

## Re: More on Remote Desktop

**Source:**

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network\\_web/2004-10/2425.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network_web/2004-10/2425.html)

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**From:** Dana Brash (*dbrash\_at\_Phongsaly.com*)

**Date:** 10/17/04

Date: Mon, 18 Oct 2004 02:20:00 +0800

Basic lowdown: You would use the Router's\_public\_IP :3389. On the router you would create a 'service' (or however your particular piece of hardware refers to port mapping) for port 3389 and point it to the Static IP of the internal server. But again, I would strongly recommend that you use VPN instead as opening this up is a huge security hole. If you open port 3389 on your firewall to the world, you will almost certainly get hacked. Please, please, please don't do it. Secure your communications through a VPN Connection. You shouldn't need any rules on your firewall to get between your clients and server on your own LAN. You will need something in place to get into your LAN from external.

How it works:

Your DSL or Cable Modem or whatever your using gets a public IP address, probably (99.9%) dynamically assigned. On the otherside, when you dial up to earthlink, your laptop also gets a public IP. So the first step in getting your laptop into that LAN server has got to be making these two public IP's talk to each other. But as you're using a home network, chances that your public IP is static are very, very slim: so you don't know where to point your laptop to connect. You will want to follow Al Jarvi's suggestion and go with something like <http://www.no-ip.com> or I use <http://www.changeip.com>. These services will let you map a DNS name to your dynamically assigned Public (Cable or DSL) IP address. When you use these services, you no longer have to know the IP because they keep a record and you just have to refer to the URL. Mine is dana.blahblah.com (not really, but for example's sake...) Even if you do decide to open 3389, you'll still want the Dynamic IP DNS service so that you can find your network in the first place.

Your network must run a client-side service to update the Dynamic IP DNS servers directly when your public IP address changes. There are several ways to do it. The modem sometimes does it, the router/firewall sometimes does it, or you can install a small client on the OS that will do it. The key is, whichever machine holds the public IP needs to be making the update (updating the public IP address information with an internal IP address isn't going to help you). I have mine setup so that my firewall makes the PPPoE connection to my ADSL ISP. My firewall can be configured to update ChangeIP.com. So when the PPPoE connection on the firewall gets a new

public IP, ChangeIP knows about it. If I was using ICS or RRAS on my server, I would download and run the ChangeIP client on that server.

So, when I want to connect to my internal server, here is how I do it. I set up a VPN connection on my firewall, using L2TP and IPSec with a pre-shared key. I configure my user there. I then create a VPN connection on my laptop. My VPN connection is configured to first open my dialup connection. It is then configured to connect to dana.blahblah.com AS A URL, and pass it the right username, password, and pre-sharedkey. It is also configured to use my LAN DNS servers for DNS resolution (so I can reference my internal servers by name). The firewall then authenticates and connects me, and gives me A LOCAL IP ADDRESS ON MY LAN.

Once I've created the VPN 'tunnel' to my LAN, and gotten my LAN IP address, I can connect to resources just as if I'm sitting in my home office. Once you have an internal IP, you don't have to worry about ports anymore. Everything is dial-up slow now, but I can get there. I think this solution will better meet your needs for getting to files and faxes and what not anyway. Remote Desktop is not really going to be your best option for transferring files (as in it won't do it).

This is not simple stuff. It would be impossible for me to give you all the information you need to get this up and running properly without you doing other reading. A Google search for "VPN overview" returns a bunch of great articles on the general nature of VPN. I would suggest looking up the VPN configuration information from your router/firewall vendor. If it doesn't perform this service, get a Linksys or a Vigor or a Netgear or a DLink or a Cisco or a Netscreen or a ...??? that does. Alternately, you can build up an RRAS box on Win2k/2003 that can allow VPN, or ISA server will also perform this function. Don't be tempted to use your server as the router, get a machine (an older one should do) and dedicate it to the task.

HTH,  
=d=

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"mchjr01" <mchjr01@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message  
news:D84E2E22-E96C-451F-AF67-728EC73745B4@microsoft.com...

> Dana,

>

> Thanks for your prompt reply.

>

> I have a home network with two laptops, a desktop and two printers. The  
> laptops are wireless and the desktop is wired to a router - sharing the  
> DSL  
> connection as stand alone workstation to access the internet. The desktop  
> is  
> being used as storage of huge files and as a fax server. So far, I  
> configured  
> the ip forwarding (desktop ip) on my router through TCP3389 and made the  
> desktop ip static. On the laptops I made the IPs static as welll.

## microsoft.public.windowsxp.network\_web: Re: More on Remote Desktop

>  
> Our needs are to be able to remotely access the desktop to retrieve files  
> and faxes through the internet. From my laptop, I configured remote  
> desktop  
> to connect to as: ipdesktop:3389. When I am connected to my LAN I can  
> connect  
> with no problem, but when I try to connect via regular dial-up through my  
> iISP (earthlink.net), I am getting the error messages that either the  
> desktop  
> is busy or I do not have the permissions to connect. Tell me, to connect -  
> do  
> I use the routersip:3389 or the desktopip:3389?  
>  
> Again thanks for your time and you are a valuable resources of  
> information -  
> keep up the good work.  
>  
> Mike  
>  
> "Dana Brash" wrote:  
>  
>> Hi Mike,  
>>  
>> A bit more information about your environment would be helpful. Are you  
>> in  
>> a domain or workgroup? What are you using for a firewall (brand/model)?  
>> How are you connected to the internet? Do you have a static public IP?  
>> etc...  
>>  
>> It does sound like you're getting blocked at the firewall, except for one  
>> thing. You said:  
>>  
>> >When I tried to connect via dial up outside of my LAN I am  
>> > getting an error message(...)  
>>  
>> What are you dialing in to? Do you mean that your laptop is making a  
>> Dialup  
>> connection to the internet, are you dialing in to your firewall/router,  
>> do  
>> you have RRAS configured internally to accept dial-in connections?  
>>  
>> If you are simply trying to get to the server via the public IP of the  
>> firewall, then you could open up port 3389 and have it point to your  
>> internal server, but this would open it up for everyone. Not a great  
>> idea.  
>> Depending on your firewall, you may be able to create a policy that would  
>> allow only your laptop through, particularly if you have a static IP to  
>> use.  
>> However, since you're a laptop, I assume you move around and stay in  
>> hotels  
>> and get on wireless at the airport and Starbucks and what not, and that  
>> you're pretty much not going to have a static IP for your laptop.  
>>  
>> If you are trying to dial in to an RRAS server, you need to make sure  
>> that  
>> your user account has dial-in permission enabled. Are you in a Domain?  
>> Do  
>> this in Active Directory Users and Computers on your user properties. It  
>> doesn't sound like you're actually dialing in to an RRAS server, so I  
>> won't  
>> pursue this idea at this point....  
>>

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>> So, I would suggest creating a VPN tunnel into your LAN from outside.
>> Then
>> your laptop will make a connection to the internet, and once connected to
>> the internet can open a tunnel through your firewall. Your firewall can
>> then authenticate you, encrypt your packets and let you in to the LAN
>> 'just
>> like' you're sitting on the LAN itself (albeit much, much slower). Many
>> home products these days offer VPN capabilities, as do RRAS, and ISA
>> server
>> as well.
>>
>> HTH
>> =d=
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>> --
>> Dana Brash
>> MCSE, MCDBA, MCSA
>>
>> dbrash@gmail.com
>>
>> "mchjr01" <mchjr01@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message
>> news:C6FC5687-8050-4D70-B6A5-81F4F3FBD4D2@microsoft.com...
>> > Sorry on bugging you on this remote desktop issue but I really need to
>> > remotely access my desktop where I store my huge files and use it as a
>> > fax
>> > server.
>> >
>> > This is what I have done so far:
>> >
>> > On the desktop that I would like to access remotely, I changed the IP
>> > to
>> > static. On the router I enabled the virtual server and added the
>> > desktop
>> > static IP to forward through TCP3389.
>> >
>> > When I initiated remote access from my laptop I type: desktop ip:3389.
>> > I
>> > tried it while I am connected on the same LAN network where the
>> > desktop -
>> > I
>> > got through. When I tried to connect via dial up outside of my LAN I am
>> > getting an error message of either the remote PC is busy or do not have
>> > permissions to connect.
>> >
>> > My suspicion is I am being blocked by the router's firewall. Is there a
>> > way
>> > I can make my laptop's IP static and add the same IP on my router as
>> > trusted?
>> > Do I assign the static IP just like the way I did it on the desktop.
>> >
>> > I have SP2 update installed on my XP-Pro.
>> >
>> > Please advice and again many thanks to you.
>> >
>> >
>> > Mike
>>
>>
>>
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