

## Vancouver Small Business enables employees to work from home using only the existing hardware

Vancouver based Blueprof IT Services successfully setup the remote access for more users in the same time using only the existing hardware at a client's site, the same IT devices any company usually has: a router and Windows XP Computers

### Scope

The client would like to enable users to work from home during the H1N1 flu outbreak. However, due to the economic slowdown, the company doesn't want to invest in a new server; the setup should be done in a Peer to Peer network.

### Solution

The most classic solution in such environment would be a simple Linksys VPN Router, the users would install a small piece of VPN software on their home computer, connect securely to the VPN router at work and then remote access their computers using the internal IP addresses or even the computer names.

However, because the client prefers not to change the existing router which is new, our IT consultant decides to try a fancy setup:

Since from a router only one remote connection can be forwarded to only one computer and the request is to have at least two connections available, the idea was to try with the Remote Access port changed.

Therefore, there were 3 computers chosen for this special setup, each of them had the default port modified from the default 3389 to 4000, 5000 and 6000.

Then, from the router instead of forwarding the classic 3389 to one IP address, the forwarding was done for each of the new ports to their corresponding IP addresses.

### Results

Now each of the 3 designated employees can access their computers at work simply opening a Remote Desktop Connection on their home computer and type instead of xx.xx.xx.xx (their IP address at work) depending on what computer they want to connect, the IP address plus their assigned port number (e.g. xx.xx.xx.xx: 5000 or xx.xxx.xx.xxx:6000 , etc).

The client can now save money while allowing the employees to work from home, and the cost for this was just 2 hours labor.

### Technical notes (warning: Geek's language)

To change the RDP port:

1. Start Registry Editor.
2. Locate and then click the following registry subkey:  
**HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\TerminalServer\WinStations\RDP-Tcp\PortNumber**
3. On the **Edit** menu, click **Modify**, and then click **Decimal**.
4. Type the new port number, and then click **OK**.
5. Quit Registry Editor.

**Note** When you try to connect to this computer by using the Remote Desktop connection, you must type the new port. (Source: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/306759> )

To help the client find out what is the external IP address (especially if it's a dynamic IP and it might change: [www.whatismyip.com](http://www.whatismyip.com) )

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