

## Remote connections To/From home or office

In today's hectic world it seems that being disconnected from either your home or office network is something from a rather quaint earlier time. Fortunately there are numerous solutions available to help you solve this problem.

Usually a connection from your home to your office will be via a VPN (virtual private network) and/or RDS (Remote Desktop Services). Assuming the computer or server you want to connect to is **not** running home edition software eg. Win7 Pro not Win7 Home Premium, setting up an RDS connection is rather easy and a step by step article is available on our web site on the downloads page. RDS is free on all Pro or Ultimate versions of Microsoft OS.

A VPN is a little more complicated by it's not rocket science and Win7/8 Pro come with a VPN server built in although I suggest a router based VPN for business use. All versions of Server software have VPN server capability. The best approach is to connect to your work network via VPN then connect VIA RDS to your particular PC. If you are running a database simply connecting via VPN won't be a good a solution for you. RDS will be. When connecting via RDS it's a good idea to change the listening port. By default it's 3389 and everyone knows this so it becomes a security risk. There are other security risks that need to be addressed as well

If however you need to connect to a computer running home edition you will need a commercial service. The good news is that several are available at a reasonable cost. The top 5 solutions are TeamViewer, Logmein, GoToMyPC, Thinstuff, and VNC.

TeamViewer is free for non commercial purposes so if you are using it to connect to your office you may want to check their Eula. Logmein for is no longer free but is a good low cost single destination solution. Thinstuff is reasonably priced and can handle multiple users on the same system as well. GoToMyPC is easy to use (pricey though) and VNC is an oldie but goodie that works very well.