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RentPlus Terminal Services Edition (RPTSE)

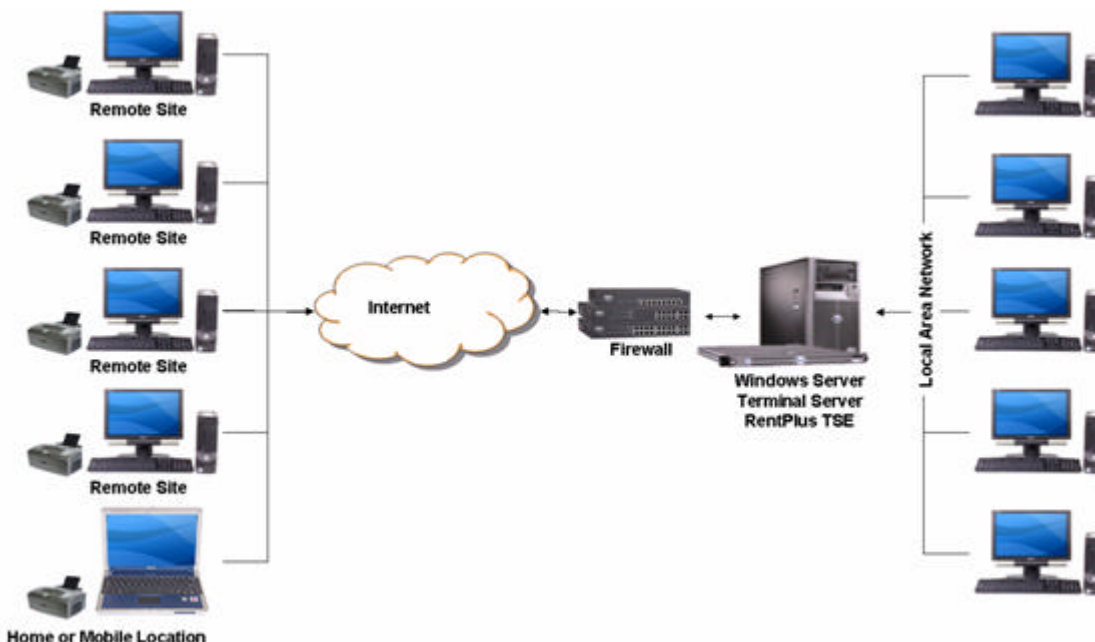
RPTSE is a self storage solution that enables all database files and program files to reside on a server in a central location while users connect to the central location to run the software from their remote locations, typically using an Internet connection.

Description

RPTSE is a version of RentPlus designed to run on a Microsoft Windows Server running Microsoft Terminal Server software. Terminal Server (TS) allows multiple users to simultaneously run application software on a single server computer from their own computers while connected to the server either locally or over the Internet.

In a typical RPTSE setup, a Windows Server would be set up in your office, and Microsoft Terminal Server and RPTSE would then be installed and configured on that computer. If you have multiple sites, a separate database will be configured for each site, and RPTSE software and all the databases are always on that computer in your office.

The only information that passes back and forth is the information on what to display on the screen and information about keyboard strokes and mouse clicks, so the site computer does not have to be very powerful. Each remote site needs only a basic computer running Windows XP Pro (this version of Windows includes all the software to easily and securely connect to the Terminal Server). You can add multiple users at a single site by simply installing and connecting a new computer (see information on licenses, below).



Security

Security is provided by creating a VPN – Virtual Private Network. This is basically a rule that says a user must be authorized before they are allowed to connect to anything behind the firewall. Each remote site is setup to connect to the firewall, providing login information for the VPN and then to the Windows network behind the firewall. In addition, each individual user is required to login to RentPlus.



Additional security features such as the use of encryption can enhance the security of the information being passed to and from the remote site, which, it should be noted, is limited to the information displayed on the screen or printed – data itself is never passed but resides only on the server.

Scalability

The number of users that a Terminal Server can handle depends very much on the computer hardware. Servers should be setup for expandability: multiple processors, lots of memory, and multiple fast, redundant hard drives. A single server might handle 10-15 sites. And as you outgrow a server, you can simply add additional servers that can handle more users and sites.

Licensing

There is a license required for each remote user of Terminal Server, called a Client License. Typically, you will purchase 5 client licenses at a time. Each computer that will connect to Terminal Server will require a Microsoft License. Windows Terminal Server is included with most versions of Windows 2000 Server or Windows 2003 Server.

There is a license required for RPTSE for each server it is installed on, plus a client license for each remote computer, and a database license for each site. This allows you to mix and match sites and users and pay only for what you need. For example, you might have a single large site that has five remote computers (1 database license, 5 client licenses) or five smaller sites which have a single remote computer each (5 database licenses, 5 client licenses).

Benefits

There are a number of direct benefits of RPTSE over other multi-location solutions, including:

- 1) Users have the enhanced experience of using the rich Windows user interface, not the limited experience of using a web browser only.
- 2) All users always have the exact same version and updates are easily implemented because only one computer is running the software.
- 3) Backup of all data files can be accomplished from a single, centralized location.
- 4) The data for any site can be accessed from any other site or office, or from any location with an Internet connection, making it easy to provide assistance or carry out restricted functions without being on site.
- 5) While a broadband connection is preferable, it is possible to use RPTSE using dial up connections because of the limited amount of information that is exchanged between computers.
- 6) With the data already in the home office, it is not necessary to implement any procedures for copying the data to the home office for reports, audits, etc. Reports can be run directly from the data for any site at any time, and the data is always real-time.
- 7) For current RentPlus users, this is an easy migration because RPTSE looks and feels exactly the same as the RentPlus system they already know.

Services

Setup, installation, and configuration of Windows Server, Terminal Server, and RPTSE are included in the license fee for RPTSE. Custom programming is available for creating reports, integrating call center applications, web site integration, and more.

Fully Managed Systems

Instead of purchasing and managing your own server and software, we will do it for you! For a monthly fee, we will host your computers and users on our servers, provide daily backups, install all software and hardware upgrades, and make sure your data is always safe and secure.