

Deploying Microsoft RemoteFX on a Remote Desktop Session Host Server Step-by-Step Guide

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Published: October 2010

Abstract

This step-by-step guide walks you through the process of setting up a working Remote Desktop Session Host (RD Session Host) that uses RemoteFX and that is accessible by using Remote Desktop Connection.



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# Deploying Microsoft RemoteFX on a Remote Desktop Session Host Server Step-by-Step Guide

## About this guide

Microsoft® RemoteFX™ enables access to the RD Session Host server from a wide range of client devices including rich clients, thin clients, and ultrathin clients. It also ensures lower bandwidth than Windows Server® 2008 R2 when transferring rich graphics applications. When used with a hardware-based application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC), the server running Windows Server 2008 R2 with SP1 is capable of hosting more sessions than previous versions.

This step-by-step guide walks you through the process of setting up a working Remote Desktop Session Host (RD Session Host) that uses RemoteFX and that is accessible by using Remote Desktop Connection (RDC). During this process, you will deploy the following hardware in a test environment:

 An Active Directory® Domain Services domain controller

 An RD Session Host server that uses RemoteFX

 A Remote Desktop Connection client computer

This guide includes the following topics:

 [Step 1: Setting Up the Infrastructure](#z96e5e08ed81342ae902fc0ecea86d28f)

 [Step 2: Installing and Configuring Remote Desktop Session Host](#zced4138d20204ce4b8e943ddb2ca6411)

 [Step 3: Configuring RemoteFX on a Remote Desktop Session Host Server](#zb871eb9dd4af47579a02994c019a514b)

 [Step 4: Verifying the Functionality of RemoteFX for Remote Desktop Session Host](#z494adc26c9764c7999b9c60e8323fe1a)

 [Step 5: Configuring RemoteFX for an Optimal Experience](#z7530f53c36d94678a3db5ca4cecb25c9)

### Prerequisites

When implementing RemoteFX, consider the following:

 The processor in the RemoteFX server must support Streaming SIMD Extensions 2 (SSE2).

 Client devices can be rich clients, thin clients, or ultrathin clients that are running the appropriate version of Remote Desktop Connection.

 Ensure that there is a LAN connection between the client and the RD Session Host server.

## Scenario: Deploying RemoteFX on a Remote Desktop Session Host server that is accessible by using Remote Desktop Connection

We recommend that you first use the procedures provided in this guide in a test lab environment. Step-by-step guides are not necessarily meant to be used to deploy Windows Server features without supporting deployment documentation, and they should be used with discretion as stand-alone documents.

Upon completion of this step-by-step guide, you will have an RD Session Host server with RemoteFX that you can connect to by using Remote Desktop Connection. You can then test and verify this functionality by connecting to the RD Session Host server from a client computer.

The test environment that is described in this guide includes seven computers that are connected to a private network by using the following operating systems, applications, and services:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Computer name | Operating system | Applications and services |
| CONTOSO-DC | Windows Server 2008 R2 | Active Directory Domain Services (AD DS), DNS |
| RDSH-SRV | Windows Server 2008 R2 with SP1 | RD Session Host |
| CONTOSO-CLNT | Windows® 7 with SP1 | Remote Desktop Connection |

## Related documents

The following documents can assist you in configuring RemoteFX:

 [Hardware Considerations for Microsoft RemoteFX](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=191918) (http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=191918)

 [Install Microsoft RemoteFX](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=192572) (http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=192572)

 [What’s New in Microsoft RemoteFX](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=192437) (http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=192437)

 [Deploying a Single Microsoft RemoteFX Server Step-by-Step Guide](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=177903) (http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=177903)

# Step 1: Setting Up the Infrastructure

This documentation is preliminary and subject to change.

To prepare your Remote Desktop Services test environment in the CONTOSO domain, you must complete the following tasks:

 Install and configure the domain controller (CONTOSO-DC)

 Install and configure the RD Session Host server (RDSH-SRV)

 Install and configure the Remote Desktop Connection client computer (CONTOSO-CLNT)

Use the following table as a reference for the computer names, operating systems, and network settings that are required to complete the steps in this guide.

Important

Before you configure your computers with static IP addresses, we recommend that you complete Windows product activation while each of your computers still has Internet connectivity. You should also install any available critical security updates from [Windows Update](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=47370) (http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=47370).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Computer name | Operating system requirement | IP settings | DNS settings |
| CONTOSO-DC | Windows Server 2008 R2 | IP address:  10.0.0.1  Subnet mask:  255.255.255.0 | Configured by DNS server role |
| RDSH-SRV | Windows Server 2008 R2 with SP1 | IP address:  10.0.0.2  Subnet mask:  255.255.255.0 | Preferred:  10.0.0.1 |
| CONTOSO-CLNT | Windows 7 with SP1 | IP address  10.0.0.3  Subnet mask:  255.255.255.0 | Preferred:  10.0.0.1 |

### Install and configure the domain controller (CONTOSO-DC)

Use the following procedures to configure the domain controller CONTOSO-DC by using Windows Server 2008 R2:

 Install Windows Server 2008 R2 with SP1.

 Configure TCP/IP properties.

 Install and configure Active Directory Domain Services (AD DS).

To install Windows Server 2008 R2 with SP1

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Start your computer, and insert the Windows Server 2008 R2 with SP1 product CD.  Note  Alternatively, you can install Windows Server 2008 R2 and then upgrade to Windows Server 2008 R2 with SP1 by using the Windows Server 2008 R2 with SP1 update package.  2. When prompted for a computer name, type CONTOSO-DC.  3. Follow the rest of the instructions that appear on your screen to finish the installation. |

To configure TCP/IP properties

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Log on to CONTOSO-DC with the CONTOSO-DC\Administrator account.  2. Click Start, click Control Panel, click Network and Internet, click Network and Sharing Center, click Change adapter settings, right-click Local Area Connection, and then click Properties.  3. On the Networking tab, click Internet Protocol Version 4 (TCP/IPv4), and then click Properties.  4. Click Use the following IP address. In the IP address box, type 10.0.0.1. In the Subnet mask box, type 255.255.255.0, and then click OK.  5. On the Networking tab, click OK, and then close the Local Area Connection Properties dialog box. |

To configure CONTOSO-DC as a domain controller by using Windows Server 2008 R2

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Click Start, and then click Run. In the Run box, type dcpromo, and then click OK.  2. On the Welcome to the Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard page, click Next.  3. On the Operating System Compatibility page, click Next.  4. On the Choose a Deployment Configuration page, click Create a new domain in a new forest, and then click Next.  5. On the Name the Forest Root Domain page, in the FQDN of the forest root domain box, type contoso.com, and then click Next.  6. On the Set Forest Functional Level page, in the Forest functional level box, select Windows Server 2008 R2, and then click Next.  7. On the Additional Domain Controller Options page, ensure that the DNS server check box is selected, and then click Next.  8. Click Yes to create a delegation for this DNS server, and then continue.  9. On the Location for Database, Log Files, and SYSVOL page, click Next.  10. In the Password and Confirm password boxes, type a strong password, and then click Next.  11. On the Summary page, review your selections, and then click Next to start the installation.  12. When the installation is complete, click Finish, and then click Restart Now. |

#### Configure user accounts

Use the following procedure to create the user accounts and groups in the CONTOSO domain.

Note

The following procedure adds a new user named Morgan Skinner and assigns a password for his account.

To create a user account

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Log on to CONTOSO-DC as CONTOSO\Administrator.  2. Click Start, point to Administrative Tools, and then click Active Directory Users and Computers.  3. In the console tree, expand contoso.com.  4. Right-click Users, point to New, and then click User.  5. In the New Object – User dialog box, type Morgan Skinner in the Full name box and mskinner in the User logon name box, and then click Next.  6. In the New Object – User dialog box, type a password of your choice in the Password and Confirm password boxes. Clear the User must change password at next logon check box, click Next, and then click Finish. |

### Install and configure the RD Session Host server (RDSH-SRV)

Use the following procedures to configure the member server, RDSH-SRV:

 Install Windows Server 2008 R2 with SP1.

 Configure TCP/IP properties and the DNS server.

 Join RDSH-SRV to the contoso.com domain.

To install Windows Server 2008 R2 with SP1

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Start your computer and insert the Windows Server 2008 R2 with SP1 product CD.  Note  You can also install Windows Server 2008 R2 and then upgrade to Windows Server 2008 R2 with SP1 by using the Windows Server 2008 R2 with SP1 update package.  2. When prompted for a computer name, type RDSH-SRV.  3. Follow the rest of the instructions that appear on your screen to finish the installation. |

To configure TCP/IP properties and the DNS server

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Log on to RDSH-SRV with the RDSH-SRV\Administrator account or another user account in the local Administrators group.  2. Click Start, click Control Panel, double-click Network and Sharing Center, click Change adapter settings, right-click Local Area Connection, and then click Properties.  3. On the Networking tab, click Internet Protocol Version 4 (TCP/IPv4), and then click Properties.  4. Click Use the following IP address. In the IP address box, type 10.0.0.2, and in the Subnet mask box, type 255.255.255.0.  5. Click Use the following DNS server addresses. In the Preferred DNS server box, type 10.0.0.1.  6. Click OK, and then close the Local Area Connection Properties dialog box. |

To join RDSH-SRV to the contoso.com domain

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Log on to the RDSH-SRV computer as CONTOSO\Administrator.  2. Click Start, right-click Computer, and then click Properties.  3. Under Computer name, domain, and workgroup settings, click Change settings.  4. On the Computer Name tab, click Change.  5. In the Computer Name/Domain Changes dialog box, click Domain, and then type contoso.com.  6. Click More, and in the Primary DNS suffix of this computer box, type contoso.com.  7. Click OK, and then click OK again.  8. When a Computer Name/Domain Changes dialog box appears prompting you for administrative credentials, provide the credentials for CONTOSO\Administrator, and then click OK.  9. When a Computer Name/Domain Changes dialog box appears welcoming you to the contoso.com domain, click OK.  10. When a Computer Name/Domain Changes dialog box appears telling you that the computer must be restarted, click OK, and then click Close.  11. Click Restart Now. |

### Install and configure the Remote Desktop Connection client computer (CONTOSO-CLNT)

Use the following procedures to configure CONTOSO-CLNT:

 Install Windows 7 with SP1.

 Configure TCP/IP properties and the DNS server.

 Join CONTOSO-CLNT to the contoso.com domain.

To install Windows 7 with SP1

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Start your computer and insert the Windows 7 with SP1 product CD.  2. Follow the instructions that appear on your screen, and when prompted for a computer name, type CONTOSO-CLNT. |

To configure TCP/IP properties and the DNS server

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Log on to CONTOSO-CLNT with a user account that is a member of the local Administrators group.  2. Click Start, click Control Panel, click Network and Internet, and then click Network and Sharing Center.  3. Click Change adapter settings, right-click Local Area Connection, and then click Properties.  4. On the Networking tab, click Internet Protocol Version 4 (TCP/IPv4), and then click Properties.  5. Click Use the following IP address. In the IP address box, type 10.0.0.3, and in the Subnet mask box, type 255.255.255.0.  6. Click Use the following DNS server addresses. In the Preferred DNS server box, type 10.0.0.1.  7. Click OK, and then close the Local Area Connection Properties dialog box. |

To join CONTOSO-CLNT to the contoso.com domain

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Click Start, right-click Computer, and then click Properties.  2. Under Computer name, domain, and workgroup settings, click Change settings.  3. On the Computer Name tab, click Change.  4. In the Computer Name/Domain Changes dialog box, click Domain, and then type contoso.com.  5. Click More, and in the Primary DNS suffix of this computer box, type contoso.com.  6. Click OK, and then click OK again.  7. When a Computer Name/Domain Changes dialog box appears prompting you for administrative credentials, provide the CONTOSO\Administrator credentials, and then click OK.  8. When a Computer Name/Domain Changes dialog box appears welcoming you to the contoso.com domain, click OK.  9. When a Computer Name/Domain Changes dialog box appears telling you that the computer must be restarted, click OK, and then click Close.  10. Click Restart Now. |

You have set up your infrastructure. Now you can proceed to [Step 2: Installing and Configuring Remote Desktop Session Host](#zced4138d20204ce4b8e943ddb2ca6411).

# Step 2: Installing and Configuring Remote Desktop Session Host

This documentation is preliminary and subject to change.

To install and configure a Remote Desktop Session Host (RD Session Host) server, you must add the RD Session Host role service. Windows Server 2008 R2 with SP1 includes the option to install the RD Session Host role service by using Server Manager. This topic explains how to install and configure the RD Session Host role service on the RDSH-SRV computer in the CONTOSO domain.

Membership in the local Administrators group, or equivalent, on the RD Session Host server that you plan to configure, is the minimum required to complete this procedure. Review details about using the appropriate accounts and group memberships at [Local and Domain Default Groups](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=83477) (http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=83477).

To install the RD Session Host role service

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Log on to RDSH-SRV as CONTOSO\Administrator.  2. Open Server Manager. To open Server Manager, click Start, point to Administrative Tools, and then click Server Manager.  3. Under Roles Summary, click Add Roles.  4. On the Before You Begin page of the Add Roles Wizard, click Next.  5. On the Select Server Roles page, select the Remote Desktop Services check box, and then click Next.  6. On the Introduction to Remote Desktop Services page, click Next.  7. On the Select Role Services page, select the Remote Desktop Session Host check box, and then click Next.  8. On the Uninstall and Reinstall Applications for Compatibility page, click Next.  9. On the Specify Authentication Method for Remote Desktop Session Host page, click Require Network Level Authentication, and then click Next.  Note  If client computers that are running Windows XP will use this RD Session Host server, select Do not require Network Level Authentication.  10. On the Specify Licensing Mode page, select Configure later, and then click Next.  Note  For the purposes of this guide, a Remote Desktop licensing mode is not configured. For use in a production environment, you must configure a Remote Desktop licensing mode. For more information about configuring a Remote Desktop Licensing (RD Licensing) server, see the [Deploying Remote Desktop Licensing Step-by-Step Guide](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=141175) (http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=141175).  11. On the Select User Groups Allowed Access To This Remote Desktop Session Host Server page, click Next.  12. On the Configure Client Experience page, click Next.  13. On the Confirm Installation Selections page, verify that the RD Session Host role service will be installed, and then click Install.  14. On the Installation Results page, you are prompted to restart the server to finish the installation process. Click Close, and then click Yes to restart the server.  15. After the server restarts and you log on to the computer as CONTOSO\Administrator, the remaining steps of the installation finish. When the Installation Results page appears, confirm that the installation of the RD Session Host role service succeeded, and then click Close to close the RD Session Host configuration window. Also, close Server Manager.  Note  You may see warnings on the Installation Results page. For the purposes of this guide, you can safely ignore these warnings. |

The RD Session Host role service is now installed. For users to be able to connect to this server, you must add the user accounts to the local Remote Desktop Users group on RDSH-SRV. For the purposes of this guide, we will add Morgan Skinner to the local Remote Desktop Users group. In a production environment, you should create an Active Directory Domain Services (AD DS) group, add this group to the Remote Desktop Users group, and then add the user accounts that should have access to the RD Session Host server to the AD DS group.

Membership in the local Administrators group, or equivalent, on the RD Session Host server that you plan to configure, is the minimum required to complete this procedure. Review details about using the appropriate accounts and group memberships at [Local and Domain Default Groups](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=83477) (http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=83477).

To add Morgan Skinner to the Remote Desktop Users group

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Log on to RDSH-SRV as CONTOSO\Administrator.  2. Click Start, point to Administrative Tools, and then click Computer Management.  3. Expand Local Users and Groups, and then click Groups.  4. Right-click Remote Desktop Users, and then click Add to Group.  5. In the Remote Desktop Users dialog box, click Add.  6. In the Select Users, Computers, Service Accounts, or Groups dialog box, in the Enter the object names to select box, type mskinner, and then click OK.  7. Click OK to close the Remote Desktop Users dialog box. |

You have installed and configured your Remote Desktop Session Host (RD Session Host) server. Now you can proceed to [Step 3: Configuring RemoteFX on a Remote Desktop Session Host Server](#zb871eb9dd4af47579a02994c019a514b).

# Step 3: Configuring RemoteFX on a Remote Desktop Session Host Server

This documentation is preliminary and subject to change.

Use the following procedures to configure RemoteFX on an RD Session Host server:

 Set the maximum color depth to 32 bits per pixel on the RD Session Host server.

 Enable RemoteFX compression.

To set the maximum color depth to 32 bits per pixel

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Log on to RDSH-SRV as a member of the local Administrators group.  2. Click Start, point to Administrative Tools, point to Remote Desktop Services, and then click Remote Desktop Session Host Configuration.  3. Under Connections, right-click RDP-Tcp, and then click Properties.  4. On the Client Settings tab, select the Limit Maximum Color Depth check box, click 32 bits per pixel in the Limit Maximum Color Depth box, and then click OK.  5. Click OK. Changes to the color depth settings are not applied to sessions that are connected when the change is made. The changes will take effect the next time the user establishes a new connection to the Remote Desktop Session Host server.  Note  You can also set the maximum color depth by applying the Limit maximum color depth Group Policy setting. This Group Policy setting is located in Computer Configuration\Policies\Administrative Templates\Windows Components\Remote Desktop Services\Remote Desktop Session Host\Remote Session Environment, and it can be configured by using Local Group Policy Editor or the Group Policy Management Console (GPMC). The Group Policy setting will take precedence over the setting configured in Remote Desktop Session Host Configuration. |

Caution

Incorrectly editing the registry may severely damage your system. Before making changes to the registry, you should back up any valued data on the computer.

To enable RemoteFX compression

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Log on to RDSH-SRV as a member of the local Administrators group.  2. Click Start, click Run, type gpedit.msc and then click OK.  3. Navigate to Computer Configuration\Administrative Templates\Windows Components\Remote Desktop Services\Remote Desktop Session Host\Remote Session Environment.  4. Double-click Configure RemoteFX, click Enabled, and then click OK.. |

You have configured RemoteFX on an RD Session Host server. Now you can proceed to [Step 4: Verifying the Functionality of RemoteFX for Remote Desktop Session Host](#z494adc26c9764c7999b9c60e8323fe1a).

# Step 4: Verifying the Functionality of RemoteFX for Remote Desktop Session Host

This documentation is preliminary and subject to change.

Use the following procedure to verify the functionality of RemoteFX for Remote Desktop Session Host. You will log on as the local Administrator and connect to the RD Session Host server with RemoteFX by using Remote Desktop Connection.

To connect to the RD Session Host server

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Log on to CONTOSO-CLNT as the local Administrator user account.  2. Click Start, type mstsc.exe, and then press ENTER.  3. Click Options, and then click the Experience tab.  4. In the Choose your connection speed to optimize performance box, click LAN (10 Mbps or higher).  5. Click the General tab.  6. In the Computer box, type rdsh-srv, and then click Connect.  7. When prompted, enter the credentials for the Morgan Skinner, and then click OK. |

After you connect to the RDSH-SRV computer from the CONTOSO-CLNT client computer, two events are logged on the RDSH-SRV computer that indicate the session was RemoteFX-enabled. Use the following procedure to locate these events:

To locate the RemoteFX for Remote Desktop Session Host events

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Log on to RDSH-SRV as CONTOSO\Administrator.  2. Click Start, type Event Viewer, and then press ENTER.  3. Click Event Viewer (Local).  4. Click View, and then click Show Analytic and Debug Logs.  5. Navigate to Application and Services\Logs\Microsoft\Windows\RemoteDesktopServices-RemoteDesktopSession Manager.   If the CONTOSO-CLNT computer is connected to the RDSH-SRV by using RemoteFX for Remote Desktop Session Host, Event ID 1000 will be shown.   If the RemoteFX hardware compression was used, Event ID 1001 will be shown. |

You have verified the functionality of RemoteFX on an RD Session Host server. Now you can proceed to [Step 5: Configuring RemoteFX for an Optimal Experience](#z7530f53c36d94678a3db5ca4cecb25c9).

## Related topics

 [Deploying Microsoft RemoteFX on a Remote Desktop Session Host Server Step-by-Step Guide](#zcbb03cd341774dd0b65fa0ba089cb6a1)

 [Step 1: Setting Up the Infrastructure](#z96e5e08ed81342ae902fc0ecea86d28f)

 [Step 2: Installing and Configuring Remote Desktop Session Host](#zced4138d20204ce4b8e943ddb2ca6411)

 [Step 3: Configuring RemoteFX on a Remote Desktop Session Host Server](#zb871eb9dd4af47579a02994c019a514b)

# Step 5: Configuring RemoteFX for an Optimal Experience

This documentation is preliminary and subject to change.

Use the following procedures to optimize the RemoteFX experience:

 Use Local Group Policy Editor to configure the experience index for connections using RemoteFX.

To configure the experience index for connections when using RemoteFX

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Log on to the VD1-CLNT computer as a member of the local Administrators group.  2. Click Start, and in the Search programs and files box, type gpedit.msc, and then press ENTER.  3. Navigate to Computer Configuration\Policies\Administrative Templates\Windows Components\Remote Desktop Services\Remote Desktop Session Host\Remote Session Environment.  4. Double-click Optimize visual experience when using RemoteFX.  5. Select the Enabled option.  6. In the Screen capture rate (frames per second) box, click Highest (best quality), and then click OK.  7. Select the Enabled option.  8. In the Screen capture rate (frames per second) box, click Highest (best quality), and then click OK.  9. Restart the RDSH-SRV computer. |

## Related topics

 [Step 1: Setting Up the Infrastructure](#z96e5e08ed81342ae902fc0ecea86d28f)

 [Step 2: Installing and Configuring Remote Desktop Session Host](#zced4138d20204ce4b8e943ddb2ca6411)

 [Step 3: Configuring RemoteFX on a Remote Desktop Session Host Server](#zb871eb9dd4af47579a02994c019a514b)

 [Step 4: Verifying the Functionality of RemoteFX for Remote Desktop Session Host](#z494adc26c9764c7999b9c60e8323fe1a)