Establishing an RDP connection with a Windows 8.1 client from Mac OS X

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Context

- Windows 8.1
- Remote Desktop Connection for Mac
- Microsoft Remote Desktop for Mac

Symptoms

When you try to establish a remote desktop session with a Windows 8.1 machine from Mac OS X using Microsoft Remote Desktop or Remote Desktop Connection for Mac, the connection fails with the following error message:

> *Remote Desktop Connection cannot verify the identity of the computer that you want to connect to.*

Solution

1. First make sure you have the most current version of the Microsoft RDP application from the Apple App Store and try again.

If that doesn't solve the problem enable RDP security layer in Group Policy on the machine:

1. Verify that the firewall allows remote desktop connections with RDP (Port 3389)
2. Click **Start > Run**.
3. Type gpedit.msc and click **OK**.
   Result: The Group Policy Editor will open.
4. In the left hand side bar, expand **Computer Configuration > Administrative Templates > Windows Components > Remote Desktop Services > Remote Desktop Session Host**.
5. Select **Security**.
6. Change "Require use of specific security layer for remote desktop (RDP) connection" to **Enabled** and select **RDP** in the Options pane.
7. Change "Require user authentication for remote connections by using Network Level Authentication" to **Disabled**.
8. Close Group Policy Editor and reboot the machine for changes to take effect.

Source: Based on a VMware Knowledge Base article Establishing a RDP connection with a Windows 8.1 Desktop from Horizon View Client for Mac OS X (2059786)

See Also

- [istcontrib:Windows 8.1 Landing Page]