Home   About

Windows OSHub

Windows ⌄   Microsoft ⌄   Virtualization ⌄   PowerShell   Linux

⌂ Windows OS Hub / Windows 10 / How to View and Clear RDP Connections History in Windows

March 11, 2024 | `Windows 10`   `Windows 11`   `Windows Server 2019`

How to View and Clear RDP Connections History in Windows

The built-in Windows Remote Desktop Connection client (`mstsc.exe`) saves the remote computer name (or IP address) and the username that is used to log in after each successful connection to the remote RDP host. The next time the RDP client starts, the user can select one of the saved connections, and the previous username is automatically inserted. If you are using a public computer or a computer you don't trust, you may want to clear your RDP connection history for security reasons.

Contents:

- Delete the History of Remote Desktop Connections on Windows
- Script to Clear RDP Connection History
- How to Clear Remote Desktop Bitmap Cache?
- How to Prevent Windows from Saving RDP Connection History
- Remove Saved RDP Credentials on Windows
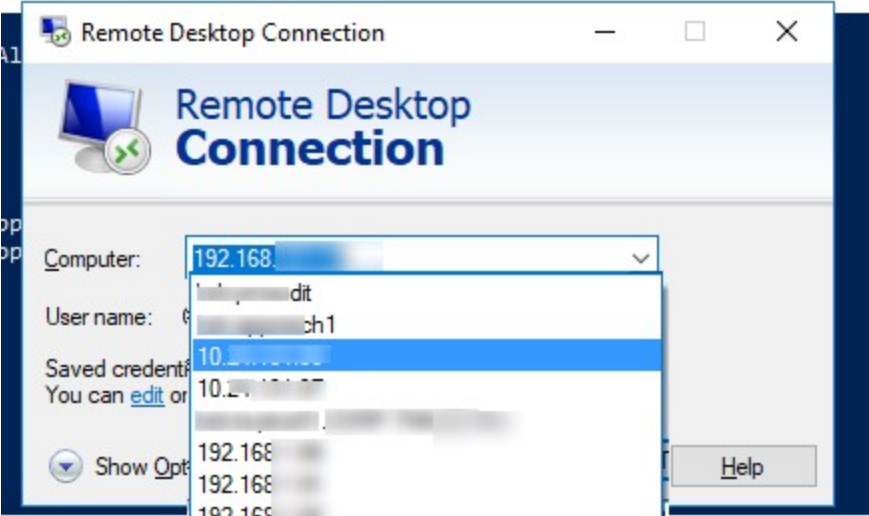
This article describes where Windows stores Remote Desktop connection history and credentials, and how to clear RDP history and logs.

Delete the History of Remote Desktop Connections on Windows

Windows stores the history of Remote Desktop client connections in several different places, and to completely clear the RDP history you will need to delete the data from all of these places.

How to Delete RDP Connection History from Registry

1. Open the Registry Editor (`regedit.exe`) and go to the reg key
   HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Terminal Server Client;
2. The **Default** subkey contains history entries for the last *10* RDP connections. The names of the parameters are **MRU0-MRU9** (MRU – Most Recently Used). Their values contain IP

📡 https://t.me/woshub

Join WindowsHub Telegram channel to get the latest updates!

CATEGORIES

› Active Directory

› Group Policies

› Exchange Server

› Microsoft 365

› Azure

› Windows 11

› Windows 10

› Windows Server 2022

› Windows Server 2019

addresses/RDP host names. Select all the registry parameters in the key and delete them;

3. Then expand the **Servers** subkey. A list of all previously used RDP hosts and user accounts is stored here. The username is contained in the **UsernameHint** parameter. This username is automatically inserted into the mstsc.exe client window when you connect to this RDP host. The **CertHash** parameter contains the thumbprint of the server's RDP certificate (see: "[Configuring trusted TLS/SSL certificates for RDP](#)");

4. Clear all entries in the Servers registry key. The easiest way to do this is to simply delete the entire Servers reg key, and then re-create it manually.

Delete the Default.RDP File

Then delete the hidden **Default.rdp** file from the `%userprofile%\Documents` folder in the user profile. This file stores information about the last RDP connection.

How to View and Clear RDP Event Viewer Logs in Windows

The RDP client also logs each outbound connection to the Event Viewer log (Applications and Services Logs -> Microsoft -> Windows -> TerminalServices-ClientActiveXCore -> **Microsoft-Windows-TerminalServices-RDPClient/Operational**).
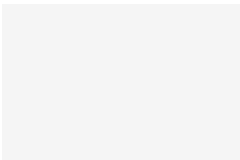
RECENT POSTS

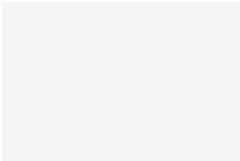Remove a Specific Device from the Safely Remove Hardware List on Windows
October 16, 2024

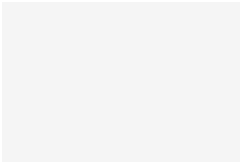Disable BitLocker Automatic Drive Encryption in Windows 11
October 16, 2024

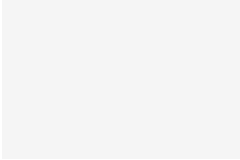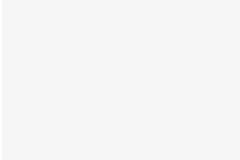Check the Software Installation/Removal History in Windows
October 8, 2024

Run PowerShell Scripts on a Schedule with Task Scheduler
October 3, 2024

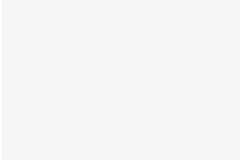Graylog: Centralized Log Collection and Analysis
October 1, 2024
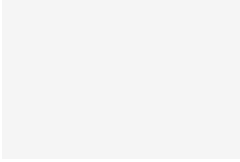
Disable and Completely Remove Widgets from Taskbar in Windows 11
September 26, 2024

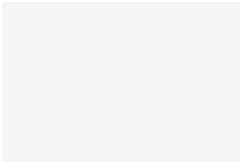Configure Kiosk Mode on Windows 11 (Single or Multi-App)
September 24, 2024

How to Cast/Mirror Android Screen to Windows PC
September 11, 2024

Get Started with Docker on Windows (WSL2) without Docker Desktop
September 4, 2024

To list the log for outbound RDP client connections, use the [Get-WinEvent](#) cmdlet to select and filter the events in the Event Viewer:

```
$properties = @(
@{n='TimeStamp';e={$_.TimeCreated}}
@{n='LocalUser';e={$_.UserID}}
@{n='Target RDP host';e={$_.Properties[1].Value}}
)
Get-WinEvent -FilterHashTable @{LogName='Microsoft-Windows-TerminalServices-RDPClient/Operational';ID='1102'} | Select-Object $properties
```
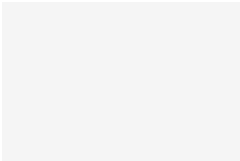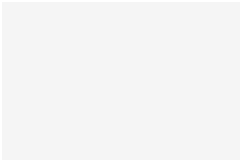
> Learn more about [how to view and analyze RDP connection logs](#).

You can [clear this event log](#) from the Event Viewer console or by using the command:

```
WevtUtil cl Microsoft-Windows-TerminalServices-RDPClient/Operational
```

Delete Recent RDP History Entries from the Start Menu and Taskbar

Windows also stores recent remote desktop connections in Jump Lists. If you type `mstsc` in the [Windows search box](#) or right-click on the client in the taskbar, you will see the history of previous RDP connections in the Recent list.

To clear the RDP history in the Start Menu and Jump Lists, clear the Recent Items list by deleting the files in the `%AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Recent\AutomaticDestinations` directory.

Script to Clear RDP Connection History

To quickly clear the history of RDP connections in Windows, you can use a batch script. This script will automatically perform the manual actions described above to clear the connection history and the RDP logs.

```
@echo off
reg delete "HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Terminal Server Client\Default" /va /f
reg delete "HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Terminal Server Client\Servers" /f
```

```
reg add "HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Terminal Server Client\Servers"
attrib -s -h %userprofile%\documents\Default.rdp
del %userprofile%\documents\Default.rdp
del /f /s /q /a %AppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Recent\AutomaticDestinations
```

A similar PowerShell script to clear all entries in the RDP connection history:

```
Get-ChildItem "HKCU:\Software\Microsoft\Terminal Server Client" -Recurse | Remove-
ItemProperty -Name UsernameHint -Ea 0
Remove-Item -Path 'HKCU:\Software\Microsoft\Terminal Server Client\servers' -Recurse
2>&1 | Out-Null
Remove-ItemProperty -Path 'HKCU:\Software\Microsoft\Terminal Server Client\Default'
'MR*'  2>&1 | Out-Null
$docs = [environment]::getfolderpath("mydocuments") + '\Default.rdp'
remove-item  $docs  -Force  2>&1 | Out-Null
```

> If you want to automatically clear the RDP history when the user logs off, you can run this code as a logoff GPO script.

How to Clear Remote Desktop Bitmap Cache?

By default, the mstsc.exe client caches rarely modified areas of the remote desktop as bitmaps (persistent bitmap caching). The RDP client cache can significantly reduce network traffic.

The RDP client cache is stored in ***.bmc** and ***.bin** files in the `%LOCALAPPDATA%\Microsoft\Terminal Server Client\Cache` folder.

The RDP cache contains raw bitmaps of the RDP screen in the form of 64×64 pixel tiles. Attackers can use simple PowerShell or Python scripts (easily searched using the *RDP Cached Bitmap Extractor* query) to capture large areas of the remote desktop from cached PNGs.

For security reasons, it is recommended that you clear the RDP cache folder and prevent the RDP client from saving the screen image to the cache. Disable the **Persistent bitmap caching** option on the **Advanced** tab of the Remote Desktop Connection client.

How to Prevent Windows from Saving RDP Connection History

If you do not want Windows to store the history of RDP connections, you must deny writing to the `HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Terminal Server Client` registry key. The first step is to disable the inheritance of permissions on the specified reg key (Permissions -> Advanced -> Disable inheritance). Then change the ACL of the registry key by selecting the **Deny** for users (but you should be aware that this is an unsupported configuration).

As a result, mstsc.exe is simply not able to write any RDP connection information to the registry.

Remove Saved RDP Credentials on Windows

The RDP client allows you to store the user's password in the built-in Windows Credential Manager and automatically connect to a remote host without entering a password.

> Learn more about using [saved RDP passwords in Windows](#).

You can delete saved RDP passwords from the Credential Manager window (run the command `rundll32.exe keymgr.dll,KRShowKeyMgr`). Remove all entries prefixed `TERMSRV\` .

Or you can clear the stored credentials for RDP with the command:

```
For /F "tokens=1,2 delims= " %G in ('cmdkey /list ^| findstr "target=TERMSRV"') do cmdkey /delete %H
```

> You can prevent users from saving RDP passwords by enabling the Group Policy option **Network access: Do not allow storage of passwords and credentials for network authentication (under** Computer Configuration -> Administrative Templates -> Windows Components -> Desktop Services -> Remote Desktop Connection Client**).**

💬 10 comments | 7 ♡ | 🔗 🐦 G+ 📌

previous post
[MBR2GPT: Converting MBR to GPT Disk in Windows 10](#)

next post
[Keepalived: Configuring High Availability with IP Failover on CentOS/RHEL](#)

RELATED READING

10 COMMENTS

GRAY FOX

⊙ March 17, 2017 - 2:13 pm

Thanks for your post. I was looking to clear the last connection, and deleting the default.rdp file helped in that regard. Thanks again!

Reply

ROBERTSON THOMAS

⊙ October 18, 2018 - 12:04 pm

I am still getting the username once I login to the RDP

Reply

> **VAHID**
>
> ⊙ March 27, 2019 - 2:53 pm
>
> go to "Documents" folder and delete "Default.rdp"

Reply

TELBUS

⊙ April 24, 2019 - 7:06 am

In windows 10 there is still a recent connection list when you search RDP in bottom search bar and it brings the RDP client app in the result. How to clear that too?

Reply

PIRULO

⊙ November 1, 2019 - 1:44 pm

Thanks, it worked.

Reply

ADM

⊙ January 1, 2020 - 9:54 pm

still leaves sum info on the resents on windows 10

Reply

MAHAIR

⊙ June 3, 2020 - 1:18 pm

Is there a way to prevent RDP from caching remote computer name
I do not want RDP to cache remote computer name at all

Reply

DNT

⊙ February 23, 2021 - 3:50 am

Thanks for publishing this forum. It was very helpful to me.

Reply

VENKATARANGAN

⊙ July 13, 2021 - 9:54 am

Thanks, the script worked and saved a lot of time

Reply

PIYUSH

Reply

⏱ September 5, 2022 - 8:36 am

Hello,
This batch file does not work on Windows 11. Is there a way to make it work on Windows 11? Please help me out. Please

---

LEAVE A COMMENT

```
Your Comment
```

```
Name*
```
```
Email*
```
```
Website
```

☐ NOTIFY ME OF FOLLOWUP COMMENTS VIA E-MAIL. YOU CAN ALSO SUBSCRIBE WITHOUT COMMENTING.

POST COMMENT

CURRENT YE@R *

```
4.4
```

 FACEBOOK   TWITTER   TELEGRAM

Popular Posts

How to Download Offline Installer (APPX/MSIX) for Microsoft Store App

Fix: Windows Cannot Connect to a Shared Printer

How to Disable UAC Prompt for Specific Applications in Windows

Fix: The Computer Restarted Unexpectedly or Encountered an Unexpected Error on Windows

How to Clean Up System Volume Information Folder on Windows

Fixing "Winload.efi is Missing or Contains Errors" in Windows 10

How to Hide Installed Programs in Windows 10 and 11

 BACK TO TOP