

## RDP serial port mapping

`net use com1: \\tsclient\com1:` but you need Server 2003 TS (or later) for this.

After scouring and searching this is as close to "documentation" on this that I've found. However, when I run this command on the terminal server (Windows 2003 Server) I get an error.

Client "tsclient" is connecting to the terminal server from computer "xyz"(running XP Pro). I've enabled serial port redirection in the Remote Desktop Protocol session. I run the net use command and get an error as follows:

```
net use com1: \\tsclient\com1:
System error 85 has occurred.
The local device name is already in use.
```

Of course, I've tried a myriad of other combos to no avail. I have posted the details of what we are trying to do below.

Server: Windows 2008 R2 sp1, Remote desktop works however my Batch file for redirecting Serial Ports does NOT (see Below)

Client: Windows XP, MSTSC is set to allow serial port over network

### BATCH FILE COMMANDS:

```
@Echo off
Cls
@Echo Deleting old serial mappings...
net use com5 /delete
net use com6 /delete
Echo Establishing new serial mappings...
net use com5 \\tsclient\com1
net use com6 \\tsclient\com2
```

### RESULTS

```
Deleting old serial mappings.
net use com5 /delete
The network connection could not be found.
net use com6 /delete
The network connection could not be found.
Establishing new serial mappings.
net use com5 \\tsclient\com1
System error 1200 has occurred: The specified device name is invalid.
net use com6 \\tsclient\com2
System error 1200 has occurred: The specified device name is invalid..
```

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I got it all figured out, using windows 2008 server R2 SP1

you can not delete the ports prior to redirecting them

These are the steps I took to make this work

1. ALL SERIAL PORTS MUST BE DISABLED IN THE BIOS OF THE SERVER
2. Click Start
3. Click Run
4. Type cmd.exe in the textbox and click OK
5. Type set devmgr\_show\_nonpresent\_devices=1 and hit ENTER
6. Type cd\windows\system32 and hit ENTER
7. Type start devmgmt.msc and hit ENTER
8. When the device manager opens, click the View menu
9. Click Show Hidden Devices
10. Click on the + sign next to the Ports to see the full list of Com ports being used.
11. Highlight the port you wish to delete and then press delete/uninstall. Accept when asked to do so and continue with any more that you wish to delete.
12. Edit startup.cmd to match the current system configuration

### Example Startup.CMD

```
@Echo off
@Cls
@Echo Establishing new serial mappings...
net use com1 \\tsclient\com1
net use com2 \\tsclient\com2
net use com3 \\tsclient\com3
net use com4 \\tsclient\com4
net use
@Echo New serial mappings established...
@PAUSE
```

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## ThinStuff XP/VS

Thinstuff XP/VS turns an XP computer into a terminal server (of sorts).

First make sure that you've enabled port redirection in the Remote Desktop Connection client:

In the Remote Desktop Connection window, click Options. On the Local Resources tab, under Local devices, make sure that "Ports" is checked!

Click Connect and now inside your RDP connection all your local serial ports will be available via the same port name (COM1, COM2, ...). Example:

Let's assume your client-workstation has two built-in serial ports COM1, COM2 and you've also attached an USB-to-SERIAL converter which shows up as COM5 in the device manager.

Now if you launch a remote desktop session from that workstation to the Thinstuff XPVS Terminal Server any communication within the remote desktop session with COM1, COM2 and COM5 will be redirected to your client-workstation's local (physical) COM1, COM2 and COM5 port.

In other words: Inside the remote desktop session you will get "virtual serial ports" that have the same name as your client-workstation's physical ports.

**Important note:**

If you have to communicate with the server's own physical serial port from within a remote desktop session you should change the numbers of the server's physical comports to a higher value in the server's device manager (e.g. from com1 to com11 and com2 to com12).

In this way if you open com1 from within a rdp session your client-workstation's com1 will be opened and if you open com11 within the same rdp session the server's com1 will be accessed instead.