

Remote Desktop and Grabbing Apps on the 2nd Monitor

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Just a quick note to address the resolution to something that's plagued me for a while now...

At work I have a dual monitor setup. At home, I have a single monitor. On occasion, I have to remote in to work from home. On occasion, I'll find that applications that were open on my 2nd monitor can't be accessed via my RDS session.

This bit me on Friday night. I needed to promote a few files up to our QA environment. Surround, our version control software, was running on the 2nd monitor. I didn't see it in the task bar, so I wasn't even sure it was running at all. I even went so far as to uninstall and reinstall the client. Nothing. Finally, at 11:30pm on a Friday night, I broke down and drove into the office so that I could promote the files.

Determined to never have to do this again, I hit Google to find a solution once and for all.

I was hoping for something built into RDS. Some sort of "bring all applications to Monitor 1", but it doesn't seem as if such an animal exists. What I did find is a 3rd party app called DeskLite. Unfortunately, it doesn't seem as if the application is maintained anymore. Any references to a DeskLite site that I found resulted in 404 errors.

I was finally able to find it, though. I don't want to link directly to it, because I'm not 100% sure about the legitimacy of the link. By that, I mean I'm not sure that the site hosting the file (<http://www.shellfront.org/utills/>) is truly authorized to host the file (desk-lite.zip). Ahem.

So far, it seems to work perfectly. DeskLite will bring up a window of all running applications. Choosing a specific app will bring that application to the center of Monitor #1. Problem solved.

If anybody knows of a better way to do this... something built into RDS, or a 3rd party application that's actively maintained, I'd love to hear it. But for now, DeskLite should save me those 11:30pm Friday night trips into the office.