

3 WAYS TO ACCESS YOUR NETWORK REMOTELY AND SECURELY

So far this year, the northeast was hit with 7 major snow storms that closed many businesses, and kept many customers home. If you lost one business day from each storm that equals a whole week you lost. With all the technology out there, there is no reason to lose any business during these times. There are many different ways of accessing your server files, and even your own desktop from a remote location, including your home. There is no reason not to have this access when you need it most.

In this article I will talk about three different ways you can connect to your network remotely, and securely.

1. Virtual Private Network (VPN) – A VPN is a secure “tunnel” to your internal network. In layman-terms, a VPN is a way to access your company files from a remote location. You might think of it as a long cable that reaches from your home desktop to your office network. There are many great uses for a VPN, including the ability to access files, email, even databases such as QuickBooks or ACT! Accessing this information does require some configuration up front, but once that is done, the VPN connection is as simple as entering a username and password and clicking connect. Once you are connected to the VPN, you are able to access your data the same way you would if you were in the office, sacrificing just a little speed.

2. Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) – Imagine being able to connect to your computer from anywhere. From home, a library, even an airport! With RDP, it is as simple as opening Internet Explorer and going to a website. After logging in, just choose your computer and before you know it, you are using your computer at work, as if you were sitting at your desk. This does require Windows 7 and Server 2008 R2, but with that, this is a great solution.

Third-Party Applications (i.e. Go to my PC) – There are many third-party applications that allow you to connect to your network. Two of the most popular are Go To My PC and LogMeIn. They both allow you to log in to their service and connect to your computer at work. There is a monthly fee associated with this service, and it does require extra software, but is a great way to connect.

All of these methods of remote access are secure. They do require some configuration before they can be used, but once the setup is completed, you can have secure, remote access to your network at any time, from anywhere. You will no longer have to lose business because of the weather. You, and your employees, can work from home and your business can continue seamlessly.

“Tech Talk” is a GOTCC column authored by member John Kalli, CEO of Trinity Worldwide Technologies, and will cover important simplified technical topics that we believe can help our members/readers by providing the knowledge that can save time, money and potential disaster. Trinity is a Microsoft Certified Partner, Microsoft Small Business Specialist and has vast experience in all realms of computer networking, security, installation and more. If you have a suggestion for a topic or would like to submit a question for possible inclusion in a future column, please contact John at JKalli@trinityww.com. To inquire about their services and to see if you qualify for a no cost, no obligation assessment of your business’ technology, you can reach/visit them at 732-780-8615 or www.trinityww.com.