Knowledge Base
How to override the license server discovery process in Windows Server 2003 Terminal Services

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The information in this article applies to:

- Microsoft Windows Server 2003, 64-Bit Enterprise Edition
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003, Enterprise Edition
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003, Standard Edition

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Important This article contains information about modifying the registry. Before you modify the registry, make sure to back it up and make sure that you understand how to restore the registry if a problem occurs. For information about how to back up, restore, and edit the registry, click the following article number to view the article in the Microsoft Knowledge Base:

256986 Description of the Microsoft Windows Registry

SUMMARY

This article describes how to override the license server discovery process in Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Terminal Services.

MORE INFORMATION

Warning If you use Registry Editor incorrectly, you may cause serious problems that may require you to reinstall your operating system. Microsoft cannot guarantee that you can solve problems that result from using Registry Editor incorrectly. Use Registry Editor at your own risk.

To select a specific license server for use with various Windows Terminal Services servers in a domain or site, you can modify the registry to point to a particular license server. You can specify that all Terminal Services servers work with a particular license server for accounting purposes. A Terminal Services server and the license server can reside in different domains. Microsoft recommends that you use the LicenseServers registry key to reduce any issues with the Terminal Server licensing discovery process.

NOTE: The license servers and the terminal servers must be in the same domain or the servers must be in domains that trust each other.

NOTE: The location and method involving the registry have changed from Microsoft Windows 2000.

To select a specific license server, follow these steps, and then quit Registry Editor:

1. Click **Start**, click **Run**, type regedit, and then click **OK**.
2. Locate and then click the following key in the registry:

    HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\TermService\Parameters
3. On the **Edit** menu, point to **New**, and then click **Key**.
4. Name the new key "LicenseServers".
5. Locate and then click the following key in the registry:

    HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\TermService\Parameters\Licens
6. On the **Edit** menu, point to **New**, and then click **Key**.
7. Name the new key "*ServerName*" where *ServerName* is the NetBIOS name of the license server that you want to use, and then press ENTER.

    Note The new key name can be any of the following designations that represent the license server:
    - The NetBIOS Name of the server
    - The fully-qualified domain name (FQDN) of the server
    - The IP Address of the server
8. Restart your computer.

The selection of a specific license server enables administrators to select a license server at a site and to have Terminal Services servers from various domains located at the same site. This enables the Terminal Services servers to use one license server, instead of requiring a local license server for each domain.

Currently, Terminal Services servers work with license servers in their own domain, which may force them to use wide area network (WAN) links to find a license server, even if there is a license server from another domain located at the same site. The preceding method enables the crossing of domains for license tracking and accounting purposes. Microsoft Windows 2000 uses a different registry value to specify a license server.

For additional information, click the following article number to view the article in the Microsoft Knowledge Base:

239107 Establishing preferred Windows 2000 Terminal Services license server

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