



Product Documentation

Configuring Microsoft Remote Desktop Services

Imprivata Enterprise Access Management 25.1

Contacting Imprivata

20 CityPoint, 480 Totten Pond Road, 6th Floor

Waltham, MA 02451 USA

Phone: 781-674-2700

Toll-Free: 1-877-OneSign

Fax: 1 781 674 2760

Support: 1 800 935 5958 (North America)

Support: 001 408-987-6072 (Outside North America)

<https://www.imprivata.com>

support@imprivata.com

Copyright and Legal Information

© 2025 Imprivata, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

This product is distributed under licenses restricting its use, copying, distribution and decompilation.

Imprivata's products may be covered in whole or in part by one or more U.S. pending or issued patents listed at <http://www.imprivata.com/patents>.

Trademark Information

OneSign, Imprivata, and the Imprivata logo are registered trademarks of Imprivata, Inc. ProveID and Imprivata OneSign APG are trademarks of Imprivata, Inc. in the United States and in other countries.

Legal Notices

Under international copyright laws, neither the documentation nor software may be copied, photocopied, reproduced, translated, or reduced to any electronic medium or machine-readable form, in whole or in part without the prior written consent of Imprivata, Inc., except as described in the license agreement.

The names of companies, products, people, and/or data mentioned herein are fictitious and are in no way intended to represent any real individual, company, product, or event, unless otherwise noted.

DOCUMENTATION IS PROVIDED "AS IS" AND ALL EXPRESS OR IMPLIED CONDITIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES, INCLUDING ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR NON-INFRINGEMENT, ARE DISCLAIMED, EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT SUCH DISCLAIMERS ARE HELD TO BE LEGALLY INVALID.

Document revision 25.1



NOTE:

Beginning with 24.2, Imprivata OneSign and Imprivata Confirm ID have been renamed to Imprivata Enterprise Access Management.

Some interfaces in the Imprivata Admin Console, Imprivata Appliance Console, and documentation may retain the older Imprivata OneSign and Imprivata Confirm ID product names.

This document includes information about configuring Imprivata Virtual Desktop Access with Microsoft Remote Desktop Services (RDS). Imprivata Authentication Management and Virtual Desktop Access licenses are required for this feature.

This document contains the following sections:

- Before You Begin** **5**
 - Supported Components and Endpoint Devices 5
 - Communication Ports 5
 - Session Persistence 5
 - Microsoft Session Collection Limitations 5
 - Note the Required RDS Connection Information 5
 - Configure the RD Session Hosts for Single User Sessions 6
 - Best Practices and Limitations 7
- Installation Sequence** **8**
 - Step 1: (Optional) Install the Imprivata Agent on all Virtual Machines 8
 - Step 2: (Optional) Install the Imprivata Agent on all RD Session Hosts 8
 - Step 3: (Optional) Install the Imprivata Agent on all Physical Endpoints 8
 - Step 4: Install the Imprivata Agent on All Remote Desktop Connection Clients 8
 - Step 5: Configure the Imprivata Connection to Remote Desktop Services 9
 - Step 6: Create and Assign a Computer Policy for Endpoint Computers 10
 - Step 7: Create and Apply a User Policy 12
 - Step 8: (Optional) Override the Desktop Chooser 14
- Branding Login and Enrollment Screens** **15**

Before You Begin

Supported Components and Endpoint Devices

Review the Imprivata Enterprise Access Management - SSO [Supported Components](#) guide to confirm that your Remote Desktop Services environment meets all of the minimum or recommended requirements.

Communication Ports

The following ports are utilized with Remote PC RDP automation.

Port	Protocol	Direction
135	TCP	Two-way
49666	TCP	Two-way

Session Persistence

Session persistence (roaming) is managed by your virtual environment, not Imprivata Virtual Desktop Access. If your virtual environment is configured correctly for session persistence, Imprivata Virtual Desktop Access seamlessly roams user sessions, on authentication, to the endpoint computers in your environment.



NOTE: For more information about configuring session persistence, see your vendor-specific documentation.

Microsoft Session Collection Limitations

While Imprivata Virtual Desktop Access supports both Microsoft Remote Desktops and Microsoft RemoteApps delivered through a single broker, Microsoft does not support mixed session collections of these resource types.

If you intend to deploy both Remote Desktops and RemoteApps to your end users, review Microsoft's guidance on Session Collection creation and plan your server deployment accordingly.

For more information, see the Microsoft TechNet article concerning mixed session collections:

<https://social.technet.microsoft.com/wiki/contents/articles/10817.publishing-remoteapps-in-windows-server-2012.aspx>

Note the Required RDS Connection Information

Configuring support for Microsoft RDS requires specific connection details about the deployment. The required information depends on the type of resources users have access to and how they are

accessing them.

Accessing Hosted Desktops using Remote Desktop Web Access

To support access to session-based and virtual desktops (hosted desktops) using Remote Desktop (RD) Web Access, an Imprivata agent must connect to the RD Connection Broker (RD Broker) that is managing the requests for the hosted desktops.

Note the fully qualified domain name (FQDN) or IP address of the RD Broker. You enter this information when configuring the Imprivata connection to Microsoft RDS.

Accessing RemoteApp Programs using Remote Desktop Web Access

To support access to RemoteApp programs using RD Web Access:

- An Imprivata agent must connect to the RD Connection Broker (RD Broker) that is managing the requests for the RemoteApp programs.

Note the FQDN or IP address of the RD Broker. You enter this information when configuring the Imprivata connection to Microsoft RDS.

- Additionally, note the names of each of the RemoteApp programs.

You must enter the names exactly as they appear in the Microsoft Server Management console when configuring the Imprivata connection to Microsoft RDS.

Accessing Desktops using Remote Desktop Connection

Users can access session-based, virtual, or physical PC desktops using a Remote Desktop Connection (RDC). This is commonly required when the deployment does not include an RD Connection Broker (RD Broker).

Note the IP addresses or host names of these desktops. You enter this information when configuring the Imprivata connection to Microsoft RDS.

Configure the RD Session Hosts for Single User Sessions

If your environment includes session-based desktops or RemoteApp programs, configure the RD Session Hosts to restrict users to a single RDS session.

To configure the required policy setting:

To configure the required local policy setting:

1. From the Windows Server that is running the RD Session Host role service, open a command prompt window and enter **gpedit.msc** to open the Local Group Policy Editor.
2. Go to **Computer Configuration > Administrative Templates > Windows Components > Remote Desktop Services > Remote Desktop Session Host > Connections**.

3. Double-click **Restrict Remote Desktop Services to a single Remote Desktop Services session** to edit the policy setting.
4. Select **Enabled** and click **OK**.
5. Repeat these steps for each Windows Server running the RD Session Host role service.

Best Practices and Limitations

Review the following best practices and limitations.

Dell Wyse Thin Clients and RD Broker URL Format

When configuring the RD Broker URL in the **Microsoft Remote Desktop Services - RemoteApp** section, use the format of `https://rdshbroker.mycompany.com/` instead of the example displayed in the Imprivata Admin Console interface.

The `/RDWeb` part of the path is not applicable to Dell Wyse thin clients.

Remote Desktop Brokers and SSL

It is best practice to configure RD Brokers to communicate over SSL. For more information, see the Microsoft Technet article, "Using certificates in Remote Desktop Services".



NOTE: Exterior links not controlled by Imprivata may change without notice.

Remote Desktop Brokers and RemoteApp Programs

Automating access to multiple RemoteApp programs from multiple RD Brokers can result in unexpected behavior. If the deployment contains multiple RD Brokers, note the RemoteApp programs and their respective RD Brokers to help facilitate user policy planning.



BEST PRACTICE: Limit the user policy to automate access to one RemoteApp program per RD Broker.

RemoteApp Programs that open Multiple Windows and Roaming

If the deployment includes RemoteApp programs that open in two or more windows when started, roaming the RemoteApp programs can result in unexpected behavior.



BEST PRACTICE: Limit the user policy to a single RemoteApp program per RD Broker, if the program opens in multiple windows.

Installation Sequence

Step 1: (Optional) Install the Imprivata Agent on all Virtual Machines

If the deployment includes an RD Virtualization Host, install the Imprivata single-user agent or the shared-kiosk agent on each virtual machine. For complete installation details, see "Deploying the Imprivata Agent" in the Imprivata Online Help.

Step 2: (Optional) Install the Imprivata Agent on all RD Session Hosts

If the deployment includes session-based desktops or RemoteApp programs, install the Imprivata Citrix or Terminal Server agent on each RD Session Host. For complete installation details, see "Deploying the Imprivata Agent" in the Imprivata Online Help.

Step 3: (Optional) Install the Imprivata Agent on all Physical Endpoints

If the deployment includes physical endpoint computers, install the Imprivata single-user agent or the shared-kiosk agent on each endpoint computer. For complete installation details, see "Deploying the Imprivata Agent" in the Imprivata Online Help.

Step 4: Install the Imprivata Agent on All Remote Desktop Connection Clients

The Imprivata agent must be installed on each endpoint computer on which Virtual Desktop Access is to be used.

You can push the installation to groups of computers or install the Imprivata agent on one computer at a time, depending on your organization's preferences. For complete installation details, see "Deploying the Imprivata Agent" in the Imprivata Online Help.



NOTE: To configure Imprivata ProveID Embedded Linux thin clients, see [Configuring ProveID Embedded on HP Smart Zero and ThinPro Thin Clients](#) and [Configuring ProveID Embedded on IGEL Linux Thin Clients](#).

Step 5: Configure the Imprivata Connection to Remote Desktop Services

To support Microsoft RDS, an Imprivata agent must connect to a RD Broker or directly to a session-based, virtual, or physical endpoint computer.

1. In the Imprivata Admin Console, go to the **Computers** menu > **Virtual desktops** page > **Microsoft** section.
2. Do one or more of the following:

Configure the connection to desktops:

- a. Go to the **Microsoft Remote Desktop Services – session-based and virtual desktop clients** section.
- b. Enter the names or IP addresses of the RD Brokers that are managing the requests for hosted desktops.

Configure the connection to RemoteApp programs:

- a. Go to the **Microsoft Remote Desktop Services – RemoteApp** section.
- b. Enter the names or IP addresses of the RD Brokers that are managing the requests for RemoteApp programs.

For Dell Wyse thin clients, use the format of `https://rdshbroker.mycompany.com/` for the RD Brokers. Do not use the `/RDWeb` part of the path.

- c. Enter the names of the RemoteApp programs.
- d. Select an authentication method from the **Authenticate using** list.



NOTE: The authentication method applies to the specified RD Broker, not per RemoteApp program.



NOTE: You must spell the program names exactly the same, including spacing and capitalization, as they appear in the Microsoft Server Management console.

Configure the connection to Remote Endpoint Computers:

- a. Go to the **Microsoft Remote Desktop Services – Remote PC** section.
 - b. Enter the names or IP addresses of the session-based, virtual, or physical desktops.
 - c. Select an authentication method from the **Authenticate using** list.
3. Select **Allow authentication from all Remote Desktop Services - RemoteApp apps**.
 4. Click **Save**.

Step 6: Create and Assign a Computer Policy for Endpoint Computers

Create, configure, and assign a computer policy that automates endpoint computer access to Microsoft RDS.

Endpoint computers and virtual applications are assigned the Default Computer Policy unless:

- A different computer policy is manually assigned.
- A different computer policy is automatically assigned by computer policy assignment rules.

Review the Default Computer Policy settings to confirm that they are appropriate for your virtual desktop environment.

Step 6a: Create a Computer Policy for Endpoint Computers

1. In the Imprivata Admin Console go to the **Computers** menu > **Computer policies** page.

You can select an existing computer policy from the list, or make a copy of the Default Computer Policy as a starting point. If you want to edit an existing computer policy, click the existing computer policy name, and skip to step 7b.

2. To copy the Default Computer Policy, select **Default Computer Policy**, then click **Copy**.
3. Click **Default Computer Policy (2)**.
4. Rename the computer policy.

Step 6b: Configure the Computer Policy for Endpoint Computers

1. Click the **Virtual Desktops** tab and go to the **Microsoft** section.
2. Do one or more of the following:

Automate access to desktops:

- a. Go to the **Microsoft Remote Desktop Services – session-based and virtual desktops** section.
- b. Select **Automate access to session-based and virtual desktops**.
- c. Select **Prompt the user only if they have multiple desktops** to streamline the hosted desktop experience for users.



NOTE: If you are configuring single-user computers for virtual desktops, and a user is entitled to multiple desktops, you can prevent them from having to choose which one to launch by configuring a registry key (**DesktopToAutoLaunch**) on the Windows endpoint. For more information, see [Step 8: \(Optional\) Override the Desktop Chooser](#).

- d. You can control the behavior when an endpoint computer is locked:

- Select **Keep Remote Desktop and user session active** to preserve the user session. When a user logs back into the endpoint or roams to another endpoint, the desktop and any applications are preserved just as they were when the first desktop locked.
 - Select **Shutdown the Remote Desktop and disconnect the user session** to help optimize resource consumption and minimize the total number of active sessions in use in the enterprise. When a user logs back into the endpoint computer or roams to another endpoint computer, the desktop relaunches.
- e. Select the RD Broker(s) that are managing the desktop requests.

Automate access to RemoteApp programs:

- Go to the **Microsoft Remote Desktop Services – RemoteApp** section.
- Select **Automate access to RemoteApps**.
- You can control the behavior when an endpoint computer is locked:
 - Select **Keep the remote applications and user session active** to preserve the user session. When a user logs back into the endpoint or roams to another endpoint, the RemoteApp programs are preserved just as they were when the endpoint computer locked.
 - Select **Shutdown the remote applications and disconnect the user session** to help optimize resource consumption and minimize the total number of active sessions in use in the enterprise. When a user logs back into the endpoint computer or roams to another endpoint computer, the RemoteApp programs relaunch.
- Select the RD Broker(s) that are managing the RemoteApp requests.

Automate access to Remote PCs:

- Go to the **Microsoft Remote Desktop Services - Remote PC** section.
- Select **Automate access to Remote PC**.



NOTE: Unlike hosted desktops, you cannot specify if a user is prompted to choose a desktop. By default, if the user policy automates access to one desktop, the desktop launches automatically; if the user policy automates access to more than one desktop, the user is prompted to choose which desktop to launch.

3. Click **Save**.

Step 6c: Assign the Computer Policy to Endpoint Computers

Assign the computer policy to the endpoint computers.

Manually Assigning the Computer Policy

To assign the computer policy:

1. In the Imprivata Admin Console, go to the **Computers** menu > **Computers** page.
2. Select the computers to which to assign the computer policy. You can use **Search for Computers** to enter search criteria.

3. Click **Apply Policy**.
4. Select **Choose a policy for the selected computers**, choose the policy from the list, and then click **Apply Policy**.

Automatically Assigning the Computer Policy

Computer policy assignment rules let you assign a policy to existing endpoint computers and make sure that the policy is automatically assigned to endpoint computers that are added later.

To use a rule to assign the computer policy:

1. In the Imprivata Admin Console, go to the **Computers** menu > **Computer policy assignment** page.
2. Click **Add new rule**.
3. Name the rule and select the assignment criteria.
4. Select the policy you created and click **Save**.



BEST PRACTICE: When assigning a computer policy to ProveID Embedded thin clients only, select **Imprivata agent type > ProveID Embedded**.

Step 7: Create and Apply a User Policy

Create and apply a user policy that automates user access to RDS hosted applications.

Step 7a: Create a User Policy

1. In the Imprivata Admin Console, go to the **Users** menu > **User policies** page.
2. You can select an existing user policy from the list, or make a copy of the Default User Policy as a starting point. If you want to edit an existing user policy, click the existing user policy name, and skip to step 6.
3. To copy the Default User Policy, select **Default User Policy**, and then click **Copy**.
4. Click **Default User Policy (2)**.
5. Rename the user policy.
6. Click **Virtual Desktops**.
7. Select **Enable virtual desktop automation** and do one of the following:

Enable access to desktops:

- a. Select **Automate access to full VDI desktop > Microsoft**. If additional applications are available to launch on the desktop, they appear in the right pane.

☒ Automate access to full VDI desktops

Specify the VDI desktop vendor:	Then, on that desktop, launch the following
☐ Citrix ☒ Microsoft ☐ VMware	VMware ☐ Calculator ☐ Wordpad Microsoft ☐ Calculator ☐ Paint

- b. **Optional** – If you want to automatically launch RemoteApp programs on top of the hosted desktop, select them from the right-pane.

Enable access to RemoteApp programs:

- Select **Automate access to applications or published desktops**.
- Select the RemoteApps from the left pane only.



NOTE: Unlike Citrix XenApp and Omnisia Horizon View RDS Hosted Applications, a RemoteApp program is an application only, not a desktop. Do not select additional programs from the right pane.

Enable access to remote PCs:

- Select **Automate access to Remote PC**.

☒ Automate access to Remote PC

On the endpoint, access the following Remote PC:	Then, on all Remote PCs, launch the
☒ user1-PC ☐ user2-PC	Citrix ☐ ConfirmID ☐ Cosmos ☐ Notepad Microsoft ☒ MS-RDS-IE

- Select one or more remote PCs from the left pane. If additional applications are available to launch on the desktop, they appear in the right pane.
- Optional** – If you want to automatically launch RemoteApp programs on top of the remote PC, select them from the right-pane.

- Click **Save**.

Step 7b: Apply a User Policy

1. In the Imprivata Admin Console, go to the users page **Users** menu > **Users** page .
2. Select the users to which you want to apply the user policy.

You can view additional pages of users without losing your selections. The users that you select are saved and a counter on the top of the page lists the number of selected users.



BEST PRACTICE: To select multiple users more efficiently, use the **Search for Users** tool at the top of the **Users** page. The tool offers search parameters for refining your results.

3. Click **Apply Policy**.
4. Choose a policy, and then click **OK**.

Step 8: (Optional) Override the Desktop Chooser

By default, when a user is entitled to multiple desktops, they are prompted to choose which one to launch.

If you are deploying single-user computers, you can override this behavior by configuring a registry key (**DesktopToAutoLaunch**). This registry key streamlines desktop access by letting you specify which desktop should automatically launch for the user on the Windows endpoint.

To specify which desktop should be launched:

1. From the endpoint, open the Registry Editor.
2. Create the following registry key:

Name	Data Type	Location	Value
DesktopToAutoLaunch	String	HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\SSOProvider\VDI	<name_of_virtual_desktop_as_it_appears_in_the_chooser>

Branding Login and Enrollment Screens

You can display your corporate logo on the Imprivata login and enrollment screens for Imprivata single-user and shared-kiosk workstations. See "Branding the Login and Self-Service Experience" in the Imprivata Online Help.