



WARNING

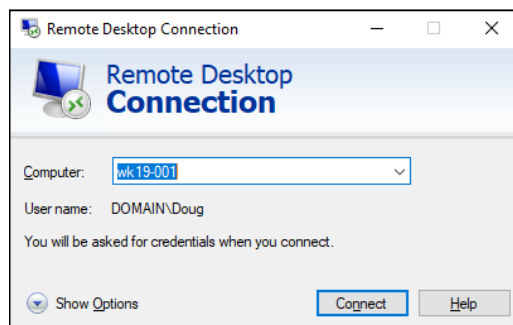
There's no question that RDP is convenient and useful. It's also inherently dangerous, however. Don't enable it unless you've taken precautions to secure your account by using a strong password. Also, you should already have a firewall installed to keep unwanted visitors out of your network. For more information on account security, see Chapter 19.

## Connecting remotely

After you've enabled remote access on a server, you can connect to the server by using the remote desktop client that's automatically installed with Windows. Here's the procedure:

1. **Click the Start button, type the word Remote, and then click the Remote Desktop Connection icon.**

The Remote Desktop Connection client comes to life, as shown in Figure 24-6.



**FIGURE 24-6:** Connecting with Remote Desktop Connection.

2. **Enter the name of the computer you want to connect to.**

Alternatively, you can use the drop-down list to select the computer from the list of available computers.

You can also enter the IP address of the computer you want to connect to.

3. **Click the Connect button.**

You're connected to the computer you selected, and then prompted for login credentials, as shown in Figure 24-7.



TIP

If you don't see this screen, but instead you're greeted by a message that says the computer couldn't be contacted, check to make sure that you entered the correct computer name or IP address. If the name or address is correct, perhaps you failed to first connect with the VPN. The Remote Desktop Client won't be able to find the computer unless it can access the domain via the VPN.