

RDP to internal client machine?

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs/2007-05/msg03823.html>

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I've got a SBS2003 setup on a small domain in our office with about 6 networked XP Pro Computers and a few printers, etc.

We've got internet access through a single NIC and a 2Wire DSL Modem/Router/Gateway. But, have got DHCP controlled through the SBS2003 box.

Have the router successfully setup to allow VPN to the server, some other activities (Synching ACT to the databases) and can successfully RDP to the server (I actually manage most of it remotely.) When needed, i've been able to then RDP to other computers within the network, but then comes very slow (RDP -> RDP) and uses up one of the RDP connections on the server (there's two of us that RDP to the server so want to keep it as open as possible.)

I'm attempting to get a straight RDP connection to ONE of the client machines within the network (The boss, who's out alot, needs access, etc.) I don't need it on all (though would be nice) but just this one specific computer (in addition to the server, which I already have.)

I've used the recommendations on Geek.com for setting up RDP through a modem/router on a few instances (my own home, office, and in other "workgroup" situations) and I love it - works well.
<http://www.geek.com/news/geeknews/2003Aug/fea20030828021469.htm>

I've even done multiple machines within the same workgroup by following his "manually fix a specific machine IP address and then regedit the port number that RDP listens on." to connect to more than one computer on the same network. (When connecting, add the port number after a colon I.e. 58.176.25.55:3390)

But, i'm having problems configuring on this SBS setup. All client machines are Auto Config DHCP from the server. But, on the said client, i've manually setup IP address, DNS servers, etc. All internet access etc. still works on machine - all is good from within. I've then setup the router/modem to Port Forward 3390 to the IP address of the said machine. (The default 3389 still works to the server too). After many tries, i still can't connect from the outside.

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I'm also having intermittent problems, now, connecting to the client machine from within the network via RDP from the server. At first, the machine name was unrecognizable, but i added the server to the WINS address. Before that, I could RDP by IP address. Yesterday, couldn't connect again and found out that the McAfee local firewall was blocking stuff (though I had it enabled to pass through both Ports 3389 and 3390 just in case) Though the WinXP firewall is locked down via domain settings. I was succesffull at one point to connet from the server w/o issue, but today after re-booting (and just by waking up :(it's not even recognizable on the network (Cant rdp to machine name or even IP address)

Also, can't ping the local computer from within the network via server either . . times out. Things are just acting up even more so.... So, with all that.

1. I'm having issues just getting the client to RDP from the server now. Why won't ping back? Why can't connect at all any more?
2. Will my desired setup (via router/gateway) even work at any point on this SBS setup?
3. Is there an overall better way to be able to RDP straight into a client desktop w/o going through all this?

I hope i've left enough info, but will be glad to offer more. I'm out of ideas, and a few weeks/days of hacking this, i need some "real" help ;)

Thanks,
Blake