

Installing RSAT on Windows 8.1

For the free video please see
<http://itfreetraining.com/tools#rsat-8-1>

This video will look at installing Remote Server Administration Tools (RSAT) on Windows 8.1. RSAT allows the administrator to perform remote administration on other computers using their desktop or laptop. Once the install is complete, the video will look at how to perform some basic administration on your network using RSAT to remote computers connected to the network.

Demonstration

Demonstration install

To install RSAT download the executable from the following

<http://www.microsoft.com/en-au/download/details.aspx?id=39296>

Make sure that you download the 64bit or 32bit version depending on which operating system that you are running. RSAT will not install if you download the wrong version.

Once downloaded, run the installer for RSAT. RSAT is essentially a Windows Update so the installer will ask if you want to install RSAT and then ask you to accept the license agreement. There are no other options that can be configured.

Using RSAT

Once RSAT is installed, the easy way to access the tools is through Server Manager. Server Manager will run on Windows 8.1 just like it would on a Windows Server. Run Server Manager by right clicking the start menu and selecting search. From search enter in "server" and run server manager when it appears in the search results.

When Server Manager is run for the first time there will be no servers listed. To add servers, right click "all servers" found on the left hand side and select the option Add Servers.

From the Add Servers dialog, it is possible to add a server using the name, DNS name or import a number of servers from a config file. Once the server or servers have been added, it will be available in Server Manager each time Server Manager is run.

When Server Manager runs, Server Manager will attempt to contact the server and obtain some information from the server. If Server Manager finds roles or features installed on the server that it has administration tools for, these tools will automatically be added to the left hand side of the screen.

If you right click on a server, this will display a list of administration tools including command line tools that are available on that server taking into account any roles and features installed on that server. When running tools this way, it is important to remember in some cases the tool may connect to the server that you are using and other times it will not. For example, Active Directory Users and Computers will connect to any writable Domain Controller which will generally be that Domain Controller that is closest to where you are.

When right clicking on a server there is also an option called "Manage As". This allows you to connect to the server as a different user. This is useful if the user that you are logged in to does not have administrator rights on the server that you are administrating. There is also an option called "Start Performance Counters". This option will start up performance options used to measure server performance. These are used to calculate a base line for the server and also check performance of the server if there are any bottlenecks. Performance counters do take additional system resources so are disabled by the default.

If you do not wish to access a tool from a server, you can also access all the tools by selecting the Tools menu from the top right hand corner of the screen and selecting the tool that you want to run.

When running one of the admin tools, sometimes additional options may be hidden from the view. To see these options, select the menu view and then select the option "Advanced Features".

MMC

Microsoft Management Console (MMC) was first introduced in Windows Server 2000. It allows admin tools to be grouped together in the same interface. These admin tools are often referred to as snap-ins. With the improvements in the Windows interface, most notably Server Manager, an administrator will find it less likely that they will want to use MMC in favor of other tools.

To open MMC, right click the start menu, select run and then enter in MMC.

To add an admin tool, also known as a snap-in, select the file menu and then select the option "Add/Remove Snap-in". It is just a matter of adding the snap-ins that you want to use in the interface.

Once the snap-ins have been added to MMC, they will work the same as if the admin tools had be run as a standalone from server manager.

Once you have the snap-in configured the way you want, it is possible to save the MMC configuration file to a file. The administrator in future only needs to launch this file to get the same options.

Download Locations

Windows 8.1 <http://www.microsoft.com/en-au/download/details.aspx?id=39296>

Windows 8 <http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=28972>

Windows 7 <http://www.microsoft.com/en-au/download/details.aspx?id=7887>

Windows Vista <http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=21090>

Windows Vista x64 <http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=18787>

Windows XP <http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=16770>

See <http://YouTube.com/ITFreeTraining> or <http://itfreetraining.com> for our always free training videos. This is only one video from the many free courses available on YouTube.

References

“View and Configure Performance, Event, and Service Data”

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh831394.aspx>