

XP Remote Desktop to Server 2003 via SSH tunnel failing (W2K OK)

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I have a problem which has been driving me insane.

For a long time with no problems, I have been using Remote Desktop to connect to my machine at work (Windows Server 2003) from my old Windows 2000 box at home. I have been using SSH to tunnel the connection.

Recently I built myself a new machine and installed XP Pro SP2 on it. Using exactly the same method as on the W2K machine, and some variations that have been suggested by articles I have found on the web, I have had absolutely no success in connecting.

Here is an outline of what works on W2K:

- o Use Putty to connect to gateway Unix machine:
SSH to machine with tunnel with source port 3389 and destination 127.0.0.1:7777
where 7777 is an essentially arbitrary port in some range.
- o In the terminal I then ssh to another Unix machine, let's call it fred, on the internal work network:

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> ssh -l bob fred -L 7777:myserver:3389
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Here bob is my Unix login name, and myserver is my Server 2003 machine that I want to remote into.

This command logs me into fred setting up the tunnel from my W2K machine to the Server 2003 host.

- o I then run the Remote Desktop client on my W2K box, specifying 127.0.0.1 in the "Computer" setting on the initial dialog.
- o This connects fine and I can login to the remote desktop.

With Windows XP, if I do exactly the same thing, I get the error:

"The client could not connect. You are already connected to the console of the computer. A new console session cannot be established."

A bit of research revealed that this is a common problem, and the

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solution is to use 127.0.0.2 instead of 127.0.0.1.

This initially appears to work but it is actually connects to Remote Desktop on my XP client box!

So I disable RD on my client, try again and I get:

"The client could not connect to the remote computer.

Remote connections might not be enabled or the computer might be too busy..."

Now I don't know whether this is referring to a connection on my work host or my XP client.

I have also tried different source ports 3390, 3391, and have tried suffixing the 127.0.0.2 with the port in the initial remote desktop client login dialog (i.e. 127.0.0.2:3389 etc, or whatever source port I am trying).

I have also tried disabling my firewall to no avail.

I would really like to solve this as I would like to decommission my old W2K machine. At the moment, as I only have one keyboard, monitor etc and no KVM switch, and the XP box is now my principal machine at home, I am going through the ridiculous process of VNCing into the old machine in order to remote desktop from there to work!

Any suggestions gratefully received, including any ideas for how I might investigate what could be going wrong.

Thanks

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Bob

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