

Re: RWW vs. VPN

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- *From:* Joe <joe@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 05 Aug 2005 19:13:09 +0000
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JASstillwell wrote:

Dave,

Thanks for the follow-up.

With a couple other VPN connections, I can connect in about 5-10 seconds--it logs in and authorizes them quickly. This one looks like it finds the server, then stops on "Verifying User Name and Password..." for about a minute, then pops up with an "Error 721: The remote computer did not respond". My guess is that the Actiontec router (which I configured to allow the SBS port forwarding) is not forwarding! It's weird that I can connect to RWW on the same FQDN. I have tried the simple stuff like double-check the user name and password, use a different login, etc.

The network is setup as follows:

- Actiontec DSL router gets IP from Qwest; has IP of 10.0.0.1 on the LAN side.
- SBS NIC #1 (WAN) connects to Actiontec @ IP 10.0.0.2.
- SBS NIC #2 (LAN) connects to network switch @ IP 192.168.1.1.
- Client workstation is 192.168.1.120.

Again, I can connect via a no-ip.com FQDN to RWW and admin the server, and connect to the workstation, but no VPN authentication.

Other clients that I have setup almost identical servers have (a) Comcast cable modem connecting to a Linksys firewall, (b) XO T1 connected to a firewall. In both cases, I can connect via VPN to either an IP or FQDN. On those servers I didn't spend any time setting up any extra port forwarding, either.

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As far as RWW vs. VPN, in this particular case I would like to have the client connect via VPN so that she can VNC into her computer at the office. The office runs a 4D server database that is kind of old and seems very particular about what other TCP/IP activity is going on on the workstation. In fact, it won't access the server database at all if Microsoft Windows Updates are running!

Otherwise, RWW seems to work fine. I can connect to the desktop no problem after running the Network Connection. As I said, though, I would like to use VPN.

That looks very much like GRE (protocol 47) trouble. RWW uses only TCP/IP, and the housekeeping on TCP port 1723 seems to be working. What isn't happening is the data transfer on protocol 47.

Some routers don't mention protocols specifically, and just quietly forward 47 when you only ask for TCP/1723, others have something explicitly called 'PPTP passthrough' or similar, which passes both.

Presumably if either of these were true of your router, there would be no trouble, so have another look in the manual to find anything about forwarding protocols other than TCP/IP.

This 47 is an IP protocol, not a port of TCP or UDP, but it seems that a few braindead routers refer to it as 'port 47'. If you can't get there any other way you might try forwarding this to see if it helps.

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