

RE: Re: Remote connections

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/securityfocus/focus-ms/2004-10/0083.html>

From: Adam Vaxvick (avaxvick_at_sunwaptasolutions.com)

Date: 10/19/04

Date: Tue, 19 Oct 2004 10:04:39 -0600

To: "John Fleming" <jfleming@creativeventuresofboca.com>, "Laura Robinson" <larobins@verizon.net>

With remote desktop web connection you only connect to a website that then installs the RDP activeX control and runs it in your browser, the actual RDP connection still takes place over port 3389 and is not tunneled through HTTP or SSL.

The feature you speak of is supposedly coming in Windows Server 2003 Release 2 which will allow RDP connections to be tunneled through SSL. Which yes, would greatly increase security.

-----Original Message-----

From: John Fleming [<mailto:jfleming@creativeventuresofboca.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 18, 2004 9:04 PM

To: 'Laura Robinson'; 'GuidoZ'; focus-ms@securityfocus.com

Cc: bugtraq@planetcobalt.net; paviles@adjoined.com

Subject: RE: Re: Remote connections

Aside from creating a VPN tunnel and then performing a Remote Desktop session, the only other secure way that I was taught, but never tested was through SSL.

Aparently there is a Remote Desktop Web Connection feature that can be installed with IIS 6.0. This can act as a gateway to 2000 and 2003 Server Terminal Services and XP and 2003 server Remote Desktop machines. You communicate through HTTP port 80 or SSL 443. Terminal Services Web Connection is installed on the web server to a Virtual Directory called TSWEB. It is supposed to act as a gateway between the client and terminal server. Like I said, I have never tried it, but would love to hear some input on it if anyone has.

Regards,

John

-----Original Message-----

From: Laura Robinson [<mailto:larobins@verizon.net>]

Sent: Saturday, October 16, 2004 5:34 PM

To: GuidoZ; focus-ms@securityfocus.com

RE: Re: Remote connections

SecurityFocus Microsoft: RE: Re: Remote connections

Cc: bugtraq@planetcobalt.net; paviles@adjoined.com
Subject: Re: Re: Remote connections

> > *Why not? I don't know of any current exploit for RDP set to high encryption, and even if there were any, connections may very well be shielded by encrypted tunnels.*
>
> *I'm not aware of any currently either, but as their track record proves, that's meaningless.*

RDP has been around and used for *years*. Just because Microsoft makes something doesn't inherently mean that it is broken and requiring of a knee-jerk bigoted approach to it.

> > *RDP can be tunneled thru SSH as well and has much better performance than VNC (don't know about Radmin).*
>
> *This may very well be true. I'm not up to par as much as I'd like on RDP, although I'm quite well learned on VNC and such. TightVNC has some of the best compression I've ever seen on a remote control app, I've used TightVNC through Dial-up many a times without delay or a problem. I'd love to see RDP perform the same feat.*

Um, it does. I've done it many, many times. And RAdmin is garbage as far as what it does to the machine on which it's running unless you remember to crank down its refresh rate to a near-nonexistent level.

>
> *But I digress. Again, I very well could be wrong about RDP. I've always leaned towards other remote control programs due to problems that usually arises with proprietary programs. (I've been using a form of WinVNC since before RDP was even thought of.)*

Don't be too sure— do you know where RDP came from? With that said, I think it's time for you to take a look at it before making what you admit are biased statements about it. Never comment on something you've not used is usually a good approach, I find.

