



Lab 08 – Remote Desktop Services

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Scenario

RDS

RemoteApp



Windows Server role to deliver **desktops/apps** remotely



Session Desktop (full desktop) or
RemoteApp (single app)



Access via **mstsc** or **RD Web Access**



Centralized management + lower client requirements

What is RDS?

Scenario

- **Context:** Small educational lab, multiple students
- **Need:** Secure centralized Windows desktop access
- **Solution:** RDS on Windows Server 2022 + Active Directory
- **Benefit:** No local install, simpler updates, lower client requirements

Target result & architecture



AD DS

Identity and access control



DNS

Resolve domain names like **lab8.local**



RDS

Provide remote sessions
(Session Desktop / RemoteApp)



Network

Bridged adapter (server reachable on LAN)



Clients

LAB-PC-1, LAB-PC-2 (physical machines)

Implementation

Server VM

- VirtualBox + Windows Server 2022
- Bridged network, 10.0.97.61
- Hostname: RDS-SRV01

Identity

- Domain: lab8.local
- AD users: student1, student2
- Group: RDS_Students

RDS Deployment

- Quick Start → **Session-based desktop**
- Collection: QuickSessionCollection
- Access: only LAB8\RDS_Students

Active Directory Setup

Install Roles

- Active Directory Domain Services
- DNS Server
- New Forest: lab8.local
- DNS auto-configured during promotion

Client DNS note

- School DNS did not resolve lab8.local
- We used a **hosts-file entry** on clients for RDS-SRV01.lab8.local

RDS Installation

Step 1: Add RDS roles/features

- Server Manager → Add Roles and Features → Remote Desktop Service

Step 2: Deployment:

- Quick Start method (single server)
- Session-based desktop deployment
- Auto-creates QuickSessionCollection

Installed Components:

- RD Session Host
- RD Connection Broker
- RD Web Access

Collection access control:

- Collections → QuickSessionCollection → User Groups
- Remove: Domain Users
- Add: LAB8\RDS_Students

RD Web Access (what + where):

- Web portal to launch Full Desktop / RemoteApp
- URL: <https://RDS-SRV01.lab8.local/rdweb>
(or <https://10.0.97.61/rdweb>)

Result: Only authorized students see and launch resources

RDS Setup



RD Web Access



Step 1: Fix name resolution

- School DNS doesn't resolve `lab8.local`
- Add hosts entry on each client:
 - `C:\Windows\System32\drivers\etc\hosts`
 - `10.0.97.61 RDS-SRV01.lab8.local`

Step 2: Fix HTTPS warning (certificate)

- RDS → Edit Deployment Properties → Certificates → RD Web Access
- Create self-signed cert: `RDS-SRV01.lab8.local`
- Trust it on clients

Access:

- <https://RDS-SRV01.lab8.local/rdweb> | <https://10.0.97.61/rdweb>

- **Method 1: Direct RDP (full desktop)**
- Open Remote Desktop Connection (mstsc)
- Server: RDS-SRVo1.lab8.local or 10.0.97.61
- Login: LAB8\student1 or student2
- **Method 2: RD Web Access / RemoteApp**
- Browser → <https://RDS-SRVo1.lab8.local/rdweb>
- Login with domain credentials
- Launch full desktop or RemoteApp (.rdp)

Testing

Wrap-Up

Delivered:

- RDS Session Desktop + RD Web Access (RemoteApp)
- AD DS domain: lab8.local (RDS-SRV01 / 10.0.97.61)
- Access limited to LAB8\RDS_Students

Verified in demo:

- Full desktop via mstsc
- RemoteApp launch via /rdweb

Key challenge solved:

- School DNS → hosts-file mapping + self-signed certificate