

Re: security question regarding opening up ports

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.work_remotely/2008-10/msg00068.html

- *From:* Schnitzel <Schnitzel@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 15 Oct 2008 14:00:00 -0700
-

"Sooner Al [MVP]" wrote:

Repost...

Yes, the XP PPTP VPN server function will only allow one incoming connection at a time. I misread your post and thought you could not connect to more than one PC through the VPN tunnel with RDC. The bottom line is you need more than one simultaneous incoming VPN connection and be able to access any of your workstations with RDC through the tunnel. I understand now.

thanks for clarifying... I wasn't sure if I explained it well enough.

SSH would get around that limitation since you are not in a position to upgrade to a server class OS or additional hardware. Be aware that if your behind a supported router then reflashing with third-party firmware like DD-WRT would give you a PPTP server function on the router. DD-WRT also includes a SSH server function. Just another option for little to no cost.

http://www.dd-wrt.com/wiki/index.php/Main_Page

unfortunately, our router (D-Link DIR-655) is not supported – my luck :(

so it looks like setting up ssh vpn tunnel is the way to go. I am familiar with putty and I suppose it is similar to tunnelier? I just checked putty and it

does seem to have support for tunnels and port forwarding.

Would an instance of putty run on a dedicated machine then as a 'server', or is this all initiated and configured on the client?

Re: security question regarding opening up ports

—
Al Jarvi (MS-MVP Windows Desktop User Experience)

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...

How to ask a question

<http://support.microsoft.com/KB/555375>

"Schnitzel" <Schnitzel@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:A6C1ED01-8191-4B9C-B988-68471DF382F0@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

thanks for your quick reply.

<snip>

You could also use high number ports versus
3389/3390/3391, ie. use
45671/45672/45673 for example. Sort of security through
obscurity so to
speak. Not fool proof but it does cut down on port probes on
TCP Port
3389
for example. In all cases use strong passwords.

good point.

What type of VPN did you setup? When connected with the
VPN can you ping
the
RDC hosts? If you can't ping the RDC host through the VPN
tunnel then you
will never connect using RDC. I ran RDC through a PPTP
VPN, OpenVPN and
Secure Shell [SSH] tunnel in the past and had no problems
connecting to
multiple PCs with RDC.

I used windows xp built in vpn client/server:

For server:

Add new connection

Re: security question regarding opening up ports

set up an advanced connection
accept incoming connections
etc.

For client:
Add new connection
Connect to the network at my workplace
Virtual private network connection
etc.

I then opened up port associated with pptp on my router. This configuration works fine, but only allows one connection from outside to a computer behind the router – Windows XP VPN limitation !?

Is this PPTP VPN?

If you can't get a VPN to work then look at SSH. An added advantage of SSH versus PPTP VPN is you can use a private/public key pair protected by a strong password for authentication making it very safe and secure. Here are some links...

<http://theillustratednetwork.mvps.org/Ssh/SecureShell.html>

I like Tunnelier as the SSH client because you can set it up to automatically connect to one RDC host PC when the SSH tunnel is established.
Very convenient.

this looks promising and I will probably go this way unless I can get the built-in vpn to work.