

Re: Is Remote Desktop Web Connection secure?

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.terminal_services/2007-02/msg00648.html

- *From:* Patrick Rouse <PatrickRouse@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 22 Feb 2007 22:24:00 -0800
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I'm in agreement with Jeff that punching a hole thru your firewall from the public Internet to the private network is not the best solution, but a lot of people do it.

For the most secure setup, placing an SSL VPN Device in a DMZ (port on your firewall) for access to internet resources like TS, OWA... is the best solution.

If security is not priority number one, you can allow port 3389 traffic thru your firewall to an internal Terminal Server (Remote Desktop Host) and port 80 or 443 to an IIS Server. Technically, the IIS Server can be anywhere, because it doesn't talk to the Terminal Server, it just delivers the RDP Client and connection configuration to the client, which then connects directly to the Terminal Server.

I'd opt for the SSL VPN in DMZ Option, i.e. using AEP Networks NSP or Citrix Access Gateway. There are other SSL VPN Solutions here:

<http://www.sessioncomputing.com/add-on.htm#security>

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Patrick C. Rouse
Microsoft MVP – Terminal Server
Provision Networks VIP
Citrix Technology Professional
President – Session Computing Solutions, LLC
<http://www.sessioncomputing.com>

"Jeff Pitsch" wrote:

IMHO, and I know others will disagree with me on this, but anytime you open up your internal network directly to the internet is just asking for trouble.

As for OWA, many, many organizations use OWA so I'm not sure what your referring to from a security perspective. What your proposing is much

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less secure than OWA ever will be.

And for the DMZ, you have a router to the internet, typically these come with the ability to carve off a DMZ network even if it's for one server to reside in.

Jeff Pitsch
Microsoft MVP – Terminal Server
Citrix Technology Professional
Provision Networks VIP

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Mrpush wrote:

Hello,

I'm in a fix. I want to make available to my users all company applications, Exchange 2003 server services, etc. to all my users from remote locations if that is what they need. I'm aware of the security issue that exists in the "oops, I left my session logged on at the hotel terminal" but I think I'll just live with that. I want my user to have access to ALL of there office stuff.

I do not have a DMZ and I have read that setting up Exchange (OWA)in the DMZ is asking for trouble. I see security issues there.

My other option is to set up Remote Desktop Web Connection as I use terminal servers and can put all my apps on them.

However I believe that I need a WEB SERVER (IIS) to use Remote Desktop Web Connection and this now requires a DMZ anyway(I guess I can't escape this military stuff)

My question is, if I setup a DMZ and a web server, will Remote Desktop Web Connection be secure? Or does the security all fall onto how well I setup the DMZ and IIS?

Is there an "easy DMZ in a box" or "DMZ and Web Server for dummies" resource that would make this a quick setup for me?

Thanks much,

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Mark