# Remote Desktop can't connect to the remote computer: Reasons and solutions

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Reasons and solutions

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Krishnamoorthi Gopal (https://4sysops.com/members/krishna1990/) Thu, Sep 19 2019 (https://4sysops.com/archives/remote-desktop-cant-connect-to-the-remote-computerreasons-and-solutions/)

remote control (https://4sysops.com/tag/remote-control/), remote desktop services (https://4sysops.com/tag/remote-desktop-services/)

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32 🗣 (https://4sysops.com/archives/remote-desktop-cant-connect-to-the-remote-computer-reasons-and-solutions/#comments)

This post aims to discuss all the common reasons why a Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) connection can't connect to a remote computer. I will explain how to identify the cause and then show you how to fix your failing Remote Desktop Connection.

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Krishnamoorthi Gopal (Https://4sysops.Com/Members/Krishna1990/)

Krishna is working as a Senior System Administrator for a managed IT Service provider. He has 10 years of IT experience in the insurance and healthcare industries. Krishna focuses on Windows and Active Directory administration and works with various other technologies such as VMware, Azure, Hyper-V, and PowerShell.

There are many reasons why an RDP connection to a remote machine might fail The screen below shows a typical error for a failed RDP connection.

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"Remote Desktop can't connect to the remote computer for one of these reasons:"

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# Verify the network connectivity

Every admin should be familiar with this RDP error. The most common cause of a failing RDP connection concerns network connectivity issues, for instance, if a firewall is blocking access.

You can use ping, a Telnet client, and PsPing from your local machine to check the connectivity to the remote computer. Keep in mind ping won't work if ICMP is blocked on your network. The main advantage of Telnet and PsPing is that you can connect via TCP, and you can check whether the RDP port 3389 is open.

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The Telnet client isn't enabled by default. Use this command to enable Telnet from a command prompt:

1. dism /online /Enable-Feature /FeatureName:TelnetClient

And use this one from a PowerShell console:

1. Install-WindowsFeature -name Telnet-Client

Use PsPing (https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/downloads/psping)if you have problems enabling the Telnet client. PsPing also lets you test the connectivity to a specific TCP port. It is portable, so no installation is required.

First, try to ping the remote computer's hostname or IP address.

C:>>psping 192.168.0.104:3389
PsPing v2.10 — PsPing — ping, latency, bandwidth measurement utility Copyright (C) 2012-2016 Mark Russinovich Sysinternals — www.sysinternals.com
TCP connect to 192.168.0.104:3389: 5 iterations (warmup 1) ping test: Connecting to 192.168.0.104:3389 (warmup): from 0.0.0.0:58304: This operation returned because the timeout period expired. Connecting to 192.168.0.104:3389: from 0.0.0.0:58305: This operation returned because the timeout period expired. Connecting to 192.168.0.104:3389: from 0.0.0.0:58306: This operation returned because the timeout period expired. Connecting to 192.168.0.104:3389: from 0.0.0.0:58306: This operation returned because the timeout period expired. Connecting to 192.168.0.104:3389: from 0.0.0.0:58307: This operation returned because the timeout period expired. Connecting to 192.168.0.104:3389: from 0.0.0.0:58308: This operation returned because the timeout period expired. Connecting to 192.168.0.104:3389: from 0.0.0.0:58308: This operation returned because the timeout period expired.
TCP connect statistics for 192.168.0.104:3389: Sent = 4, Received = 0, Lost = 4 (100% loss), Minimum = 0.00ms, Maximum = 0.00ms, Average = 0.00ms
(https://4sysops.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/The-remote-machine-connection-timed-out-with-PsPing.png)

The remote machine connection timed out with PsPing

As you can see in the screenshot above, I was unable to ping the remote machine and the port was not reachable as well.

If this works, and you are unable to ping the machine using the FQDN name, checl whether DNS resolution is working properly. Sometimes the hostname is pointing to another machine on DNS that is either offline or not in use.

If you can't connect at all, a local firewall (Windows Firewall or third-party security software) or a network firewall might be blocking the port. The PowerShell command below lets you display the Windows Firewall state on the remote machine.

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1. Invoke-Command -ComputerName [ComputerName] -ScriptBlock {netsh
 advfirewall show allprofiles}

UN L
BlockInbound, AllowOutbound
N/A (GPO-store only)
N/A (GPO-Store only)
Disable
Enable
8-ikl.
Disable Disable
UISADIE Veustamaat%(sustam32)LaaFilas)Firawall\afirawall laa
4096
000

For testing purposes, you can disable Windows Firewall on the remote compute with this command:

1. Invoke-Command -ComputerName Win7 -ScriptBlock {netsh advfirewall
 set allprofiles state off}

Note that you should enable PSRemoting on the remote computer to execute the above command. If not, you can use PsExec (https://docs.microsoft.com/en us/sysinternals/downloads/psexec)to enable PowerShell remoting (https://4sysops.com/wiki/enable-powershell-remoting/) with the command below:

 psexec \\RemoteComputer -u administrator -p PASSWORD netsh advfirewall set allprofiles state off

# Verify user permissions

If your user account has no administrator privileges, you should be a member of the local Remote Desktop Users group to access the remote machine via RDP. By default, no members are in this group, and only members of the Administrators group can connect via RDP.

Read this 4sysops article to learn how to add users remotely to a user group (https://4sysops.com/archives/add-a-user-to-the-local-administrators-group-on-a-remote-computer/).

## <sup>ne</sup> Allow Remote Desktop Connection

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Ensure Remote Desktop is enabled on the remote computer. The RDP listener could be inactive. You can enable the Remote Desktop Connection either from Systen Properties or from the registry.

Option 1: Select Start > Run, type sysdm.cpl, and select the Remote tab.

ystem Propertie	S					×	
Computer Name	Hardware	Advanced	System Prot	ection	Remote		
Remote Assista	ance						
Allow Rem	ote Assistan	ce connectio	ns to this com	puter			
What happens	when Lena	ble Remote /	ecictance?				
what happens	WIGHTEN	Die Nemote A	(SSIStance :				
				Adv	anced		
Demote Desiste	_						
Remote Deskto	P						
Choose an option, then specify who can connect.							
Don't allow remote connections to this computer							
Allow remo	Allow remote connections to this computer						
Only all Desktop	ow connecti with Netwo	ons from corr rk Level Auth	puters runnin entication (re	g Remo comme	nded)		
Help me choo	<u>se</u>			Sele	ct Users		
		ОК	Са	incel	App	piy	
os://4sysops.com	n/wp-conter	nt/uploads/20	)19/09/Remot	e-com	outer-RDP-		
ings.png)							

Option 2: Select **Start > Run**, type **regedit**, navigate to *HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE* : SYSTEM > CurrentControlSet > Control > Terminal Server, and set the value for the key **fDenyTSConnections** to 0 (0 = Enable; 1 = Disable).

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Name	Туре	Data	
ab (Default)	REG_SZ	(value not set)	
AllowRemoteRPC	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)	
BelayConMgrTimeout	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)	
BeleteTempDirsOnExit	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)	
#fDenyTSConnections	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)	
🛞 fSingleSessionPerUser	REG_DWORD	0,00000001 (1)	
ab InstanceID	REG_SZ	d3962f40-31b7-4f1b-8070-f3c98f9	
NotificationTimeOut	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)	
PerSessionTempDir	REG_DWORD	0x0000000 (0)	
ab ProductVersion	REG_SZ	5.1	
RailShowallNotifyIcons	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)	
ab RCDependentServices	REG_MULTI_SZ	CertPropSvc SessionEnv	
ab SnapshotMonitors	REG_SZ	1	
5tartRCM	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)	
10 TSAdvertise	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)	
11 TSUserEnabled	REG DWORD	0x00000000 (0)	

(https://4sysops.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Remote-computer-RDP-settings-in-the-Registry.png)

Remote computer RDP settings in the Registry

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You can use this PowerShell command to enable RDP remotely:

1. (Get-WmiObject Win32\_TerminalServiceSetting -Computername [ComputerName] -Namespace root\cimv2\TerminalServices).SetAllowTsConnections(1,1)

And from the command prompt, you can use the next command if the Remote Registry service is running on the remote computer:

1. REG ADD "\\[RemoteComputer]
\HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Terminal Server" /v
fDenyTSConnections /d 0 /f /t REG\_DWORD

# Verify the status of the RDP services

On both the local (client) computer and the remote (target) computer, the following services should be running:

- Remote Desktop Services (TermService)
- Remote Desktop Services UserMode Port Redirector (UmRdpService)

The UmRdpService is an RDP port redirector service, which helps redirect drives printers, and ports from the local to the remote machine. For example, if you want to map all of your local drivers to the remote computer, this service will do the job.

If the UmRdpService service was set to disabled through a central Group Policy RDP connections to this machine will fail. Note that sometimes restarting the service won't fix the issue, and you have to reboot the machine after reconfiguring the Startup Type to Automatic.

Name	Description	Status	Startup Type	Log On As
Remote Desktop Services	Allows user	Started	Manual	Network S
Remote Desktop Services UserMode Port Redirector	Allows the r	Started	Manual	Local Syste

Remote computer RDP services status

The PowerShell command below starts both of these services remotely if they are in a stopped state. Note that this only works if the service Startup Type is set to eithe Automatic or Manual.



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The output of the command should be either 0 (started) or 10 (already running) Check out this article (https://docs.microsoft.com/en us/windows/win32/cimwin32prov/startservice-method-in-class-win32-service) to learn more about return codes and their descriptions.

# Identify whether Group Policy is blocking RDP

You can enable or disable Remote Desktop centrally through Group Policy settings To check those settings, go to **Start > Run**, type **gpedit.msc**, navigate to Compute Configuration > Administrative Templates > Windows Components > Remote Desktop Services > Remote Desktop Session Host > Connections, and find the **Allow users to connect remotely by using Remote Desktop Services** setting If the setting is **Disabled**, you should change it to **Enabled** or **Not Configured**.



Use *GPResult* (*gpresult /h C:\output.htm*) from a console on the remote machine to verify whether Group Policy has been applied properly. Also you can use *rsop.msc* to get the applied Group Policy settings on a particular machine.

# Check the RDP listener port on the remote computer

By default, the RDP client verifies that the Remote Desktop service on the remote computer is listening on port 3389. If not, another application could be occupying the same port.

To check whether any remote session (RDP-TCP) already exists on that computer use *qwinsta*, which gives you a list of local as well as remote sessions.

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The screenshot above shows that the rdp-tcp session with session ID 65536 already exists.

To verify that the Remote Desktop service is using the correct port, use the Registry Editor. Go to **Start > Run**, type **regedit**, navigate to HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE **>** SYSTEM **>** CurrentControlSet **>** Control **>** Terminal Server **>** WinStations **>** RDP Tcp, and review the PortNumber setting.



Alternatively, you can use the command below:

1. REG QUERY "\\[Remote Computer]\HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Terminal Server\WinStations\RDP-Tcp" /F "PortNumber"

If the output of the RDP port value is 0x00000d3d (hex), your RDP port is configured with a default port, which is 3389. In the screenshot above, the default RDP port was changed to 3388. In this case, either you have to change the RDP port to the defaul one, or you access the remote machine via the new port 3388.

In the Remote Desktop client, you have to specify the custom RDP port in the computer address space as shown in below:



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😼 Remote D	esktop Connection
-	Remote Desktop Connection
<u>C</u> omputer:	192.168.0.103:3388
Windows Secu	rity 🛛
Enter you These crede	ur credentials entials will be used to connect to 192.168.0.103.
	OK Cancel
https://4sysops. port.png)	com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/RDP-access-with-a-different-
	RDP access with a different port

If another application is using the RDP port, you have to find that application on the remote machine and then reconfigure it to use a port other than 3389. Use the netstat command to find the application PID listening on port 3389. And with the *tasklist* command, you can identify the name of the application running with this PIE as shown below:



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(https://4sysops.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Check-whether-another-process-is-using-the-RDP-port.png)

Check whether another process is using the RDP port

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## Checking RDP connectivity with PowerShell

Checking all those possible connectivity issues manually is a time-consuming task. wrote a little PowerShell script that automates this task.

My Get-RDPStatus.Ps1 script checks connectivity of the remote computer via ping FQDN, RDP ports, and RDP services, and the RDP status with NLA (Network Leve Authentication). The script uses WMI cmdlets that work over RPC and therefore does not require PSRemoting. The screenshots below shows the output of the script

The latest version is available for download from the ithuk (https://raw.githubusercontent.com/gkm-automation/Public/master/Get-RDPStatus.ps1).

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(https://4sysops.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Sample-Script-output-2.png)

Sample Script output 2

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(https://4sysops.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Sample-Script-output-1.png)

Sample Script output 1

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# Conclusion

Many articles discuss Remote Desktop connection problems. I wrote this one mainly to compile all possible causes of failed RDP connections. If you know of anothe possible cause, please post a comment below.

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(https://4sysops.com/members/gibon/)

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4 years ago

Hello,

A very common error is the famous "CredSSP encryption oracle remediation" message error due to may 2018 update when it's installed o the server but not on the desktop (or the opposite).

< +3

REPLY (HTTPS://4SYSOPS.COM/ARCHIVES/REMOTE-DESKTOP-CANT-CONNECT-TO-THE-REMOTE-COMPUTEI REASONS-AND-SOLUTIONS/?REPLYTOCOM=616843#RESPOND)

Krishnamoorthi Gopal (Rank 2) (https://4sysops.com/members/krishna1990/) 4 years ago

Laurent,

forgot to include...Thanks for reminding

https://4sysops.com/archives/rdp-authentication-error-due-to-the-credssp encryption-oracle-remediation-error/ (https://4sysops.com/archives/rdpauthentication-error-due-to-the-credssp-encryption-oracle-remediationerror/)

< **+2** 

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Matt D (Rank 1) (https://4sysops.com/members/davidsonmg/) 4 years ago

Great tips Krishna!

< **+2** 

(https://4sysops.com/members/krishna1990/)

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## Miguel Velez-White (Rank 1) (https://4sysops.com/members/mvelezwhitesbs/)

4 years ago

I tried the famous 'registry hack' for the CredSSP problem and it didn't wo for me. After further research, I came across another fix which requires a group policy edit....and it worked!!

Here's the link:

CredSSP Encryption Oracle Remediation Fix (https://zillowtech.com/credssp-encryption-oracle-remediation.html)

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(https://4sysops.com/members/davidsonmg/)

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## сK

3 years ago

i face one problem, the RDP need protocol ICMPv4.

i enable ICMPv4, then RDP able to connect. else is fail. (even TCP, UDP enable on windows firewall)

do you have any idea?

basic info:

windows server 2019 std connect to juniper SSG5 (an old firewall) rdp port: not default

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>

#### Fiona

3 years ago

Hi I am trying to connect to a remote desktop for the first time in the office – I get in as far as remote desktop but then POP up stating requesting computer name appears. Is this due to the desktop in the office not being turned on or asleep or the settings not set up to work remotely?

#### < 0

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**fpl** 3 years ago

HI guys,

I did try to reach my PC from outside of my home network. Success to se port forwarding. I'm able to reach my PC with RDP to put the public IP, bu have register the IP as a web address and I can't put the web address rig to as a RDP address like an IP. I got error message that the web address includs illegal characters. So what should I do if I want to reach my PC by RDP by use a web address?

< +1

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## Rahul

3 years ago

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You can obtain a free hostname from a dynamic DNS service provider like Dynu and then use that hostname to access your PC in your home netwo using RDP. I have both RDP and VNC access to my machine at home so that in case RDP fails, I am able to access using VNC.

>

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## **Bozhidar Parvanov**

3 years ago

Hi, very nice manual one of the best i ever found on the web.

I have some deep problem related to termDD, unfortunately it does not load

EventID:7026 ""The following boot-start or system-start driver(s) failed to load:

TermDD""

and as a result i have

EventID:7001 "The Remote Desktop Services service depends on the Terminal Device Driver service which failed to start because of the following error:

An instance of the service is already running."

Any suggestions will be strongly appreciated.

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## Ali

3 years ago

none of the above worked for me.

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Paolo Maffezzoli (Rank 4) (https://4sysops.com/members/paolo/) 3 years ago

## Do you have any specific error messages?

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Leos Marek (Rank 4) (https://4sysops.com/members/gibon/) 3 years ag

I would suggest to open a topic in Admin forum – https://4sysops.com/forums/forum/it-administration/ (https://4sysops.com/forums/forum/it-administration/)

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**Fulu** 2 years ago



>

Thanks for the great article!!

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#### vikram

2 years ago

RDP issue has been fixed for me by enabling – gpedit.msc -> RDP connections – enable.

Thanks for the post. It's very useful and informative.

< +1

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#### Prabhu

2 years ago

Remote Control Option in Task Manager for terminal Users connection is not available in Server 2012 R2. Recently we have reinstalled the OS. > Could to help to resolve the issue. Number of users login with servers. we should take remote some time on login administrator.

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Leos Marek (Rank 4) (https://4sysops.com/members/gibon/) 2 years ag

Could you be more specific? Its not clear what your requesting. Are you talking about the Users tab in Task Manager, where you can manually logoff users?

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Prabhu 2 years ago

More users are login with their profiles in server. I want to login with particular user profile via remote control option in task manager. But i couldnt able to find out the option while login on server.

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Leos Marek (Rank 4) (https://4sysops.com/members/gibon/) 2 years ago

Sorry, I dont get what you mean. There is nothing like Remote Control Task Manager. The only thing available is a Connect, which connects you to the RDP session.

Remote Control is available in SCCM, not on a RDP server.

If you speak about session shadowing, see following guide.

http://woshub.com/rds-shadow-how-to-connect-to-a-user-session-inwindows-server-2012-r2/ (http://woshub.com/rds-shadow-how-toconnect-to-a-user-session-in-windows-server-2012-r2/)

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#### CaMu

2 years ago

Hello, where do you put the IP address in the PowerShell Get-RDPStatus.Ps1 script?I have 7 PCs in network and all have the same computer name.

Best regards,

< 0

REPLY (HTTPS://4SYSOPS.COM/ARCHIVES/REMOTE-DESKTOP-CANT-CONNECT-TO-THE-REMOTE-REASONS-AND-SOLUTIONS/?REPLYTOCOM=965430#RESPOND)



I have a strange RDP problem I am trying to track down.

1. I can RDP to a workstation from my barracuda sslvpn as long as I have the setting for "Network Level Authentication" set to No. If I change that to yes it fails.

2. We are replacing the barracuda vpn with a new vpn and it does not hav that setting and will not connect.

3. If I go on to another workstation in the same subnet and try and connec I can not connect. The error I get is "This computer can not connect to the remote computer" I know it has something to do with NLA, but I can not fc the life of me figure out what is set different on these computers to keep me from being able to connect.

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REPLY (HTTPS://4SYSOPS.COM/ARCHIVES/REMOTE-DESKTOP-CANT-CONNECT-TO-THE-REMOTE-COMPUTE/ REASONS-AND-SOLUTIONS/?REPLYTOCOM=970044#RESPOND)

Krishnamoorthi Gopal (Rank 2) (https://4sysops.com/members/krishna1990/) 2 years ago

Seems you are connecting from outside of your network. Check this  $\stackrel{>}{\sim}$  article:

https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-server/remote/remote-desktop services/clients/remote-desktop-allow-access (https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-server/remote/remotedesktop-services/clients/remote-desktop-allow-access)

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#### kian

2 years ago

Hi, I have an issue with RDP to the windows server2012 with Domain users. I can connect to the server with "mstsc /v:computerIP /adm but cannot connect through RDP. It stuck into initiating a remote connection

and after a while, I will get the usual error that check network connection ...

Can an one help in this regard

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Leos Marek (Rank 4) (https://4sysops.com/members/gibon/) 2 years ag

Hi kian,

mstsc=RDP. What if you try just with?

mstsc /v:computerIP

Can you try from Powershell to run

Test-NetConnection -ComputerName yourip -Port 3389

t

assuming you have RDP port unchanged, you should get TCPtest , succeeded.

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kian

2 years ago

Hi Leos,

Thank you for your reply. The first command failed again. But the second command TcpTest succeeded.

Do you have any idea

< +1

(https://4sysops.com/members/gibon/)

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Leos Marek (Rank 4) (https://4sysops.com/members/gibon/) 2 years ag

by any chance, is the target server a terminal with RDS services installed do you have valid licenses available?

If you can connect with /admin switch, then RDP is working. The only explanation I have that you have expired licenses or trial period on RDS.

< 0

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### sweetha

Hi, I have an issue with RDP to the windows 10. I am working with aws cloud, not able to connect the RDP

< 0

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>



1 year ago

I am searching on google how to solve RDP connection error problem and I find your post, hopefully, it will work. Thanks in advance!

< 0

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DAVID KLAN 1 year ago

SO I WAS TRYING TO FIX A PROBLEM ON MY REMOTE DESKTOP THAT REQUIRES CHANGING MY MAC ADDRESS BUT AS SOON AS I DID I IMMEDIATELY LOST CONNECTION TO IT. ALL EFFORT TO REGAIN ACCESS AS BEING FUTILE. PLEASE I NEED HELP WHAT CAN I DO TO REGAIN ACCESS, I AM CURRENTLY IN ANOTHER COUNTRY ON A BUSINESS TRIP AND MY HOST COMPUTER IS A DESKTOP PC(CAN'T HAVE IT MAILED).

PS;HOST COMPUTER IS RUNNING WINDOWS 7

< 0

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KK 1 year ago

Unfortunately, you will have to have someone physically change the MA( adress on your original PC back, else the connection will stay lost

Maybe ask the other person then to install also a teamviewer/anydesk fo easier access?

< 0

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ne

## Patrick Cardon

< 0

9 months ago

One thing to add, at least for Windows 7 and 8.1 ... it had me pull out my hair in despair. The RDP was set, the firewall was set, the network connection was a workgroup with DHCP and up and running through a switch on an ADSL router. It used to work and stopped once I upgraded the network card. What seems to have "unlocked" RDP for me ... shut down both the receiving and sending machines. Shut down, do not restar – I did that half a dozen times and it did nothing. I even reset my ADSL router to force the DHCP to reset everything. Shutting down seems to be critical for Windows to gobble the settings once you switch both computer on again.



#### Aman

4 months ago

Any one facing issues of error 126 in services remote desktop services start and stop not working I am facing please help

< 0

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Paolo Maffezzoli (Rank 4) (https://4sysops.com/members/paolo/) 4 months ago

Do you have this error on the server side?

< 0

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