

RDP Engine

User Manual - Version 1.5.0

Remote desktops, terminals, file transfers, and databases - one app, one window.

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Welcome to RDP Engine

RDP Engine puts every remote connection you use into a single window. Instead of running mstsc for a desktop, PuTTY for a shell, FileZilla for file transfer, and a separate tool for databases, you keep one connection list, one tab strip, and one set of saved credentials.

Seven connection types open as tabs in the same window, and all of them can run at once:

Connection type	What you get	Default port
RDP	Full embedded remote desktop, live resize, clipboard sharing	3389
SSH	Terminal with 256/true colour and full-screen TUI support	22
SFTP	Remote file browser over SSH	22
FTP / FTPS	Remote file browser, optional explicit TLS, anonymous login	21
MySQL / MariaDB	Query workbench and object explorer	3306
PostgreSQL	Query workbench and object explorer	5432
SQL Server	Query workbench and object explorer, Windows authentication	1433

A note on the illustrations in this manual: every host name, folder, user name, licence key, and database record shown is invented for documentation purposes. No real system, credential, or customer record appears anywhere in this document.

System requirements

Windows 10 or Windows 11, 64-bit.

No .NET runtime required - the installer is self-contained.

Roughly 200 MB of disk space.

Network access to the systems you connect to. RDP Engine itself needs internet access only to activate a licence.

Installing and updating

Installing

Run RDPEngine-Setup-1.5.0.msi and follow the installer. It is a per-machine install, so it asks for administrator approval once.

Installs to C:\Program Files\SquidSpark\RDP Engine.

Adds a Start-menu shortcut named RDP Engine.

Is signed by SquidSpark Inc. - you can confirm the publisher name in the User Account Control prompt before approving it.

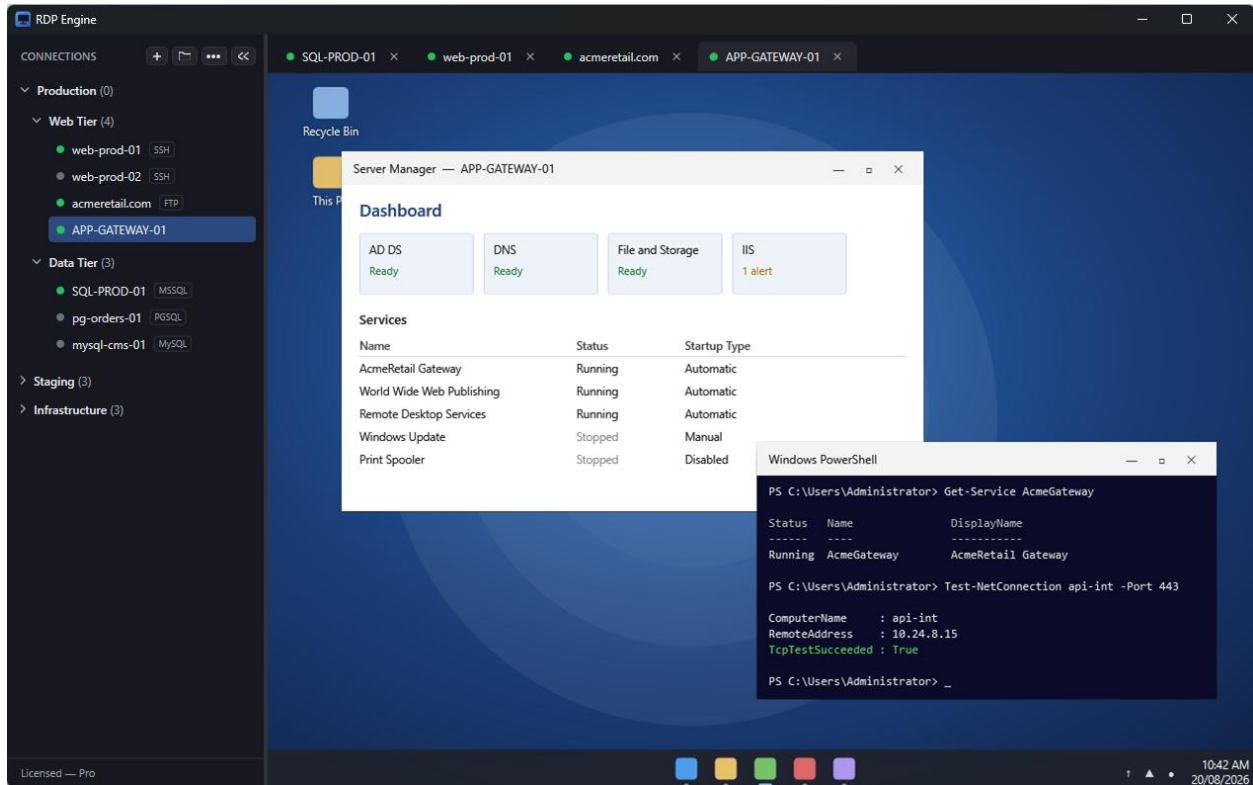
Updating

Run the newer installer; it upgrades in place. Your connections, folders, saved commands, and licence stay where they are - they live in your user profile, not in the program folder.

Uninstalling

Uninstall from Settings > Apps > Installed apps. That removes the program but leaves your saved connections behind, so reinstalling picks up where you left off. To remove those too, delete the folder %AppData%\mrdp.

A tour of the window



The main window: folder sidebar on the left, tab strip across the session area, and an active remote desktop session. All hosts and folders shown are fictional.

The window has three parts:

The sidebar lists your connections, organised into folders you create.

The tab strip shows every open session. Switching tabs never disconnects anything - sessions stay live in the background.

The session area shows whichever tab is active: a remote desktop, a terminal, a file browser, or a database workbench.

Status dots

Every connection in the sidebar, and every tab, carries a coloured dot:

Colour	Meaning
Grey	Disconnected
Amber	Connecting
Green	Connected

Collapsing the sidebar

Press Ctrl+B, or use the chevron button, to collapse the sidebar to a thin strip and give the whole window to the session. RDP Engine remembers the setting between runs.

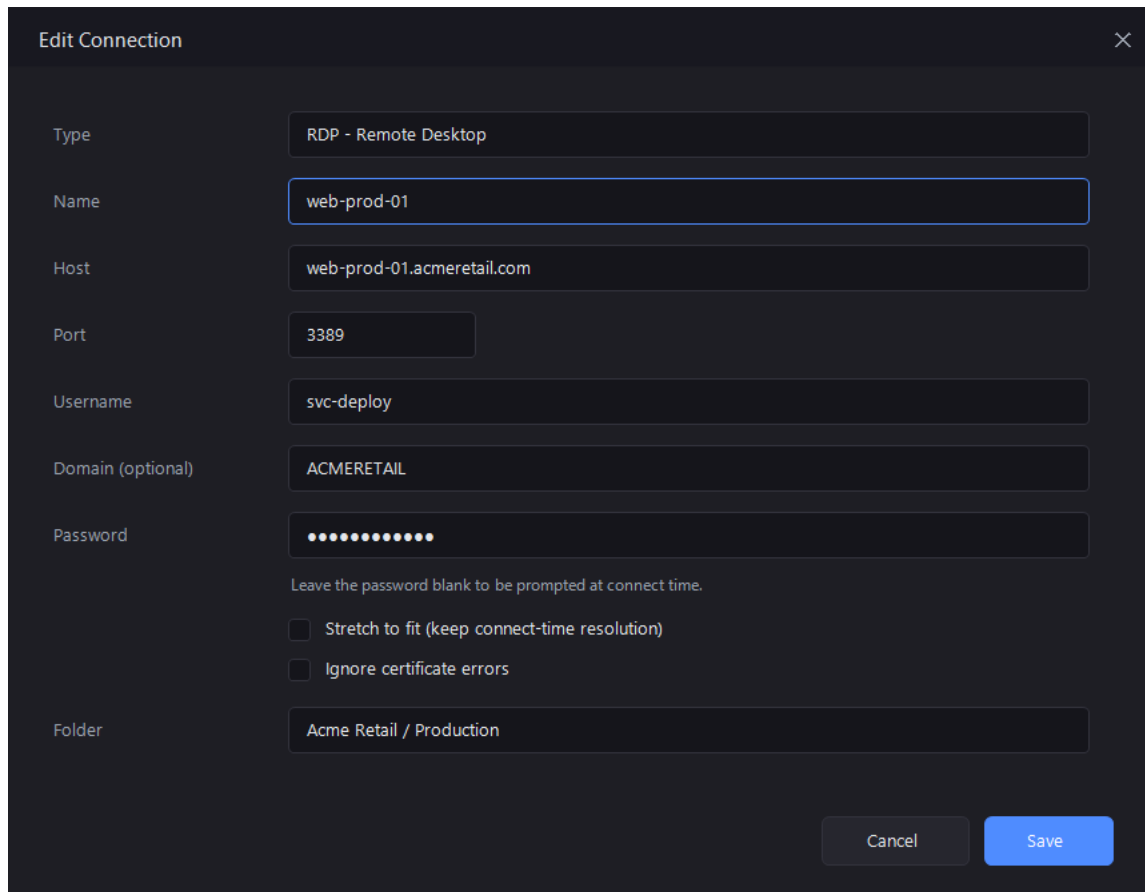
The status bar

The bottom-left corner shows your licence state - Free tier, or Licensed - and an Activate button when you are not licensed.

Creating and organising connections

Creating a connection

Right-click anywhere in the sidebar and choose New Connection, or use the buttons in the sidebar header. Fill in the editor and choose Save.



The screenshot shows the 'Edit Connection' dialog box. It has a title bar with 'Edit Connection' and a close button. The fields are as follows:

- Type: RDP - Remote Desktop
- Name: web-prod-01
- Host: web-prod-01.acmeretail.com
- Port: 3389
- Username: svc-deploy
- Domain (optional): ACMERETAIL
- Password: (masked with dots)
- Folder: Acme Retail / Production

Below the password field, there are two checkboxes:

- ☐ Stretch to fit (keep connect-time resolution)
- ☐ Ignore certificate errors

At the bottom right, there are 'Cancel' and 'Save' buttons.

The connection editor. Fields change to suit the connection type - a database connection offers a default database, an SSH connection offers a private key file. The values shown are fictional.

Field	What it does
Type	Which protocol this connection uses. Changing it adjusts the rest of the form and the default port.
Name	What appears in the sidebar. Free text - name it however you think about the machine.
Host	Host name or IP address. You can paste a full URL here; see below.

Field	What it does
Port	Filled in automatically from the type; change it if your server differs.
Username	Leave blank on SQL Server to use Windows authentication, or on FTP to log in anonymously.
Domain	RDP only. Optional.
Password	Optional. Leave it blank to be prompted at connect time instead of saving it.
Folder	Which folder the connection belongs to.

Paste a URL to fill in the form

Paste a connection string into the Host field and RDP Engine fills in the rest - type, host, port, TLS setting, user name, database, and starting folder. This is handy with the FTPS endpoints Azure App Service hands out:

```
ftps://waws-prod-yt1-113.ftp.azurewebsites.windows.net/site/wwwroot
```

The ftp://, sftp://, ssh://, rdp://, mysql://, postgres://, and sqlserver:// schemes all work the same way.

Folders

Folders nest as deeply as you like - by client, environment, data centre, or however you already think about your estate. Right-click to create, rename, or delete one. Folders remember whether they were expanded.

Drag and drop moves things around: a connection into a folder, a folder inside another, or a folder back to the root. Drop targets highlight as you drag, and a move that would put a folder inside its own child is refused rather than breaking the tree.

Passwords

Saved passwords are encrypted with Windows Data Protection (DPAPI) and tied to your Windows user account. Another user on the same machine cannot read them, the same account on another machine cannot read them, and they are never sent to SquidSpark.

If you would rather not save a password at all, leave the field blank. RDP Engine prompts you at connect time instead.

Right-click actions

Right-click a connection for Connect, Edit, Duplicate, Move to, and Delete. Duplicate is the quickest way to add the second, third, and fourth machine in a group that differs only by name.

Remote desktop sessions

Double-click a connection to open it. Several desktops can be open at once, each in its own tab, all inside one window.

Live dynamic resolution - resize the window and the remote desktop reflows to match, with no scrollbars or letterboxing.

Scale to fit - set per connection, this keeps the connect-time resolution and scales it instead.

Clipboard redirection between the local and remote machine.

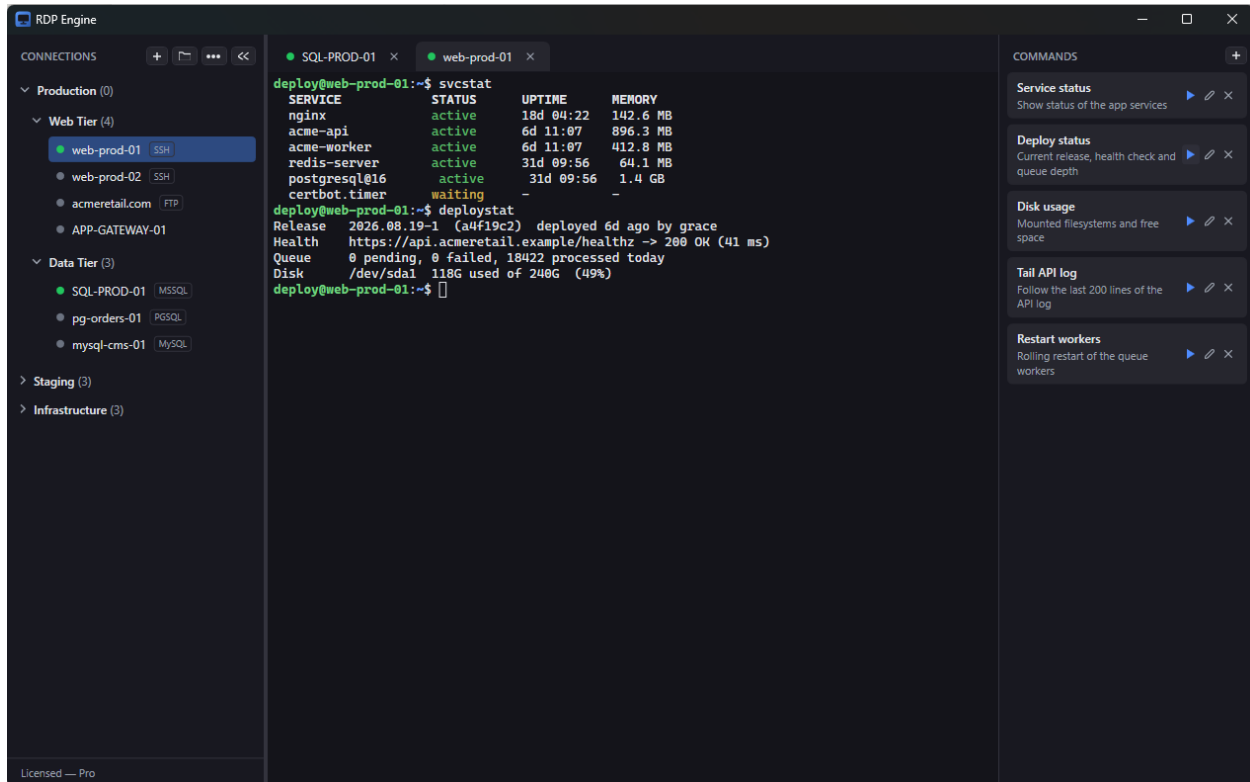
Keyboard capture, so shortcuts such as Alt+Tab reach the remote session.

Automatic reconnect, with a panel showing the server's actual disconnect reason when a session drops.

Certificate handling, including an explicit opt-in to ignore certificate errors on lab and internal hosts.

Ignoring certificate errors disables a real protection. Use it for internal hosts whose certificates you already understand, not as a default.

The SSH terminal



An SSH session with the saved-commands panel on the right. The session content is scripted demonstration output.

The terminal is a real terminal emulator, not a log window:

xterm-256color, including 24-bit true colour, bold, dim, underline, and reverse video.

Full-screen TUI support - vim, htop, less, top, and anything else using the alternate screen buffer.

5,000 lines of scrollback, with the mouse wheel and Shift+PgUp / Shift+PgDn.

Mouse text selection, Ctrl+Shift+C to copy, Ctrl+V to paste, with bracketed paste so editors handle multi-line pastes correctly.

Live resize - the remote PTY is told the new size as you resize the window.

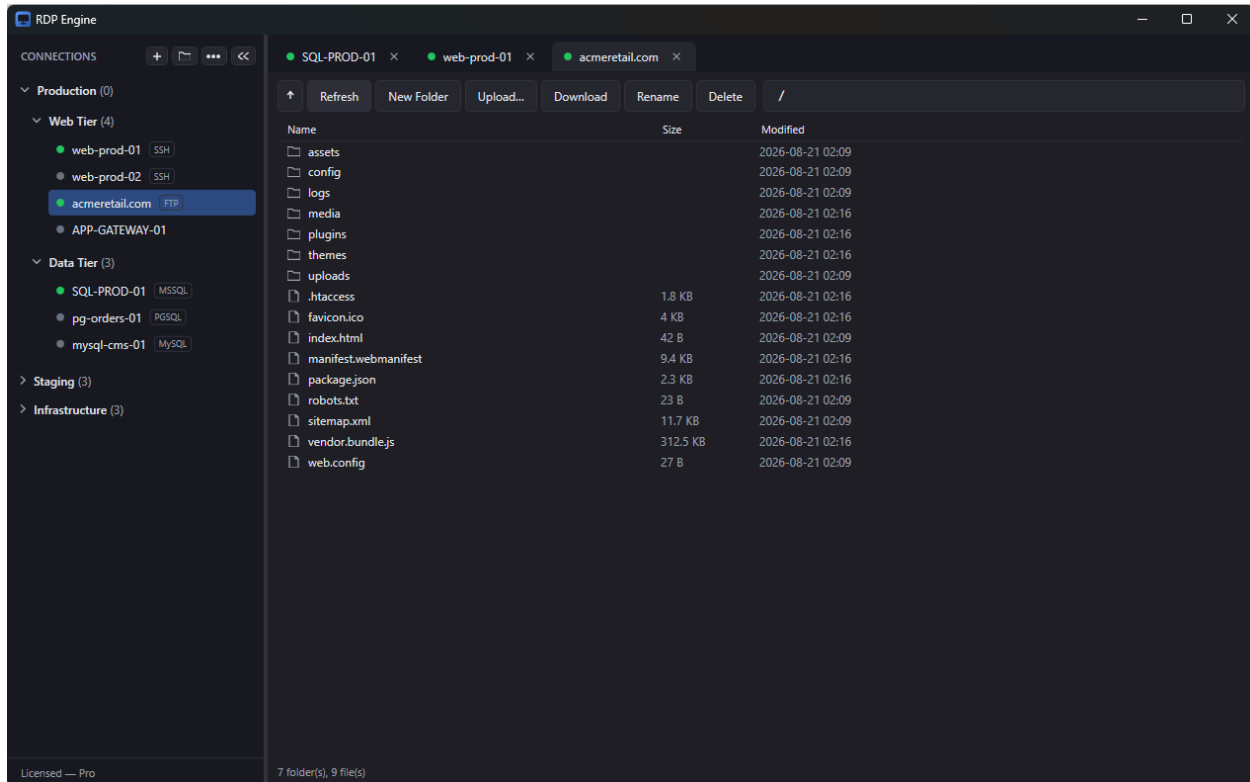
Password, keyboard-interactive, or private-key authentication.

Saved commands

The panel on the right holds commands you run over and over. Each has a name, an optional description, and the command text. Click the run arrow, or double-click the card, to type it into the active terminal and run it.

Saved commands live with your configuration and are available in every SSH session - useful for tailing a particular log, restarting a service, or kicking off a deployment without remembering the exact incantation.

Transferring files



The remote file browser, here over SFTP. File names and sizes are demonstration data.

SFTP, FTP, and FTPS connections open a remote file browser.

Browse with double-click navigation, an Up button, an editable path bar, and keyboard shortcuts (Enter, Backspace, F5, F2, Delete).

Upload through the file picker, or by dragging files straight from Windows Explorer into the listing.

Download one file or a multi-selection into a folder you choose.

Rename, delete (including recursive folder delete), and create folders.

Progress and cancel on every transfer.

Sortable listing showing name, size, and modified date, folders first.

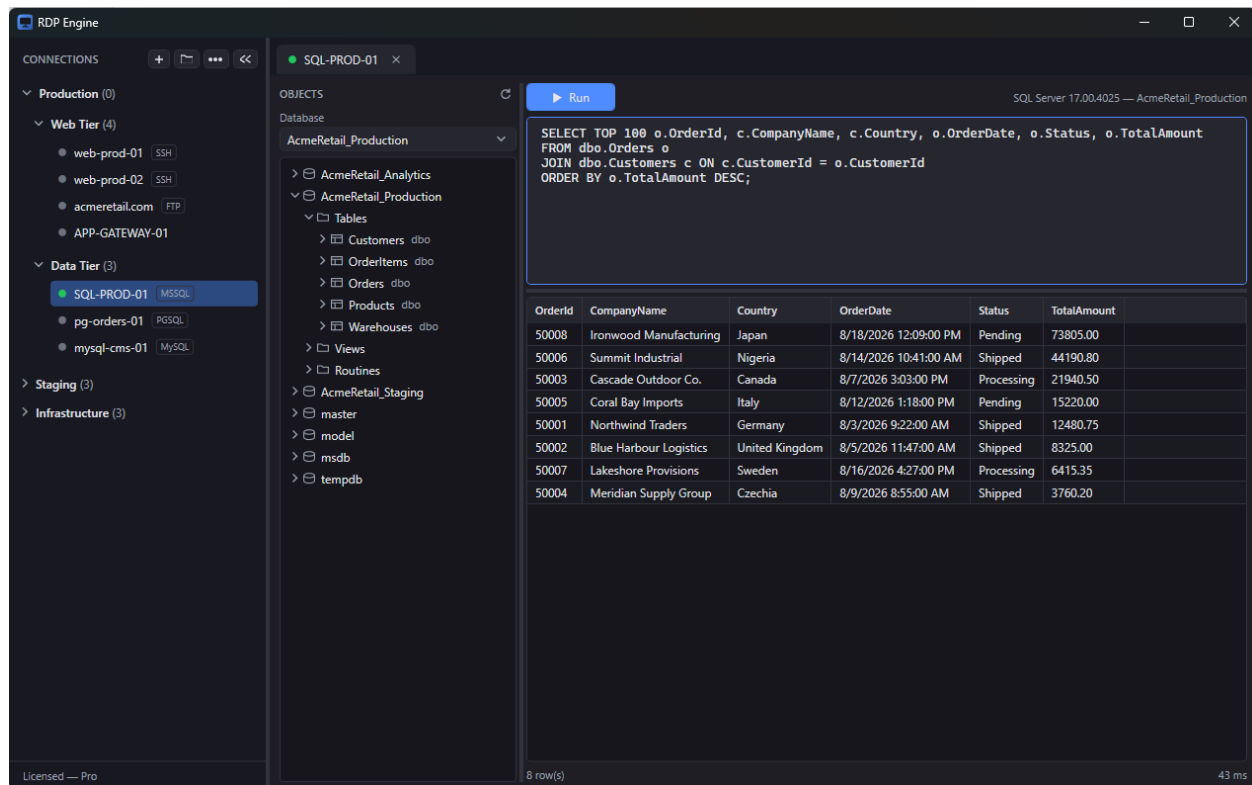
Start folder

Set a start folder per connection to open straight into the path you actually work in, such as /site/wwwroot, instead of navigating there every time.

FTPS and anonymous FTP

FTPS uses explicit TLS. For anonymous FTP, leave the user name blank.

Working with databases



**The database workbench: object explorer on the left, SQL editor above, results grid below.
The schema and rows are generated sample data.**

MySQL, MariaDB, PostgreSQL, and SQL Server connections open a query workbench with an object explorer - enough to answer a question or check a table without launching a separate tool.

Object explorer

A tree of databases, schemas, Tables / Views / Routines, objects, and columns, following each server's conventions.

Columns show their type, nullability, and primary-key marker.

Children load lazily as you expand, so a server with hundreds of databases stays responsive.

Double-click a table to generate and run a preview query, correctly quoted for the dialect.

Right-click to copy a qualified name or refresh a branch.

Switching database

The picker above the tree changes which database the session works in. On MySQL and SQL Server the connection switches in place. On PostgreSQL, where a connection is permanently bound to one database, the session reconnects transparently - expanding a different database in the tree switches to it, the way pgAdmin behaves. Your saved connection is never modified.

Running queries

Action	How
Run the editor contents	F5 or Ctrl+Enter
Run only part of a script	Select the text you want, then F5
Move between result sets	Use the result-set picker above the grid
Cancel a long query	Use the Cancel button while it runs

Every run reports elapsed time and row counts. SQL errors appear inline in red - a typo does not kill your session. Results are capped at 5,000 rows per set so a careless SELECT * cannot lock up the application.

Authentication

SQL Server - leave the user name blank to use Windows authentication. Named instances and (localdb)\MSSQLLocalDB work, with an option to trust self-signed server certificates.

MySQL, MariaDB, and PostgreSQL - user name and password, prompted at connect time if you would rather not save them.

Moving your connections between machines

Export and Import (from the sidebar ... menu, or the right-click menu) move an entire connection library as a single .mrdp.json file, folder structure intact.

Exporting

You choose whether to include saved passwords. If you do, they are sealed with a passphrase you pick, using PBKDF2 key derivation and AES-GCM encryption. Raw DPAPI blobs never leave the machine.

Anyone who has both the export file and the passphrase can read every password inside it. Treat the file as a credential, and do not email it to yourself unencrypted. SquidSpark never receives it and cannot recover a lost passphrase.

Importing

On import, folders are matched by name, duplicates are skipped, and passwords are re-encrypted for the local Windows user. Nothing is overwritten.

Licensing

Free tier

RDP Engine is free to use, with two limits: five saved connections, and three simultaneous sessions. Every feature is available on the free tier - the limits are on volume, not capability. If you never activate a licence, the application makes no network connections to SquidSpark at all.

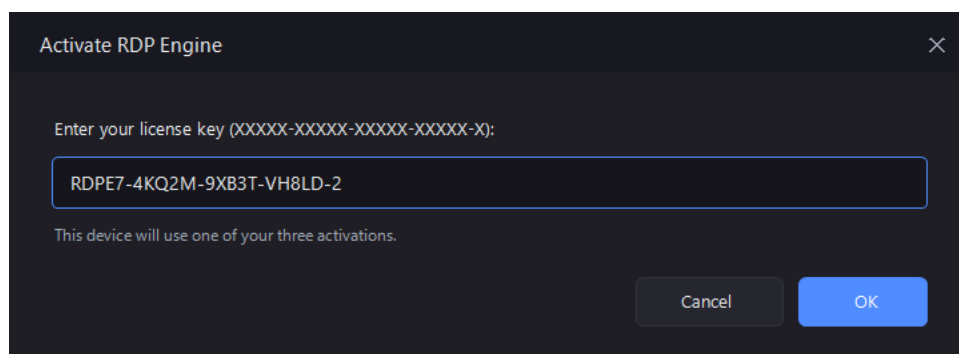
What a licence includes

	Free	Licensed
Saved connections	5	Unlimited
Simultaneous sessions	3	Unlimited
All seven protocols	Yes	Yes
Object explorer, saved commands, drag and drop	Yes	Yes

A licence is an annual subscription of CAD \$29.00 per year and may be activated on up to three devices at once.

Activating

Open the sidebar ... menu and choose Activate License, then paste your key.



The activation dialog. The key shown is not a real licence key.

Activation contacts the SquidSpark licence server and sends your licence key, a one-way hashed device identifier, and your Windows computer name. It never sends your connections, hosts, or passwords.

Moving a licence to another machine

Choose Deactivate License on the machine you are finished with. That frees the activation slot immediately so you can use it elsewhere.

Working offline

A validated licence keeps working offline for 30 days before it needs to check in again.

If you do not renew

You keep what you paid for. Every version released during your subscription stays fully licensed, indefinitely, with no free-tier limits. What renewing buys you is the versions released after that.

So if your subscription covered version 1.5.0, that version keeps working without limits for as long as you care to run it. Install a version released after your subscription ended and it falls back to the free tier until you renew - the status bar says so, and the last version your subscription covered stays licensed if you reinstall it.

A licence that is revoked, suspended, or refunded is an exception: it reverts to the free tier straight away.

Your data, privacy, and security

Everything you configure stays on your own machine, under %AppData%\mrdp.

Passwords are encrypted with Windows DPAPI, scoped to your Windows user account.

Remote desktop, SSH, file transfer, and database traffic flows directly between your machine and your servers. It never passes through SquidSpark infrastructure, and we have no visibility into screen content, keystrokes, files, queries, or results.

The application contains no analytics, no crash reporting, and no usage telemetry.

No account is required. Without a licence, the application makes no network calls to SquidSpark.

To remove everything RDP Engine has stored locally, delete the folder %AppData%\mrdp.

The full Privacy Policy and End User License Agreement are available inside the application from the sidebar ... menu, and are shown by the installer before installation.

Keyboard shortcuts

Shortcut	Does
Ctrl+B	Collapse or expand the sidebar
F5	SSH and database: run the query. File browser: refresh the listing
Ctrl+Enter	Database: run the query
Ctrl+Shift+C	SSH terminal: copy the selection
Ctrl+V	SSH terminal: paste
Shift+PgUp / PgDn	SSH terminal: scroll through scrollbar
Enter	File browser: open the selected folder or file
Backspace	File browser: go up one folder
F2	File browser: rename the selection
Delete	File browser: delete the selection
Alt+Tab	Sent to the remote session while an RDP tab has focus

Troubleshooting

Symptom	What to try
An RDP session drops and shows a reconnect panel	The panel shows the server's own disconnect reason. Reconnect from that panel; if it repeats, check whether the server limits concurrent sessions per user.
Certificate warning when connecting over RDP	The host is presenting a certificate Windows does not trust. Verify the host is what you expect, then set Ignore certificate errors on that connection if it is an internal machine.
A full-screen program such as vim looks corrupted over SSH	Resize the window once - this re-sends the terminal size to the remote PTY and forces a redraw.
Cannot connect over FTPS to Azure App Service	Paste the full ftps:// URL from the Azure portal into the Host field; it fills in the port, TLS setting, and start folder for you.
SQL Server connection fails with a certificate error	Enable the option to trust the server certificate on that connection, which is normal for internal SQL Servers using self-signed certificates.
Windows authentication is not being used for SQL Server	Leave the user name blank. Any value there switches the connection to SQL authentication.
The free-tier limit appears even though you have a licence	Check the status bar. If it says the version needs a renewal, this build was released after your subscription ended - renew, or reinstall the last version your subscription covered.
Activation fails with a device-limit message	All three activations are in use. Deactivate the licence on a machine you no longer use, then activate here.
Saved passwords stopped working after moving to a new PC	DPAPI ties them to your Windows account on that machine. Move connections with Export and Import, including passwords, rather than by copying the configuration file.

Getting help

For	Contact
Support and billing	support@squidspark.com
Privacy questions and requests	privacy@squidspark.com
Legal notices	legal@squidspark.com
Purchases and renewals	store.squidspark.com
Product information	www.squidspark.com

Support for licensed users is provided by email on Canadian business days. When reporting a problem, please describe what you were connecting to and what happened - and redact host names and credentials, which we do not need.

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