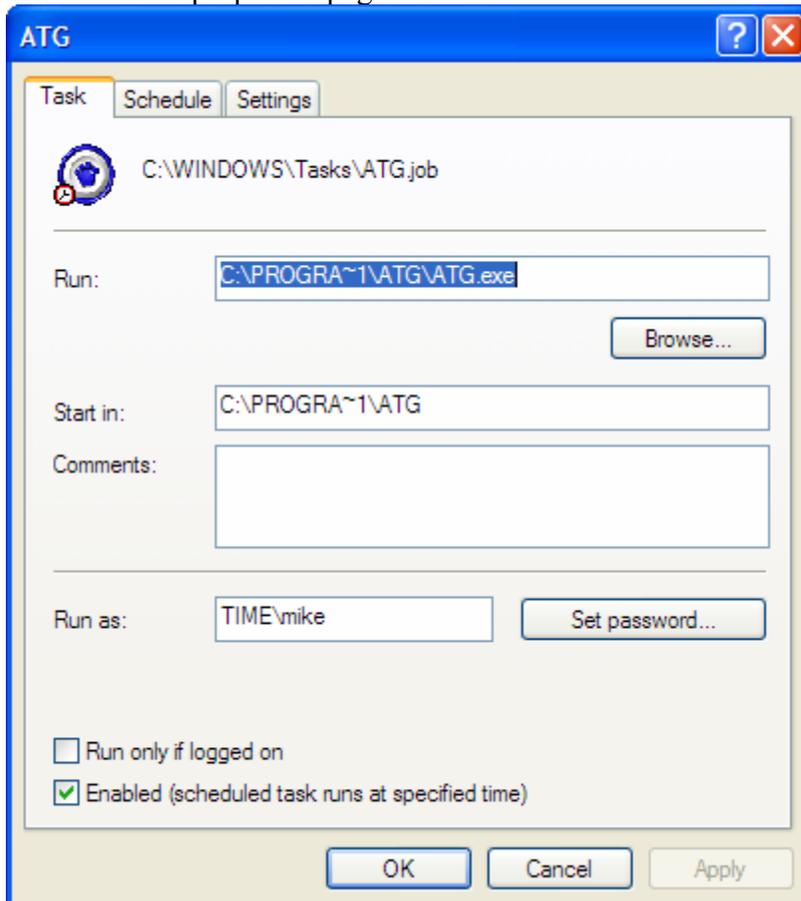
Press Next

Check the 'Open advanced properties' option

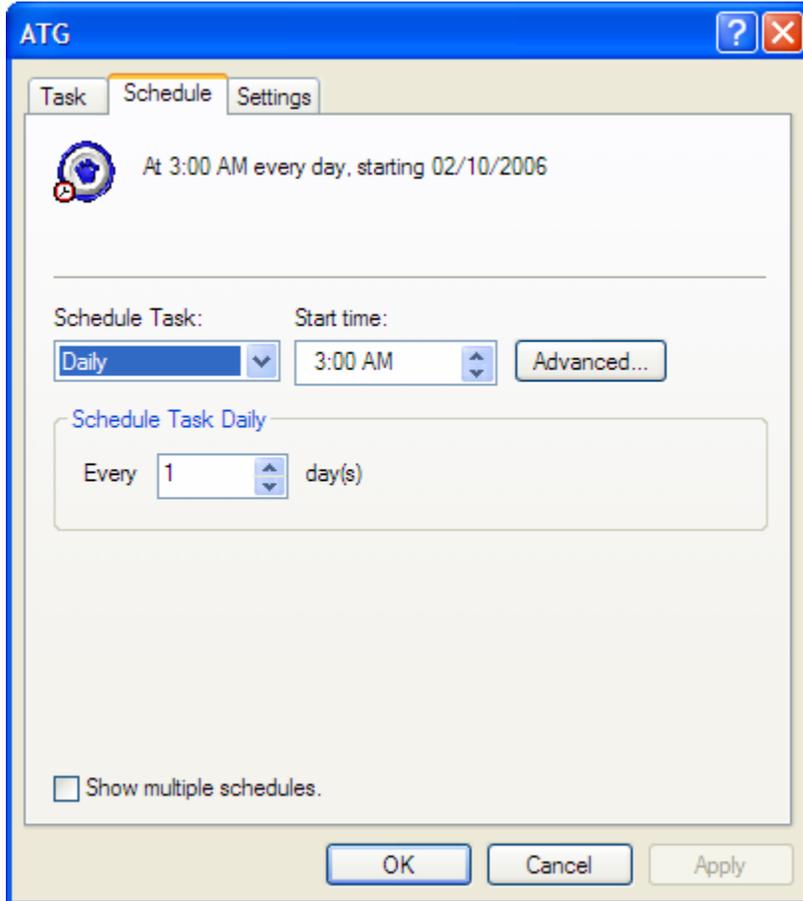


Press Finish

The advanced properties page is shown:

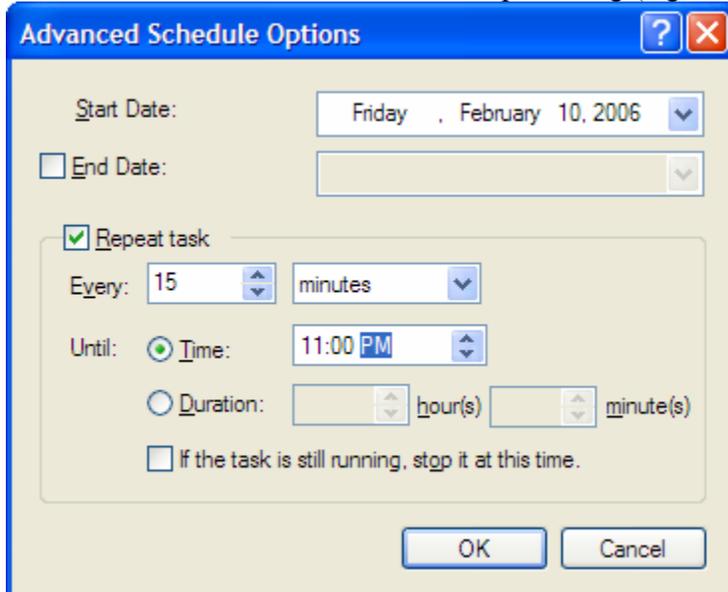


Click the Schedule tab



Press the Advanced button

Check the Repeat option, select the interval (e.g., 15 minutes), select the Time option, and enter the time that ATG should stop running (e.g., 11:00 PM).

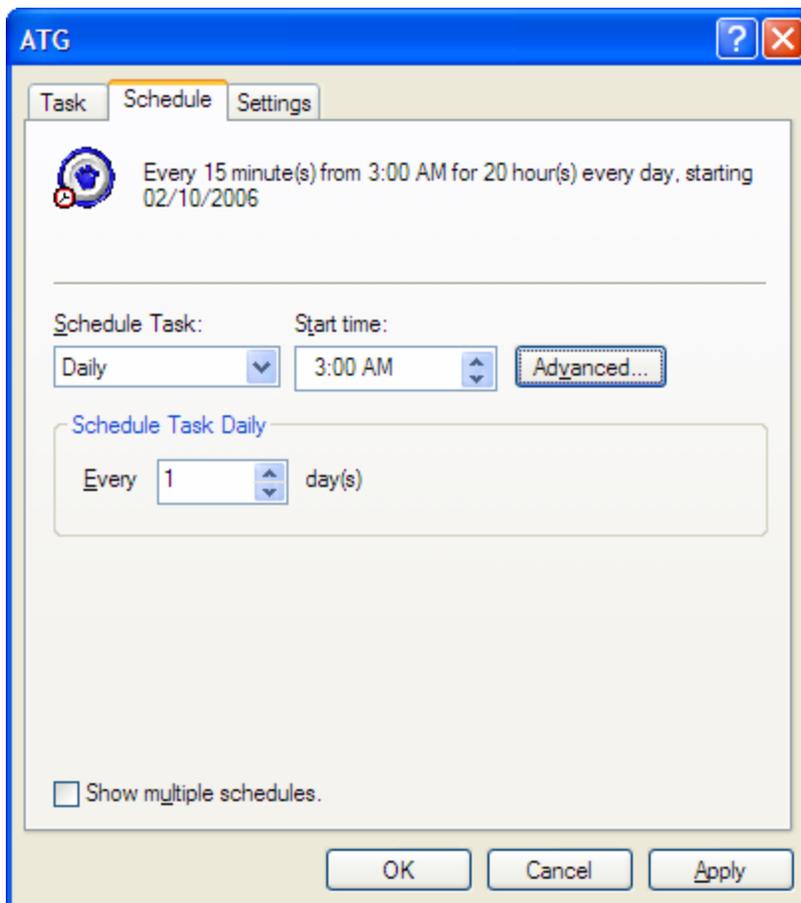


The 'Advanced Schedule Options' dialog box is shown with the following settings:

- Start Date: Friday, February 10, 2006
- End Date: (empty)
- Repeat task: (checked)
- Every: 15 minutes
- Until: Time: 11:00 PM
- Duration: (empty) hour(s) (empty) minute(s)
- If the task is still running, stop it at this time.

Buttons: OK, Cancel

Press OK



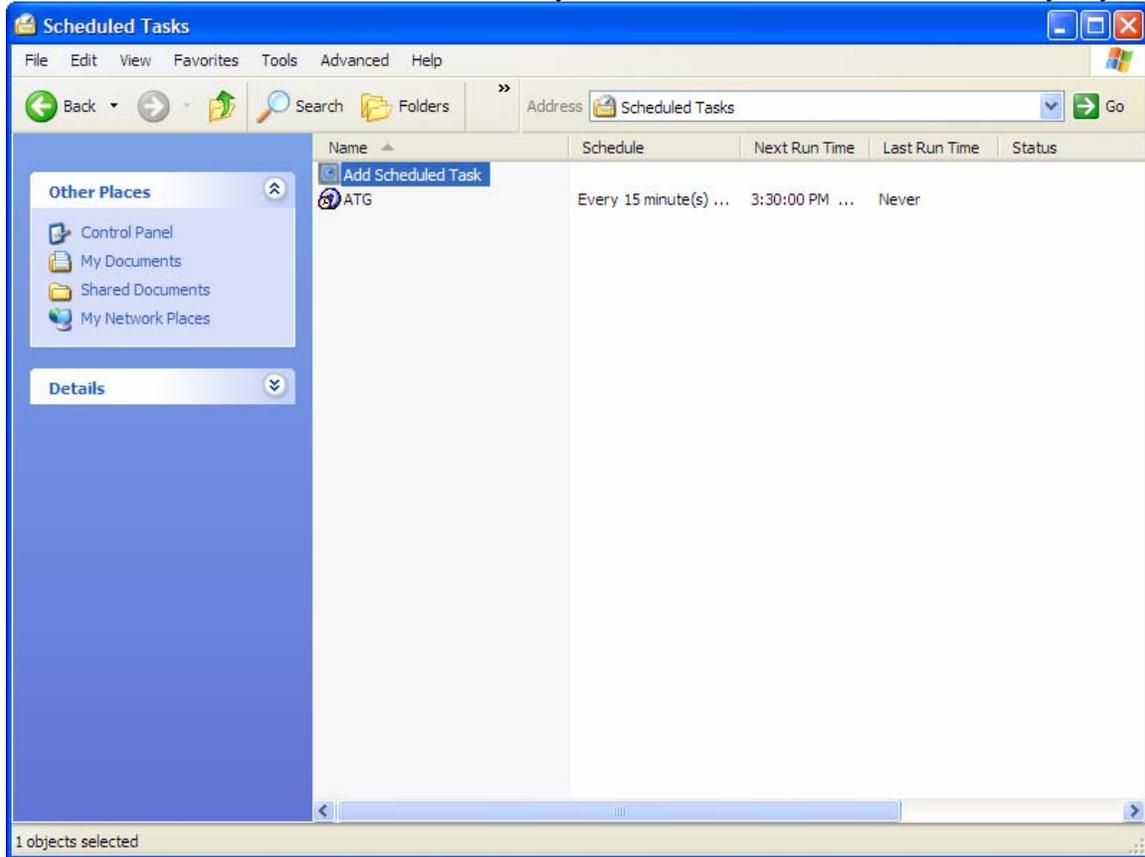
The 'ATG' dialog box is shown with the following settings:

- Task: (empty)
- Schedule: (empty)
- Settings: (empty)
- Summary: Every 15 minute(s) from 3:00 AM for 20 hour(s) every day, starting 02/10/2006
- Schedule Task: Daily
- Start time: 3:00 AM
- Advanced... button
- Schedule Task Daily: Every 1 day(s)
- Show multiple schedules.

Buttons: OK, Cancel, Apply

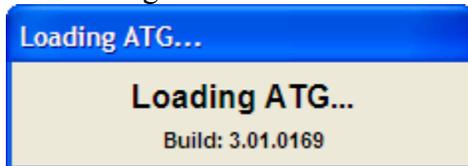
Press OK

ATG is now scheduled to be launched every 15 minutes from 3AM to 11PM every day.

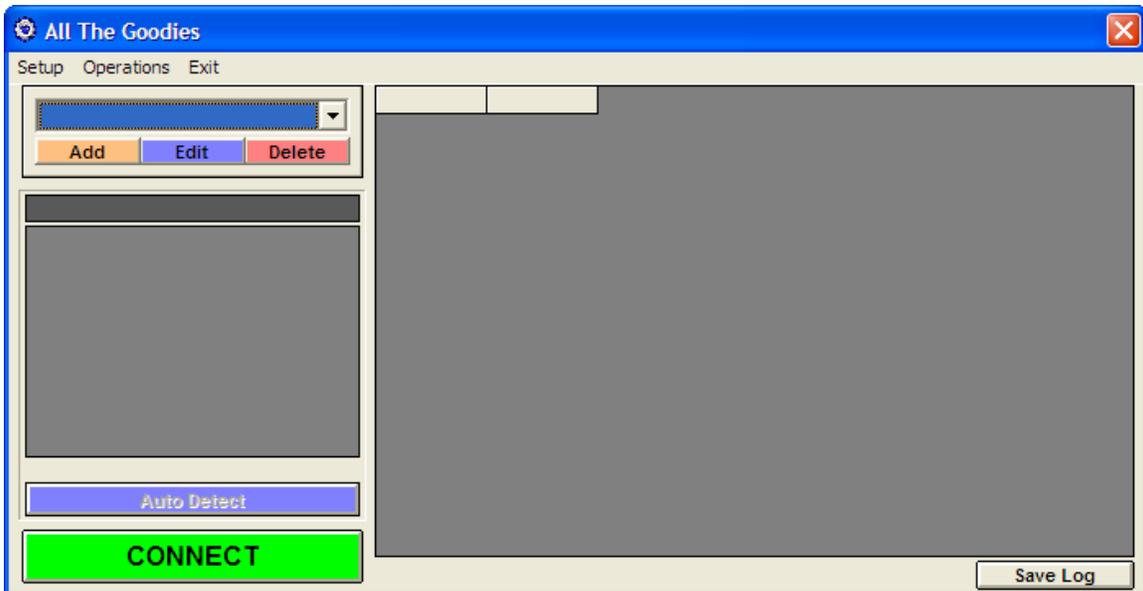


Configure ATG

ATG itself needs to be configured to perform only one retrieval cycle every time it is launched. Run ATG in Setup mode. Either click on an icon or shortcut labeled ATG SETUP, or launch ATG in regular retrieval mode but quickly press the S key as soon as the Loading ATG banner is shown:

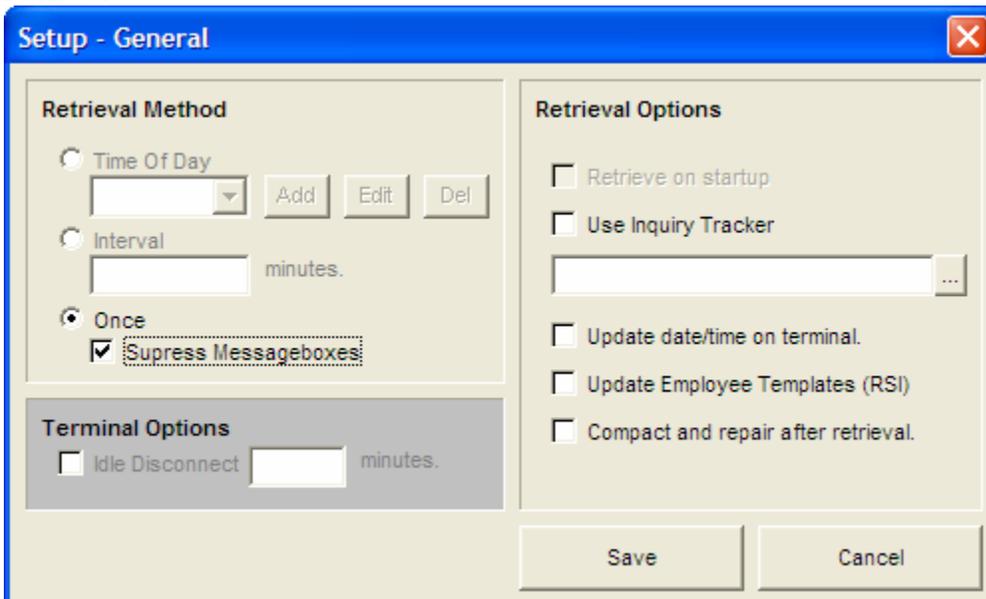


Press S immediately



Select the General item from the Setup menu

Set the Retrieval Method to Once, and check the Suppress Messageboxes option. This is to prevent ATG from asking the console operator to press OK at the end of every retrieval.



Press Save

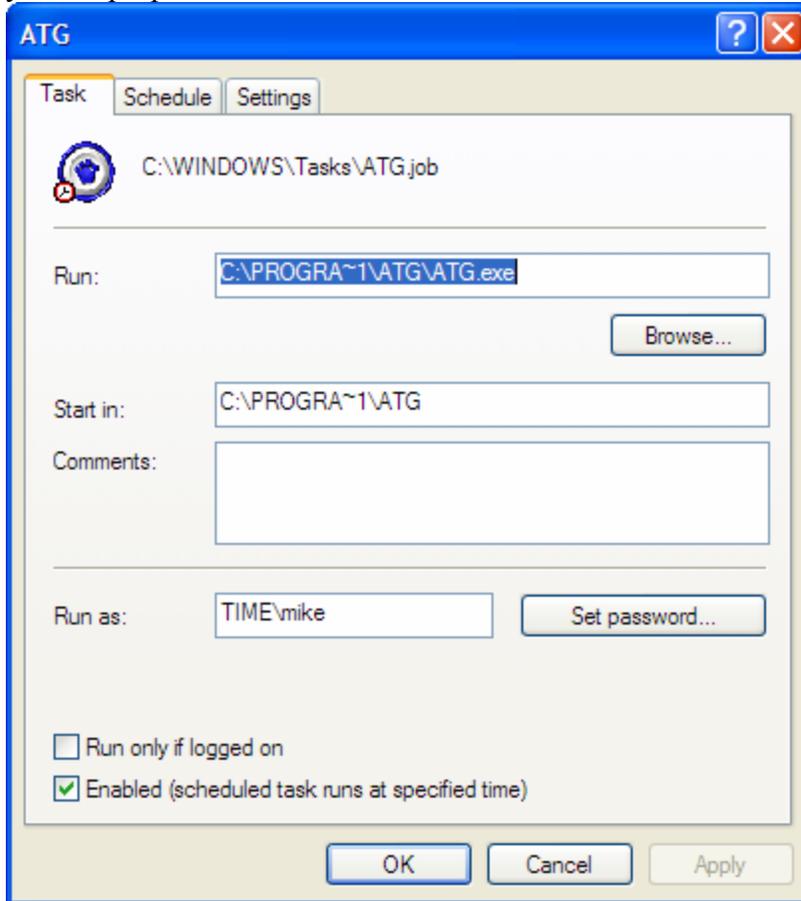
Exit from ATG

That's it, everything is setup.

Temporarily Interrupting ATG's Schedule

If you want to temporarily stop ATG from running every 15 minutes, without deleting the schedule entirely, you can put the schedule "on hold". You may need to do this when you need to ensure exclusive access to the Advanced Tracker databases. E.g., when installing a new version of software, or Merlinizing the databases.

From the Windows Scheduled Tasks pane, double-click on the ATG item. This will show you the properties of the ATG item:



Uncheck the Enabled option.
Press OK.

Re-enable it when you want ATG to start running again.

Deleting ATG's Schedule

To completely delete the scheduled task in Windows, go to the Scheduled Tasks pane and right-click on the ATG item. Select Delete.