

Real-World Scenario 3-3: Configuring a Rule Using the Windows Firewall with Advanced Security

Scenario: You have been tasked with modifying a local computer's firewall. The specific task at hand is to allow remote desktop connections *to* the local Windows computer *from* the Internet.

Use the Windows Firewall with Advanced Security to modify the rule. You can open it by going to Run and typing **wf.msc**.

Which profile should you modify?

How is this a security risk?

What is the default inbound port for the remote desktop?

NOTE Remember that rules for applications can have multiple profiles associated with them, including private and public.

Real-World Scenario 3-3 Solution

In this example solution, we use the Windows Firewall with Advanced Security, which can be accessed by going to the Run prompt and typing **wf.msc**.

To allow remote computers on the Internet to connect to the local system via the remote desktop program, do the following:

Step 1. Open the Windows Firewall with Advanced Security.

Step 2. Locate the Remote Desktop rules.

Step 3. Enable the rule for the Public profile version of the remote desktop rule. (The domain/private profile rule is already enabled by default and can remain that way.)

Also consider whether the inbound remote desktop port should be changed. Allowing remote desktop connections to a computer on a LAN can be a security risk because the typical attacker knows the default port used by a remote desktop. And if the attacker can control a system on a LAN, that attacker can do a lot of damage to that system and other systems on the network.

The default is port 3389, so you might want to modify that to a less commonly used port. If that is the case, you would have to let the remote connecting user know which port you have selected. (In addition to letting them know the IP address, of course.)

Remember that any connection to or from the Internet has potential risk associated with it. Be sure to secure all connections appropriately.

Video Solution: Watch the video solution "3-3: Working with the Windows Firewall with Advanced Security."