

# How Can I Securely Execute Script on Remote Windows Host?

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What are the most secure options to allow a command line script written on machine A to synchronously execute another command line script written on machine B, wait on response, and retrieve return code at the end of execution. Assume client machine A is UNIX and server machine B is Windows.

I need some basic encryption around the initial authentication of the client user to the server, but could live without encryption for the rest of the connection. Some authentication of the machines involved in the conversation independent of user authentication (similar to SSH) would be nice. Some ability to limit the programs that can be executed on the target to a group of programs that have been registered in advance would be nice.

Microsoft does have solutions like WShell and WMT, but they are based on port 135 and DCOM. We aren't willing to open up those ports through the firewall because too many other services get exposed on the target system with those ports available.

There are plenty of REXEC daemons for Windows, but these appear to be trivially written and offer no encryption to protect password traversal over the TCP connection, no machine authentication, and do nothing to stop execution of any arbitrary EXE on the target computer.

SSH implementations certainly cover the authentication requirements, but I don't find a straightforward way to do a synchronous execution of a remote EXE through the SSH pipe. I do not want to login to a remote shell and do things manually there. I want to launch an EXE from within a client-side script and get a return code from one command in the script that will tell me how the program ran on the remote host after it has finished running.

A user on another newsgroup suggested that SSH can be set up to invoke an executable on a remote host, then capture the return code to the calling computer.

What options do I have?

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