

Re: remote port unlocker – does such a thing exist??

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From: Ant (pawnpacer@yahoo.com)

Date: 07/13/02

From: pawnpacer@yahoo.com (Ant)

Date: 13 Jul 2002 05:30:35 -0700

> > *Can anyone tell me if there is a utility out there that would allow me
> > to remotely lock/unlock ports?*
>
> *One major problem with this is that if anybody sniffs this packet you are
> pretty much screwed – they could replicate this packet at any time and have
> access to your server. Encryption is not really an option in this case
> because you would have to use the same key all the time unless you could
> find another way to sync the keys between the two computers.*

Because it would be using Stealth there would be no obvious way to sync the keys/passwords as you say, so one way would be to store a database of keys and allow each key to be used only once. As soon as the RPU (Remote Port Unlocker) server receives a valid key it would flag that key such that it can't be used again. The RPU client could simply refer to a text file on a floppy disk which contains a few hundred keys (eg I could use 50 character hex strings for each key). So that would be one way!

Interestingly, instead of simply flagging each key when it's been used, it could increment a number each time a request is made against each key. It would then be obvious whether a hacker had managed to sniff out the original request or not.

Once the RPU server has received a valid request, I'm not sure how it would work from there. Interfacing with Zonealarm will probably be tricky. So it would probably be easier to just have the RPU server run an application (in this case a VNC server) instead of enabling/disabling ports. Then in order to close down the VNC server I could simply shut it down using VNC itself maybe.

> *You could get the tried and true SSH (Secure Shell) server for windows*

I was excited about this. But there's two things..

1) the SSH server isn't available from SSH.com, even for none-commercial use.

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2) Whenever I wanted to connect to my home computer using SSH, i would have to install a multi-megabyte SSH client first. Not as neat as the VNC client, which is simply an executable which fits easily on a floppy disk.

> *The bad thing about the whole encryption deal is that (I think) VNC is not encrypted. This means anybody could watch your every move, including keystrokes and mouse movements!*

If I don't use SSH then I'd have to bare that in mind. Must confess I don't understand how this is technically feasible by a hacker but I'll take it as fact.

Ant

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