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superuser

Keyboard shortcut to minimize Remote Desktop   Ask Question

▲
112

Is there a way, using the keyboard, to switch from a
maximized (full screen) Remote Desktop Connection back
to the main computer?

▼

★

28

I have about 4 Remote Desktop connections that I am
switching between and it would be nice to not have to go
to the mouse each time I want to switch.

I know I can press `Ctrl` + `Alt` + `Break` and that normalizes

windows-7   keyboard-shortcuts   remote-desktop

edited Jun 12 '13 at 16:49

poqdavid
396   1   4   17

asked Nov 5 '10 at 15:39

Vaccano
3,057   19   52   68

13 Answers

▲

69

▼

✓

CTRL + ALT + BREAK will minimize the maximized window to the host PC.

answered May 4 '12 at 13:26

Gustav Westling
814   7   4

---

5   For me that just "Normalizes" it. But that is good enough. (Alt + Tab can then be used.) – Vaccano May 4 '12 at 15:52

7   For me, a second ctrl-alt-break will re-maximize the window. – Ben Mosher Nov 13 '12 at 19:05

1   CTRL + ALT + PAUSE also works if you don't have the BREAK key or if have to type FN to reach BREAK. – hobbes3 Feb 4 '14 at 16:00 ✎

1   `ctrl + alt + pause` doesn't work with MS sculpt keyboard (Windows 8). – Sridhar Ratnakumar Jun 18 '14 at 2:15

42

machine (at least in Win 8). `Ctrl` + `Alt` + `Home` then `Win` will open the windows menu on your local machine.

With virtual machine use, I often have multiple RDP sessions open, and switch by `Ctrl` + `Alt` + `Home` then `Win` + `T` then arrow keys to pick the RDP session I want to be in.

edited Jun 25 '13 at 11:34

AviD
306   3   6   27

answered Jun 7 '13 at 15:37

Guest
421   4   2

After pressing Ctrl + Alt + Home, in Windows 10, I can use Alt + Tab in local machines – Harun Jul 11 '18 at 6:47 ✏

19

This bugged me for the longest time as well.

Initial attempts to solve it with AutoHotkey failed, because the Remote Desktop client installs a keyboard hook and swallows all input.

I finally discovered that the `Caps Lock` key gets passed through to the local system.

So, this AutoHotkey script will do the trick, making `Ctrl` + `Shift` + `CapsLock` minimize Remote Desktop:

```
#IfWinActive ahk_class TscShellContainerClass
  ^+CapsLock::
    ; Need a short sleep here for focus to restore properl
```

```
       return
 #IfWinActive
```

Corrected version that works for me:

```
#IfWinActive ahk_class TSSHELLWND
   ^Capslock::              ; Ctrl+Caps Lock (couldn't make Ct
some reason
     ; Need a short sleep here for focus to restore properl
     Sleep 50
     WinMinimize A    ; need A to specify Active window
     ;MsgBox, Received Remote Desktop minimize hotkey     ;
   return
#IfWinActive
```

edited Jun 12 '13 at 16:41

poqdavid
396　1　4　17

answered Jul 3 '11 at 18:04

Russell Davis
1,099　8　14

Same issue as dnk.nitro on Win7 64-Bit. Upon changing the ahk_class Ctrl+Shift+CapsLock works for me. – koushik Jun 4 '14 at 9:59

This did not work for me under Windows 10 because of #IfWinActive did not detect the remote desktop. I used the spy to try several different detection methods. So I removed the #IfWinActive line and it works! Of course, it now minimizes all apps, not just remote desktop, but i can live with that. – Knox Oct 27 '17 at 17:27

For me on Windows 10 I had to change IfWinActive to `#IfWinActive Remote Desktop Connection ahk_class TscShellContainerClass` and put `SetTitleMatchMode, 2` at beginning so it checks if window title contains "Remote Desktop Connection" text – CichyK24 May 24 '18 at 13:14 ✎
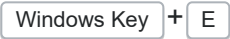
▲

`Alt` + `Tab`

10   It is possible to use that normal, comfortable keyboard
      shortcut to get out of a full screen Remote Desktop, but
▼   requires a slightly different setup before connecting.
      Instead of minimizing the remote system, I just switch to
      another local program and leave the remote system in the
      background with the following:

1. Before connecting to the remote machine with
   Remote Desktop Connection, on the "Local
   Resources" tab, I set "Keyboard" to "On this
   computer". This allows using `Alt` + `Tab` to get you
   back to any other program on the local system.

2. When I want to switch between programs on the
   remote system, I use `Alt` + `Page Up`, which works just
   like `Alt` + `Tab` would, but only on the remote system.

In addition, you can use `Alt` + `Page Down` (or `Alt` + `Shift` +
`Page Up`) to cycle through the active programs on the
remote system in reverse.

One caveat Luc mentioned should be pointed out: using
this setup, all keyboard shortcuts using the `Windows Key`
are sent to the local system. An example would be
`Windows Key` + `E` to open Windows Explorer, which will
get you to the local file system, not the remote one.

It took a short amount of time to get used to, but this setup
has worked well for me without the need for additional
software or more than one shortcut.

edited Mar 20 '17 at 10:16

Community ♦
1

kevinmicke
585   3   8   20

Very good to know this, though it doesn't direct all other input to the remote machine. Using windowskey+E for example is performed locally. +1 anyway. – Luc Mar 27 '13 at 8:29

@Luc - That is a side effect I should have mentioned - I'll add that to the answer. It can be helpful or frustrating always having the Windows Key local depending on what you want at the moment. Thanks. – kevinmicke Mar 27 '13 at 15:35

This is exactly what I'd want, but I'm not sure how to configure it. Here there's a link in browser that opens the client so it's impossible configure anything before that. And just opening the citrix client asks for some email which never resolves to anything. Would there be any way to configure this? Maybe some config file on my pc I can edit? – T_D Jan 28 '16 at 11:07

@T_D - Off hand I'd guess you won't be able to control it if you're only able to access it through a browser, and I haven't used Citrix myself. While they may not help, a couple places to try would be: 1. C:\Users\YOUR_USERNAME\Documents\Default.rdp where you'd want to change to "keyboardhook:i:0" 2. If that doesn't work, you could try the same setting under here in the registry: HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Terminal Server Client\Default (found here msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/…). Good luck! – kevinmicke Jan 29 '16 at 18:48

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5

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For me in Windows 7 64 bit to make scrip work I had to change 1st line from `#IfWinActive ahk_class TSSHELLWND` to `" IfWinActive ahk_class TscShellContainerClass` so the full script now looks like:

```
#IfWinActive ahk_class TscShellContainerClass
  ^Capslock::              ; Ctrl+Caps Lock (couldn't make Ct
some reason
```

```
        ;MsgBox, Received Remote Desktop minimize hotkey     ;
    return
#IfWinActive
```

edited Nov 29 '11 at 20:21

Simon Sheehan
7,765   12   43   69

answered Nov 29 '11 at 18:44

dnk.nitro
151   1   2

This worked perfectly for me in Win7 Ultimate 64-bit bootcamp on a Mac. Thanks! – John Bubriski Mar 10 '15 at 16:08

▲

4   Not quite what you asked for, but might be helpful enough:

▼   `CTRL` + `ALT` + `←` - switches you to the host computer

         `CTRL` + `ALT` + `→` - switches you back to the remote computer

Source

edited May 16 '11 at 5:01

3498DB
16.1k   11   48   63

answered Nov 5 '10 at 18:47

Ryan Berger
564   2   8   20


1   Yes, but this does not work if you chose to not propagate all
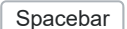
mentioned by the OP do work even in this case, with the flaws
mentioned. – Marcel Jan 5 '11 at 15:32

3   Hope people trying this solution do not have intel graphics
card :D – anishsane Jul 4 '15 at 15:39

3

⏶ ⏷

`CTRL` + `ALT` + `Home` brings focus to the Remote Desktop
Connection bar. The connection bar includes the minimize
button.

In Windows 7, if I un-check "Display the connection bar
when I use the full screen" option when making the
connection, then the keys to minimize the RPD session
are `CTRL` + `ALT` + `Home` `Spacebar` .

If the connection bar is set to show (which is the default)
then it requires hitting `Tab` a couple of times to minimize
the RDP session: `CTRL` + `ALT` + `Home` `Tab` `Tab`
`Spacebar` .

answered Mar 3 '14 at 22:16

Tim Lewis
183   5

2

⏶ ⏷

Bring up the host's Task Manager, then task-switch:

- `Ctrl` + `Alt` + `Delete` (Windows Security)
- `T` (Task Manager)
- `Alt` + `Tab` (task-switch on host computer)

edited Jul 1 '13 at 22:39

Michel de Ruiter

Brian Tkatch
21   1

▲

2

▼

I found that you need two combinations of shorcuts. It works in Windows 7.

1. `CTRL` + `ALT` + `BREAK` will minimize the maximized window to the host PC.

2. `Win` + `M` Minimize your remote Desktop window

or in the first step you can change of window with `ALT` + `TAB` .

edited Mar 17 '16 at 11:40

StackzOfZtuff
1,066   8   18

answered Nov 4 '13 at 12:13

Nome
21   1

`WIN` + `M` doesn't work. `ALT` + `TAB` as well as you understand. It must be absolute solution, but not only for some particular configuration. – Kirby Dec 13 '17 at 14:24 ✎

▲

1

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I do the same thing. The best solution I found in XP was virtual dimension with the virtual desktops always on top. Then I can switch among 4 remote desktops in full screen with one mouse click each. However, Virtual Dimension doesn't work quite right in Windows 7 (at least in 64 bit). It seems to work but it loses the "always on top" though the checkbox stays on, the virtual desktop switcher does not.

Alt + Caps Lock without Caps Lock annoying state changes (**Good if you don't have Scroll Lock**)

1

At first annoying to set up, but in the long term the most comfortable. I like to be able to quickly switch with left hand only

Dexpot 1. Set next desktop to Alt + Scroll Lock (If like I you don't have scroll lock use windows on-screen keyboard to press "ScrLk") 2. Set previous desktop to Alt + Scroll Lock 3. Set screens overview to Ctrl + Scroll Lock

Now use Autohotkey to make redirections (this way Caps Lock will be prevented from changing it's state):

```
GetKeyState, state, Capslock ;
    ; Alt + Caps Lock becomes Alt + Scroll Lock
    !Capslock::
        send !{ScrollLock}
    return
    ; Alt + Shift + Caps Lock becomes Alt + Shift + Scroll
    !+Capslock::
        send !+{ScrollLock}
    return
    ; Ctrl + Caps Lock becomes Ctrl + Scroll Lock
    ^Capslock::
        send ^{ScrollLock}
    return
```

Done. Now you can use Alt + Caps Lock to switch between screens without Caps Lock changing it's states. Also if you only need 2 screens you can set dexpot to use only 2 desktops which will make alt + caps lock quick toggle for remote desktop.

Pawel
141 3

I found this workaround using a mutli-desktop manager:

0

1. Install Dexpot
2. Configure Hotkey for "Next Desktop" to `ALT` + `ScrollLock`
3. Configure Remote Desktop to Capture all Keys in Fullscreen Mode

Then you can switch between Fullscreen Desktops mit `ALT` + `ScrollLock`.

I set the number of Desktops to 2, as I only have 1 remote desktop.

Additionally, I have installed Clavier, which allows me use just `ScrollLock` to switch between desktops. (Clavier config: Add-> Write Text... -> Shortcut: ScrollLock -> OK -> Write-Text: [ALT+ScrollLock])

edited May 13 '13 at 12:19

answered May 13 '13 at 7:31

Synox
174 1 7

`Ctrl` + `Alt` + `Home` worked for me. I am using Windows

a terminal server running. I was able to pin the terminal server connection bar.

edited Nov 18 '15 at 3:02

Heptite
15.3k 5 45 60

answered Nov 18 '15 at 2:05

user523271
1

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protected by Community ♦ Apr 7 '17 at 12:29

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