

Optec ASCOM Server

Table of contents

Introduction	3
Welcome	3
What's new	4
Getting Started	5
System requirements	5
Setup	6
Installation Instructions	7
Using the Server	9
Server Setup	9
Server 1	13
Server 2	15
Starting the Server	16
Getting help	18

Introduction



Welcome

ASCOM Local Servers, more commonly known as "hubs", allow multiple ASCOM clients access to a shared device or resource, regardless of the device connection protocol. However many drivers do not have built in ASCOM Local Servers. This is where the ASCOM Local Server comes in. As long as the device has a working ASCOM compliant driver, the Optec ASCOM Server will act as a shim allowing multiple clients access to the driver and device, effectively turning any driver into a Local Server.

So if you're using a rotator (or any other device type) with a valid ASCOM driver and wish to have simultaneous access to the rotator through Maxim D/L and CCD AutoPilot, the Optec ASCOM Server will create and maintain the multiple connections seamlessly and easily.

The Optec ASCOM Server creates a Local Server object that can connect to multiple ASCOM device types (i.e. mounts, cameras, focusers, etc.) and exists while any single device is connected. For multiple devices of the same type, the Optec ASCOM Server features a second server tab to connect your second devices for tandem setups. The Optec implementation is clean, easy to understand, and provides a level of trace logging through the Windows Event Viewer.

What's new



1.0.0 - 2016/02/02

- Release version 1.0.0
- Added observing conditions
- Updated telescope to better support rates

0.9.9 - 2016/01/03

- Extension of trial license through 2016/01/31

0.9.8 - 2015/07/22

- Minor improvements and corrections,
- Complied with new Code Signing Certificate.

0.9.6 - 2015/04/29 DVN

- Fixed a bug in the safety monitor device type,
- Added a smart connect function.

0.9.5 - 2015/02/25 DVN

- added help files and setup instructions. Changed the UI to make the Driver Selector appear on top.

0.9.4 - 2015/02/23 DVN

- added support for two devices in each device type class.

0.9.3 - 2015/02/13 DVN

- change default chooser to "none selected" for each device type,
- minor UI changes.

0.9.2 - 2015/02/12 DVN

- Initial beta release.

Addition update information may be found at:

http://optecinc.com/astronomy/downloads/ascom_server.htm

Getting Started



System requirements

Optec ASCOM Server requires:

ASCOM Platform 6.2,

Microsoft .NET Framework 4,

ASCOM 32-bit or 64-bit device drivers.

Windows XP or newer. (Note for Windows XP the default installer will likely have issues. Contact Optec for instructions)

At least 20 MBs of hard drive space.

If your computer can run the above programs it will be able to run the Server.

This software has been tested on machines running Windows XP, Windows 7 and Windows 10.

Setup



The Optec ASCOM Server is available at: http://optecinc.com/astronomy/downloads/ascom_server.htm. A 60 trial is available, however a purchased license is required after 60 days. For more information contact [Optec Sales and Support](#). On the download page click download to begin.

Optec ASCOM Server Software Installer:



OptecASCOMServerBeta(0.9.4).zip

Windows 32-bit (release date: 2015/02/23)



32-bit Installer program for **Optec ASCOM Server** application. General purpose ASCOM local server application for use with most ASCOM device types.

This software allows multiple client access for any ASCOM compliant device.



download

Optec ASCOM Server requires ASCOM Platform 6.1,
Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5,
ASCOM 32-bit or 64-bit device drivers.

Software copyright 2015 - Optec, Inc.

Quick Start Guide:

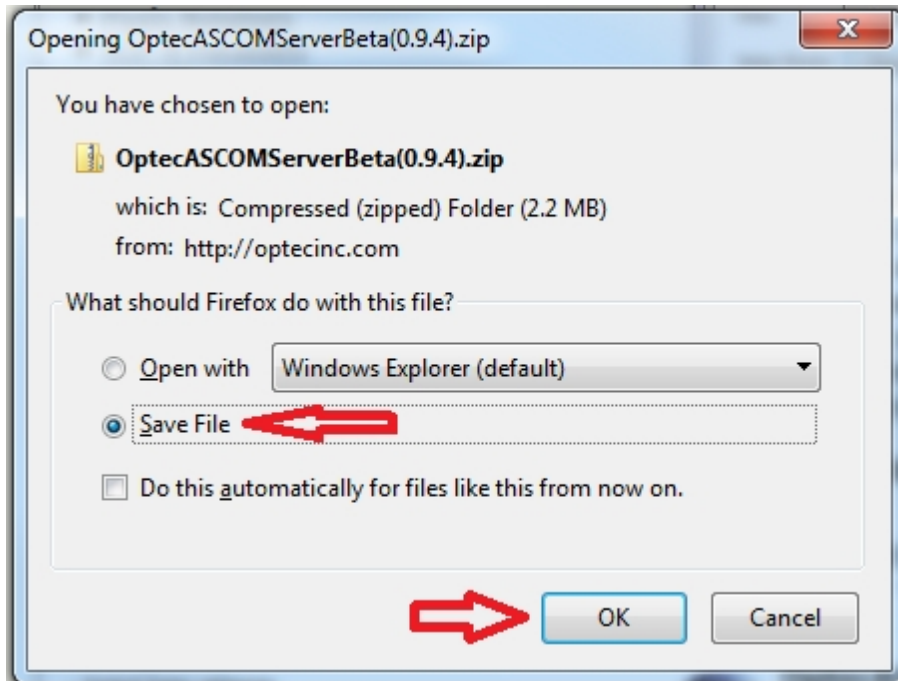
View the Optec ASCOM Server Quick Start Guide. (Coming Soon)



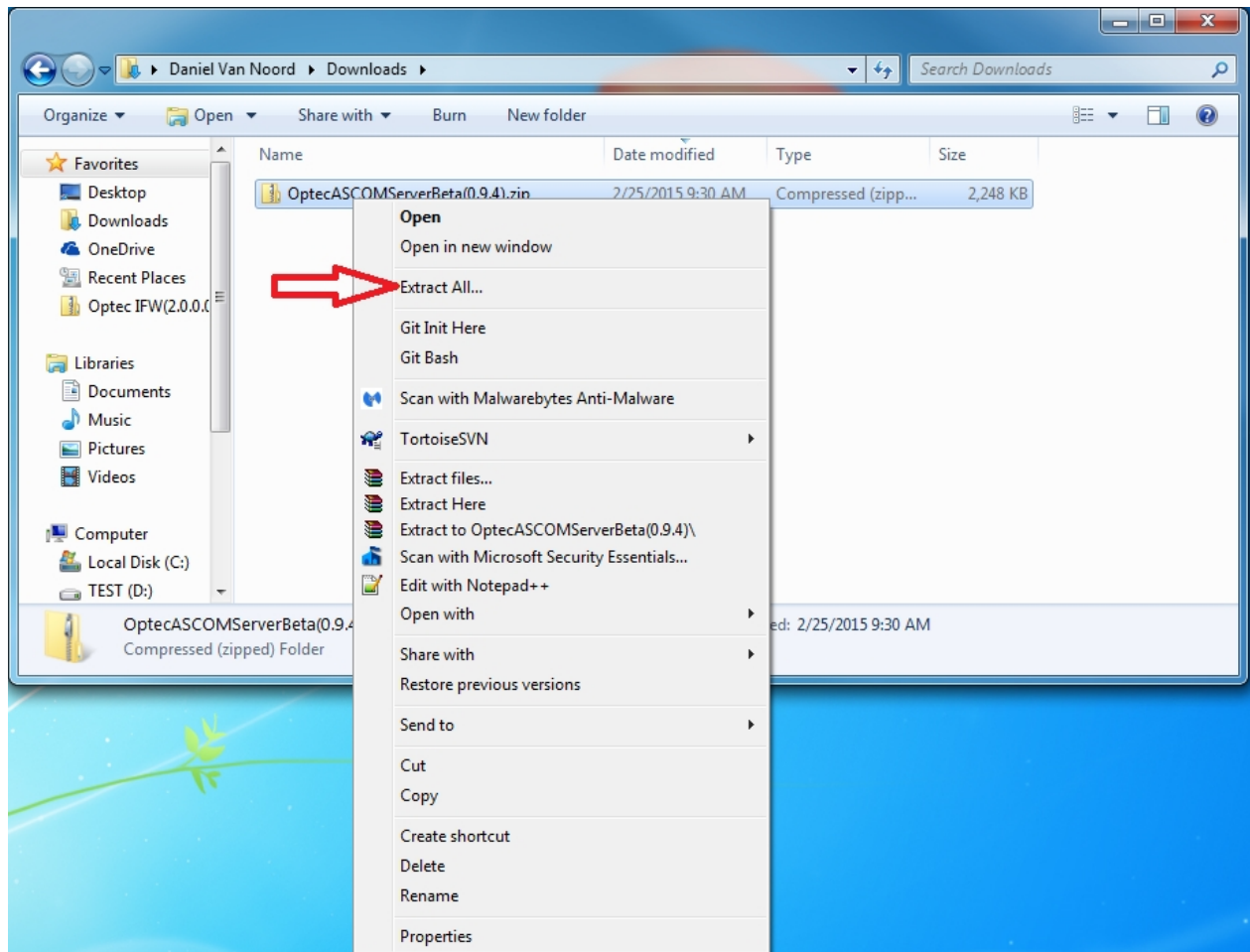
Installation Instructions



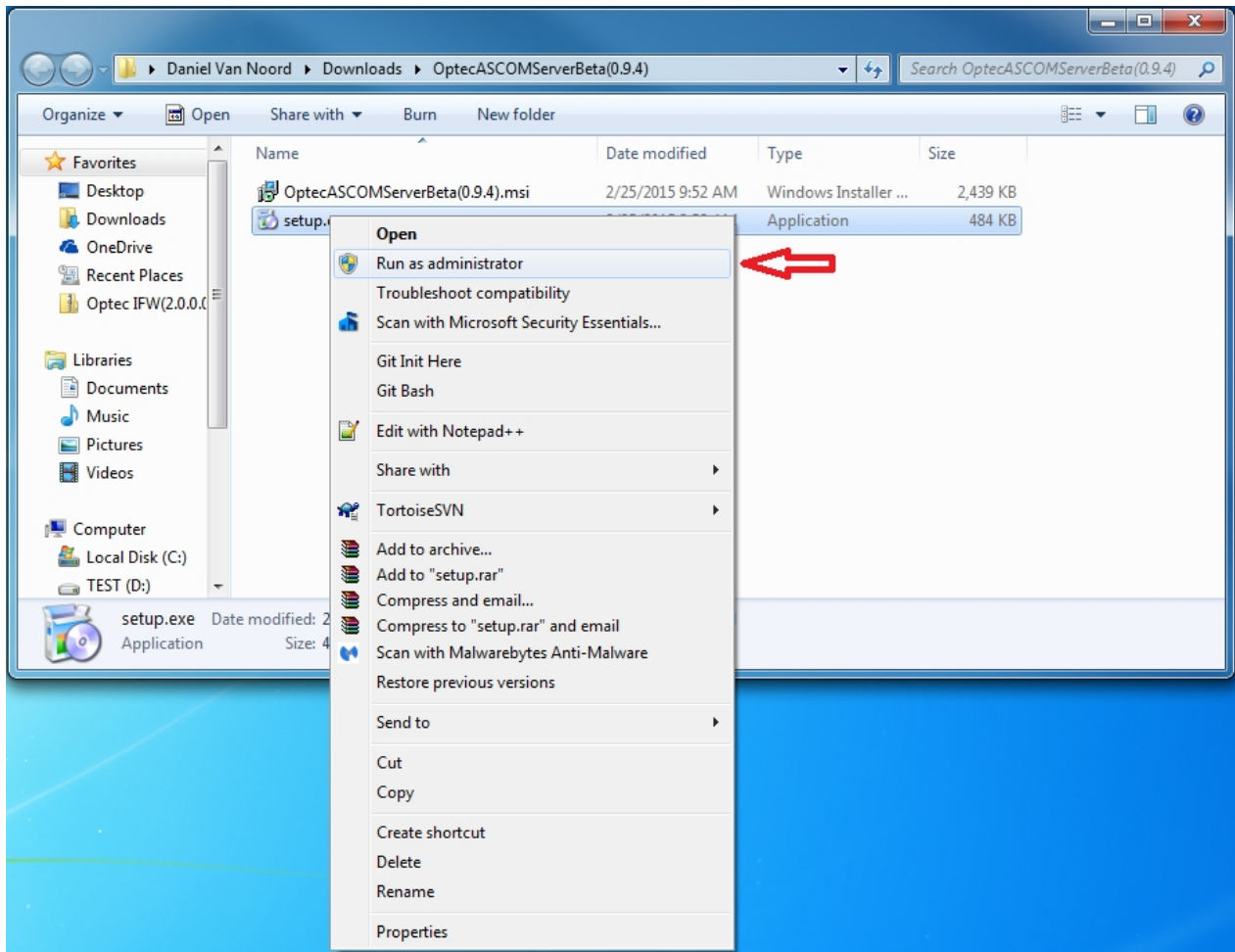
The 32-bit installer will work on both 64 bit and 32 bit versions of Windows. When you hit download select "Save File" and hit Ok.



Once the download is complete navigate to the file and right click on the .zip file and select Extract All... sending the files to a location of your choosing.



Then run the program called setup.exe. Note, this program may need to be run on an administrative account.



The Optec installer is signed for security. You should see a Verified Publisher of Optec, Inc.

Follow the installation instructions that the windows installer gives you. It is highly recommended that you allow everyone on you computer access to the Optec ASCOM Server. Once the dialog is finished the install is complete.

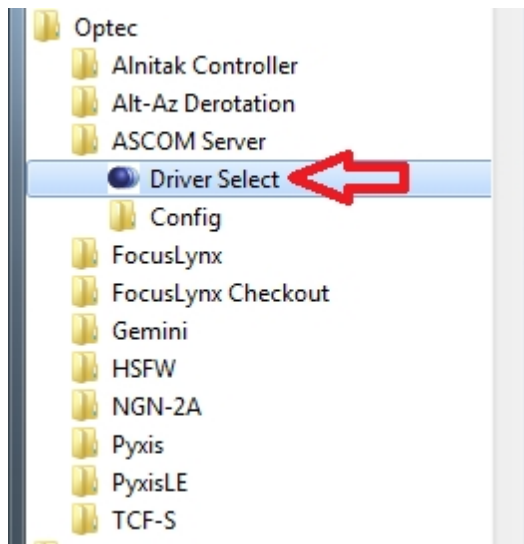
Using the Server



The Optec ASCOM Server is designed to be set up once and then be able to run on its own. The following are examples of how to set it up.

Server Setup

Navigate through your start menu to All Programs -> Optec -> ASCOM Server:

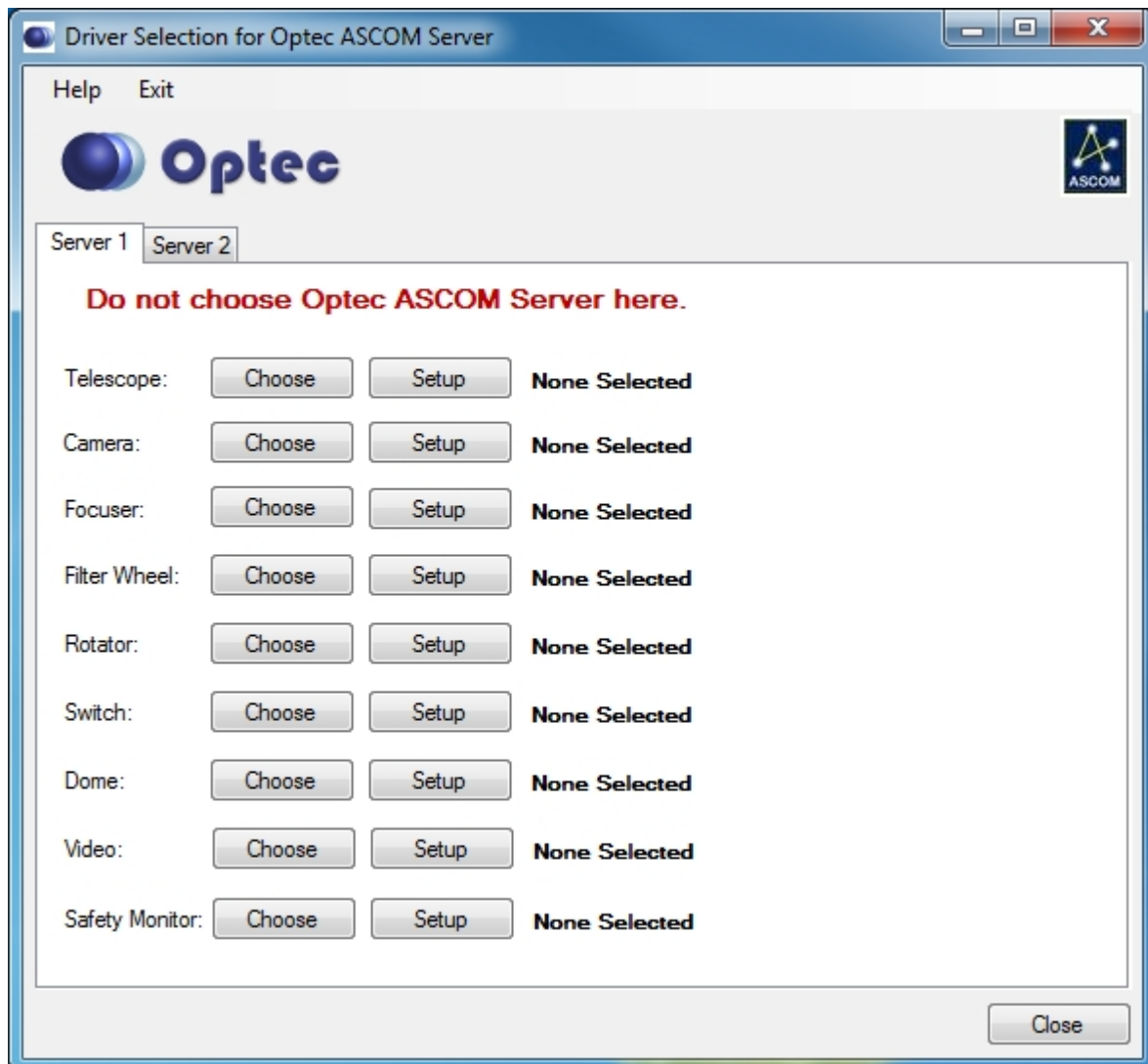


From here choose the Program Driver Select. This program can also be accessed from any client program that uses the standard ASCOM driver selection box. See the section on MaxIm setup for an example. The first time after a new install or update it may take several minutes for the server to start. Watch for the



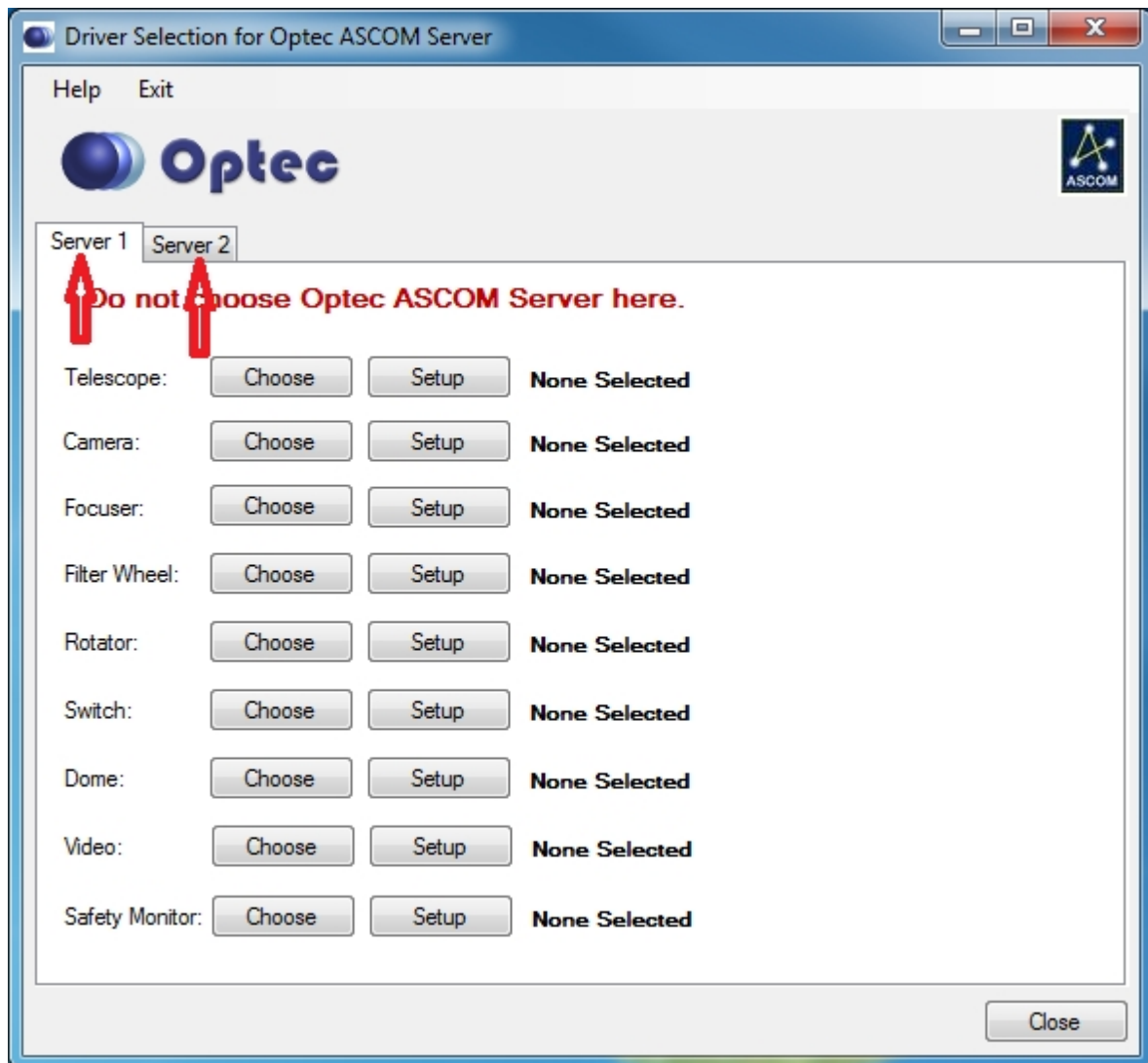
to appear on your task bar (the bottom of the screen) as the program window may open behind another window.

The programs main form should look like this:



From the Help menu you can select Help, About or Check for Updates. Help will open a version of this document. About will display the version that you are running and the license information. Checking for updates requires an Internet connection and may take several minutes as the program checks the Optec servers for updates. The Exit option closes this window. Note that as long as a single client is connected to the server the server will be running, even if this window is not open.

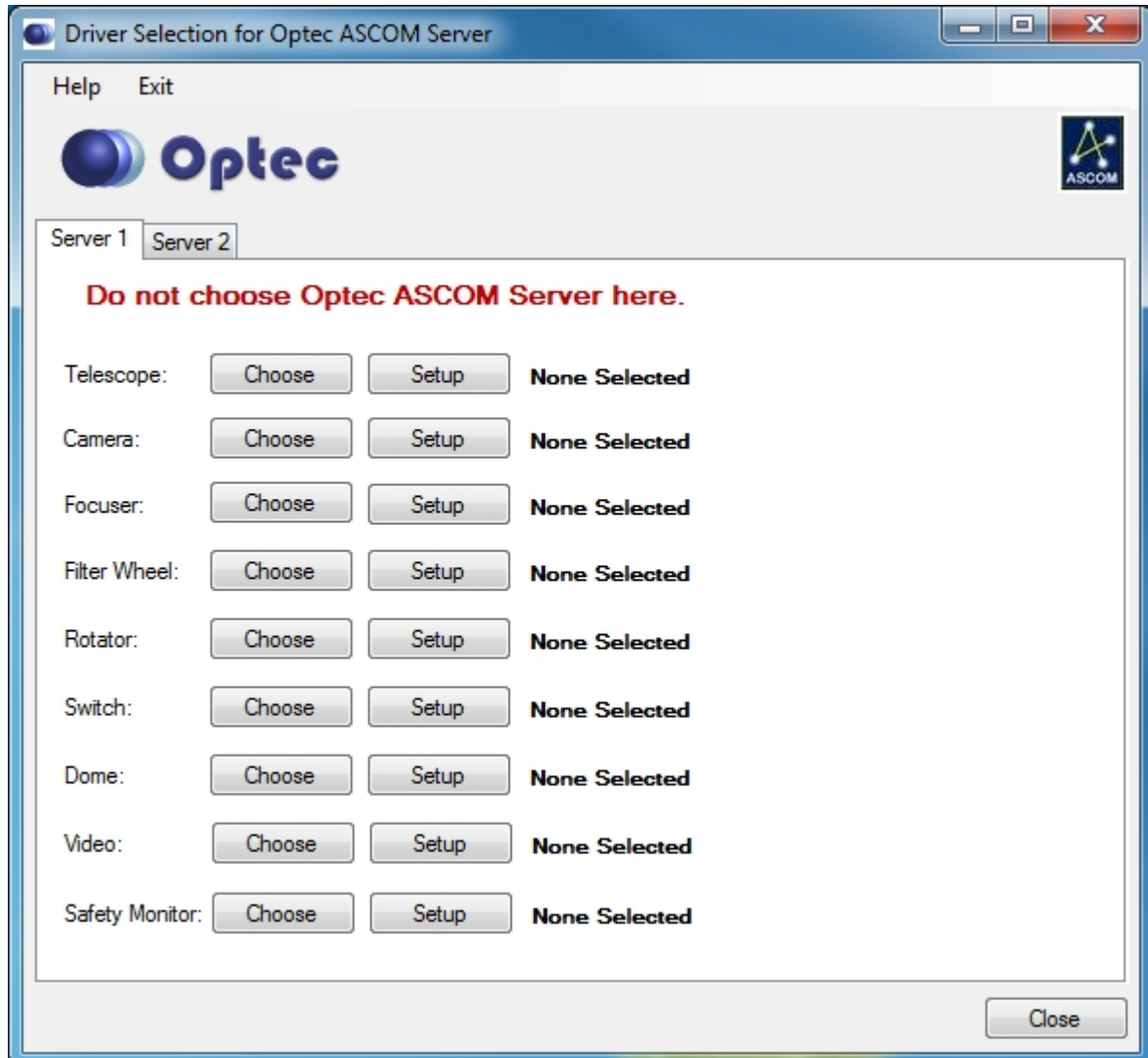
Below the menus there are two tabs, Server 1 and Server 2. The rest of the program setup occurs in these tabs.



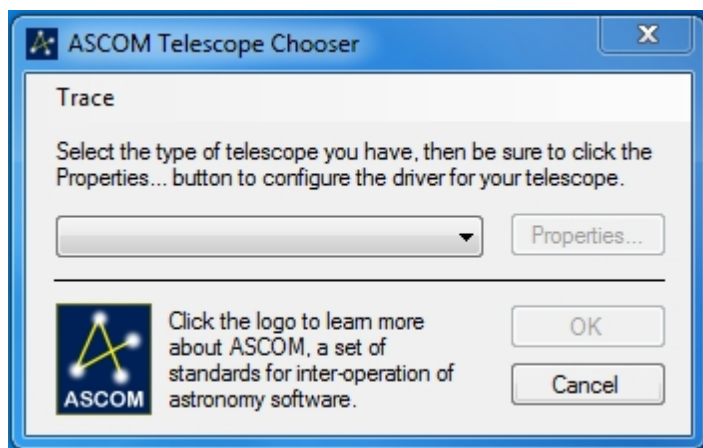
Server 1



Server 1 is the default server. When editing Server 1 the window should look like this:



If Server 1 is not selected select it now. To set up a device to use this server hit the Choose button for that device. When you do the main form will disappear. If you do not have one of these devices then you do not need to Choose it. Lets start with the Telescope. Hit the Telescope Choose Button. The standard ASCOM Telescope Chooser window will appear.

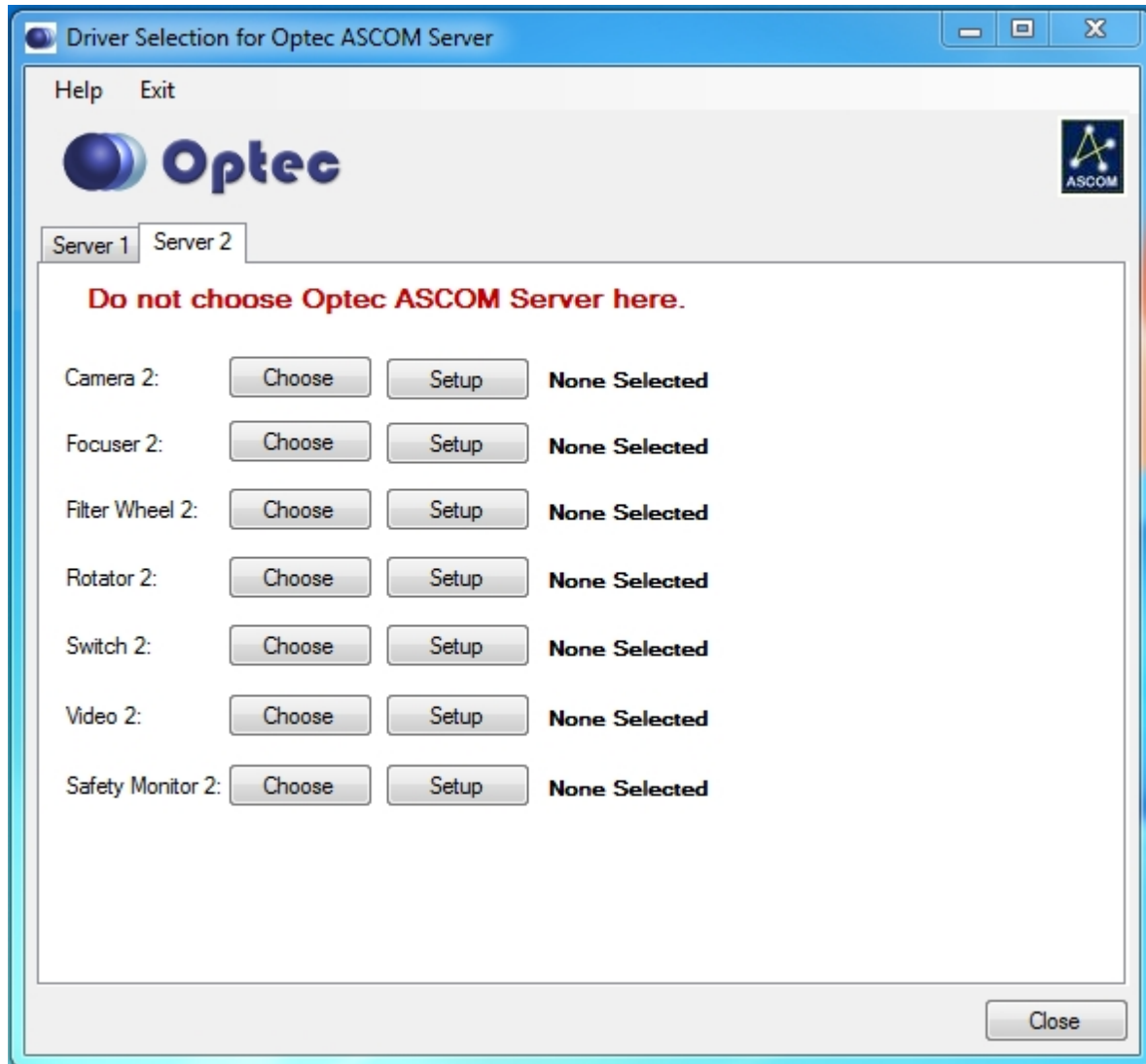


In the drop down menu choose the ASCOM driver for your telescope. **DO NOT** choose Optec ASCOM Server or Optec ASCOM Server 2 here. Once you have selected the driver the Properties button will become click-able. This will open the standard Properties window for the selected Telescope. Hit this now and make sure that your settings are correct. When you are done hit Ok to return the the main form. At this point the bold None Selected will change to the chosen device. If you need access to the device settings hit the Setup button, once again the main form will vanish until you finish changing the settings. Next continue setting up the other devices that you need. If you need a second device you will need to use Server 2. If you don't you can close this form now.

Server 2



If you haven't already read the section on Server 1 you should go back and read it now as Server 2 functions almost the same as Server 1. The window for Server 2 should look like:



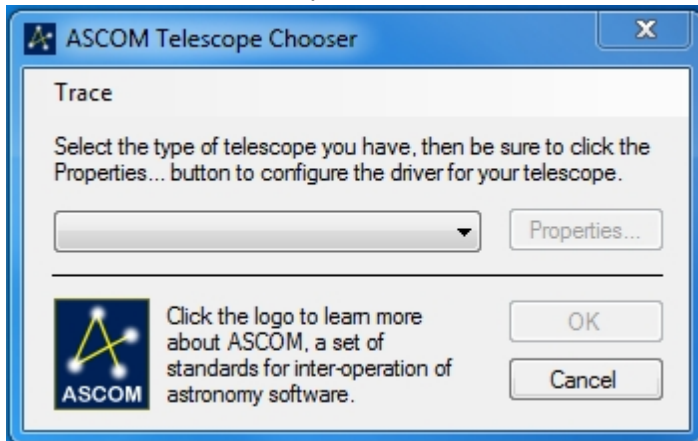
You should only use this Server if you have a second physical device of a given type. Server 2 will not function if you select the same driver used in Server 1. Most device drivers only support a single device. This means that if you have two devices of the same model i.e. two identical rotators you will only be able to connect to one of them. If you need a second driver for a device you will need to contact the device manufacturer and request it.

From this menu select the second devices that you need access to, using the same methods outlined in the section on Server 1. Once all drivers have been selected you can close this form.

Starting the Server



Once all your drivers are selected it is time to start the server. Open a program that will need to access one or more of the devices in the server. Navigate to the driver selection and launch the ASCOM Driver Chooser. Shown here is the Telescope Chooser.



From here select the Optec ASCOM Server to gain access to Server 1 and Optec ASCOM Server 2 to gain access to Server 2. If you have already configured the Server you can just hit Ok, If you have not or need access to the Driver Selection form or one of the drivers Properties his the Properties button to launch the Driver Selection Form outlined in the Server Setup section. Once you have selected the proper server you can connect. As long as a single client is connected the server will remain running in the background. You can repeat this process in any program that needs access to the devices.

Getting help



You can find out how to contact Optec, Inc. for assistance at:
<http://optecinc.com/astronomy/support.htm>.