Securing Remote Desktop (RDP) for System Administrators

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How secure is Windows Remote Desktop?

Remote Desktop sessions operate over an encrypted channel, preventing anyone from viewing your session by listening on the network. However, there is a vulnerability in the method used to encrypt sessions in earlier versions of RDP. This vulnerability can allow unauthorized access to your session using a man-in-the-middle attack(link is external).

Remote Desktop can be secured using SSL/TLS in Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 10, Windows 11, and Windows Server 2003/2008/2012/2016/2019/2022/2025. ***Some systems listed are no longer supported by Microsoft and therefore do not meet Campus security standards. If unsupported systems are still in use, a security exception is required.**

While Remote Desktop is more secure than remote administration tools such as VNC that do not encrypt the entire session, any time Administrator access to a system is granted remotely there are risks. The following tips will help to secure Remote Desktop access to both desktops and servers that you support.

Source: https://security.berkeley.edu/node/94