

vnc over ssh

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.security.ssh/2003-10/0331.html>

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Hi all

Following the steps outlined at:

<http://www.uk.research.att.com/archive/vnc/sshvnc.html> on a redhat 9 server which I'm building for a client.

On the server vncserver is setup on display 1, firewall allowing inbound tcp 5900 & 5800 (ie '<host_name>:1' connects successfully). Can also ssh into server and run vncviewer successfully.

So, to test, I removed tcp 5900 & 5800 from the firewall. Now running vncviewer from the local machine doesn't connect (to be expected) but ssh to the server and run vncviewer from that remote session works (unexpected).

So if I can connect to the remote machine by ssh and start a vnc session from there (and have it appear on my local display) why would I want to use the method outlined on that web page?

I can get it to work both ways but, in my mind, starting the vnc session from the ssh connection (and being able to remove the well-known ports 5800, 5801, 5900 or 5901 from the firewall) must be more secure.

Finally, why with only 5800 and 5900 open was I able to connect directly to display 1 using <host_name>:1 ? From what I've read that should require 5901:tcp to be open.

Thanks

John