

## Re: More on Remote Desktop

**Source:**

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network\\_web/2004-10/2510.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network_web/2004-10/2510.html)

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**From:** Sooner Al (*SoonerAl\_at\_somewhere.net.invalid*)

**Date:** 10/18/04

Date: Mon, 18 Oct 2004 08:27:32 -0500

You can still use Remote Desktop through the VPN tunnel. In fact that is one of the strategies if you want to access more than one TS or Remote Desktop session, all of which are listening on the default port, \*AND\* not open multiple holes in the firewall (for different listening ports)... You can also "daisy chain" Remote Desktop sessions so you only open one hole. Meaning you establish the first RD session, then while on the remote desktop start another RD session to the second remote PC, etc, etc...etc... That, however, can get quite messy very fast trying to keep which desktop is which straight...:-)

As you noted, there are lots of good reasons to use VPN for some users. For other users Remote Desktop is equally as good... It simply depends on your needs,etc...

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Al Jarvi (MS-MVP Windows Networking)  
Please post \*ALL\* questions and replies to the news group for the mutual benefit of all of us...  
The MS-MVP Program - <http://mvp.support.microsoft.com>  
This posting is provided "AS IS" with no warranties, and confers no rights...  
"Dana Brash" <dbrash@Phongsaly.com> wrote in message news:O\$SG8JRtEHA.904@TK2MSFTNGP11.phx.gbl...  
> learning learning learning...  
>  
> cool stuff, that RDP, and a nice improvement over TS in Win2k  
>  
> I still won't be opening up a port on my firewall for it, but I've already got VPN. ;-)  
>  
> Thanks for the good info!  
>  
> --  
> Dana Brash  
> MCSE, MCDBA, MCSA  
>  
> dbrash@gmail.com  
>  
> "Sooner Al" <SoonerAl@somewhere.net.invalid> wrote in message  
> news:uZsfthQtEHA.3320@TK2MSFTNGP15.phx.gbl...  
>>I believe his requirement, at least as I read it is to...  
>>  
>>>>> Our needs are to be able to remotely access the desktop to retrieve files  
>>>>> and faxes through the internet.  
>>  
>> You can access both remote and local drives/print locally and remotely/etc, while in a Remote  
>> Desktop session, and subsequently cut-n-paste files between the local and remote PCs. The Remo  
>> Desktop connection simply needs to be configured for that in the Options -> Local Resources ->  
>> Local Devices configuration window when you open the connectoid...  
>>

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

>> [http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;\[LN\];313292](http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;[LN];313292)  
>>  
>> Yes a VPN will work just fine. I was simply trying to help the original poster save a few \$\$\$  
>> using the existing functionality of the OS...and to keep it as simple as possible...:-)  
>>  
>> If you need to feel a bit safer you can always change the listening port on the XP Pro box to  
>> something other than the default TCP Port 3389. If you do change the listening port then make  
>> sure you...  
>>  
>> a) reboot the PC after making the registry change and  
>> b) make the change to the router port forwarding also.  
>>  
>> READ THESE TWO KB ARTICLES FIRST...  
>>  
>> <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;EN-US;256986>  
>> <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;EN-US;322756>  
>>  
>> Change the Remote Desktop listening port and calling procedure...  
>>  
>> <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;0306759>  
>> <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;0304304>  
>>  
>> I always recommend that a "strong password" be used...AFAIK, the password exchange is encrypted  
>> also...You might reference Bill Sanderson's (MS-MVP) reply to a similar question...  
>>  
>> <http://groups.google.com/groups?hl=en&lr=&c2coff=1&threadm=OOCmgheZDHA.736%40TK2MSFTNGP09.phx>.  
>>  
>> You also might consider changing the default client connection encryption level to "High" vers  
>> the default "Client compatible" and \*ALWAYS\* prompt for a password.... Note this is done on th  
>> XP Pro Remote Desktop host machine...  
>>  
>> [http://www.microsoft.com/resources/documentation/Windows/XP/all/reskit/en-us/pree\\_rem\\_uvnl.asp](http://www.microsoft.com/resources/documentation/Windows/XP/all/reskit/en-us/pree_rem_uvnl.asp)  
>>  
>> --  
>> Al Jarvi (MS-MVP Windows Networking)  
>>  
>> Please post \*ALL\* questions and replies to the news group for the mutual benefit of all of us.  
>> The MS-MVP Program - <http://mvp.support.microsoft.com>  
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>>  
>> "Dana Brash" <dbrash@Phongsaly.com> wrote in message news:emc3ZeMtEHA.220@TK2MSFTNGP15.phx.gbl  
>>> Hi Al,  
>>>  
>>> I did not know that. That makes it a very different security story. However, a port scan wou  
>>> reveal 3389 open and could invite a brute force attack. Encryption is not authentication, an  
>>> (particularly if he doesn't use adequately complex passwords) there is still a chance that  
>>> someone could hack his system.  
>>>  
>>> Security aside, he's got the other requirement that he be able to "to retrieve files and faxe  
>>> Perhaps I'm taking this too literally to mean "download" and all he really want to do is be a  
>>> to "view" them. If he doesn't want to download, then Remote Desktop should be fine. If he d  
>>> want to download, or otherwise run locally on his laptop, then I don't believe there is actual  
>>> a way to do this using Remote Desktop, though I'd love to know otherwise.  
>>>  
>>> Chances are good, though, that he's already got VPN capabilities on his current hardware, so  
>>> not sure he'd have to get anything new. It just seems like it's pretty commonly included the  
>>> days. If not, he can get a firewall to do it for \$100. Pretty small investment...  
>>>  
>>> I believe this one would meet his needs:  
>>> <http://www.linksys.com/products/product.asp?grid=33&scid=35&prid=537>  
>>>  
>>> Available at Amazon for \$99.99

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>>> [http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/B00008WM9J/gid=1098071495/sr=8-1/ref=pd\\_csp\\_1/0](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/B00008WM9J/gid=1098071495/sr=8-1/ref=pd_csp_1/0)  
>>>  
>>>  
>>> Thanks for the info.  
>>>  
>>> --  
>>> Dana Brash  
>>> MCSE, MCDBA, MCSA  
>>>  
>>> dbrash@gmail.com  
>>>  
>>> "Sooner Al" <SoonerAl@somewhere.net.invalid> wrote in message  
>>> news:%23EualkItEHA.3556@TK2MSFTNGP10.phx.gbl...  
>>>> You realize the Remote Desktop data stream is encrypted the same as a PPTP VPN link...  
>>>>  
>>>> [http://msdn.microsoft.com/library/default.asp?url=/library/en-us/termserv/termserv/remote de](http://msdn.microsoft.com/library/default.asp?url=/library/en-us/termserv/termserv/remote_de)  
>>>>  
>>>> ...so opening one port for Remote Desktop, ie. TCP Port 3389, is not a big deal...IMHO...  
>>>>  
>>>> Unless of course the original poster wants to implement an L2TP/IPSec VPN server at home...o  
>>>> purchase additional/new hardware...  
>>>>  
>>>> --  
>>>> Al Jarvi (MS-MVP Windows Networking)  
>>>>  
>>>> Please post \*ALL\* questions and replies to the news group for the mutual benefit of all of  
>>>> us...  
>>>> The MS-MVP Program - <http://mvp.support.microsoft.com>  
>>>> This posting is provided "AS IS" with no warranties, and confers no rights...  
>>>>  
>>>> "Dana Brash" <dbrash@Phongsaly.com> wrote in message  
>>>> news:ucrRsXHtEHA.3052@tk2msftngp13.phx.gbl...  
>>>>> Basic lowdown: You would use the Router's\_public\_IP :3389. On the router you would create  
>>>>> 'service' (or however your particular piece of hardware refers to port mapping) for port 33  
>>>>> and point it to the Static IP of the internal server. But again, I would strongly recommen  
>>>>> that you use VPN instead as opening this up is a huge security hole. If you open port 3389  
>>>>> your firewall to the world, you will almost certainly get hacked. Please, please, please do  
>>>>> do it. Secure your communications through a VPN Connection. You shouldn't need any rules o  
>>>>> your firewall to get between your clients and server on your own LAN. You will need somethi  
>>>>> 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 get  
>>>>> public IP. So the first step in getting your laptop into that LAN server has got to be mak  
>>>>> 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  
>>>>> 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 D  
>>>>> 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  
>>>>> you do decide to open 3389, you'll still want the Dynamic IP DNS service so that you can fi  
>>>>> your network in the first place.  
>>>>>  
>>>>> Your network must run a client-side service to update the Dynamic IP DNS servers directly w  
>>>>> 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 updat  
>>>>> (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

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>>>> 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 fi  
>>>> 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  
>>>> 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 t  
>>>> resources just as if I'm sitting in my home office. Once you have an internal IP, you don'  
>>>> 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  
>>>> it won't do it).  
>>>>  
>>>> This is not simple stuff. It would be impossible for me to give you all the information yo  
>>>> need to get this up and running properly without you doing other reading. A Google search  
>>>> "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 i  
>>>> doesn't perform this service, get a Linksys or a Vigor or a Netgear or a DLink or a Cisco o  
>>>> Netscreen or a ...??? that does. Alternately, you can build up an RRAS box on Win2k/2003 t  
>>>> 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) amd dedicate it to the task.  
>>>>  
>>>> HTH,  
>>>> =d=  
>>>>  
>>>> --  
>>>> Dana Brash  
>>>> MCSE, MCDBA, MCSA  
>>>>  
>>>> dbrash@gmail.com  
>>>>  
>>>> "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.  
>>>>>  
>>>>> 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  
>>>>>

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```
>>>>> "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....
>>>>>>
>>>>>> 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=
>>>>>>
>>>>>> --
>>>>>> 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
```

