

8Signs Firewall – Remote Installation for Windows 2003 Servers

Before beginning, there are a few things that you need to know about running the firewall on a Windows 2003 Server where your only access is via Remote Desktop (RDP).

When the firewall is running as a service, you will notice that if you log into your server using a "normal" RDP connection that the firewall icon will not be visible in the system tray. Any attempt to start the firewall using the desktop icon will fail, but that is because the firewall IS already running.

You can work around this on Windows 2003 by using the /console Remote Desktop command which gives you a console (i.e. server desktop) connection instead of a "user session" connection. From the command prompt on the remote workstation, the console Remote Desktop command is entered using this syntax:

```
mstsc.exe /console /v:SERVER_IP_ADDRESS
```

Once you connect, you'll see the firewall icon in the system tray and you'll have access to the full firewall interface.

Installation

Run the firewall installation file on your server, answering the prompts as follows:

How do you want to configure 8Signs Firewall?

Use the Configuration Wizard to create the ruleset.

Is this computer connected to an internal network (LAN) or just the Internet?

This computer is connected only to the Internet.

[The Firewall Configuration Wizard will now detect your network cards. If you have multiple network adapters you will be prompted to complete a Configuration Wizard for each adapter one at a time.]

For the detected network adapter that connects to the Internet, select "Internet Adapter".

Internet adapter – Please select the options that apply

Here you will want to select both boxes (I use this adapter to access the Internet for web browsing + I host one or more Internet servers on this computer)

Client applications

Here you are prompted to select the type of client applications that you will be running on your server. At a minimum, I would suggest that you select "Web browser" to ensure that you are able to browse the Internet from your server. Be certain to uncheck any applications that the firewall has detected but that you will not be using.

DNS Servers

The firewall will detect which DNS servers are configured for use on your server. If you are satisfied with the list, click Next. If you would like to allow your server to connect to any DNS server, remove all IP entries and click Next.

Server applications

Here you are prompted to select the types of server applications that you will be running on your server. At a minimum, **you need to select “Terminal Services (Client)” from the list to ensure that you will be able to connect using Remote Desktop while the firewall is running** (note: we have a typo on this configuration screen, obviously this should read Terminal Services (Server), the rule that is created is correct however). Scan through the list and select any other types of servers that you are running (i.e. HTTP Server, Email Server). You can always add to and remove rules after the installation is complete, so the most important part here is to be certain to select the Terminal Services checkbox.

Configuration Review

This screen is showing you a summary of the rules that will be created for this adapter. **Double-check that you see Terminal Services (Server) in this list** (yes, we have the wording right on this screen!), then click the Save button to continue.

8Signs Firewall now includes remote administration, do you want to enable it?

Select No. Because the firewall's remote administration tool has some limitations (for example, you cannot access the HTTP Filtering options using this tool), you are better off to use RDP in /console mode to administer your firewall remotely.

Answering No here will not prevent you from connecting using RDP.

[You can always enable the firewall's remote administration later if desired by going under the View menu in the firewall to Settings, and clicking on the Administration tab.]

Do you want the firewall to start automatically when the server starts?

Select Yes to have the firewall run as a Windows service.

Do you want to allow or block communications when the firewall is not running?

Initially, it is safest to set this to Allow until you are certain that you have the firewall configured correctly.

This completes the installation and you must reboot your server.

Once your server has restarted, you will be able to connect using Remote Desktop with the /console command as described above. Double-clicking the firewall icon in the system tray will bring up the main firewall interface, allowing you to monitor and/or make any necessary configuration changes to the firewall.