v11: RDP Access via BIG-IP APM-Part 2

Jason Rahm, 2011-15-09

In the first article in this series, I configured a full Webtop in APM with a static RDP host. In this article, I'll make some changes to the original configuration to allow users to specify an RDP host destination.

Modify the Access Policy

Immediately after the active directory authentication on the successful branch, click the "+" and add a logon page.
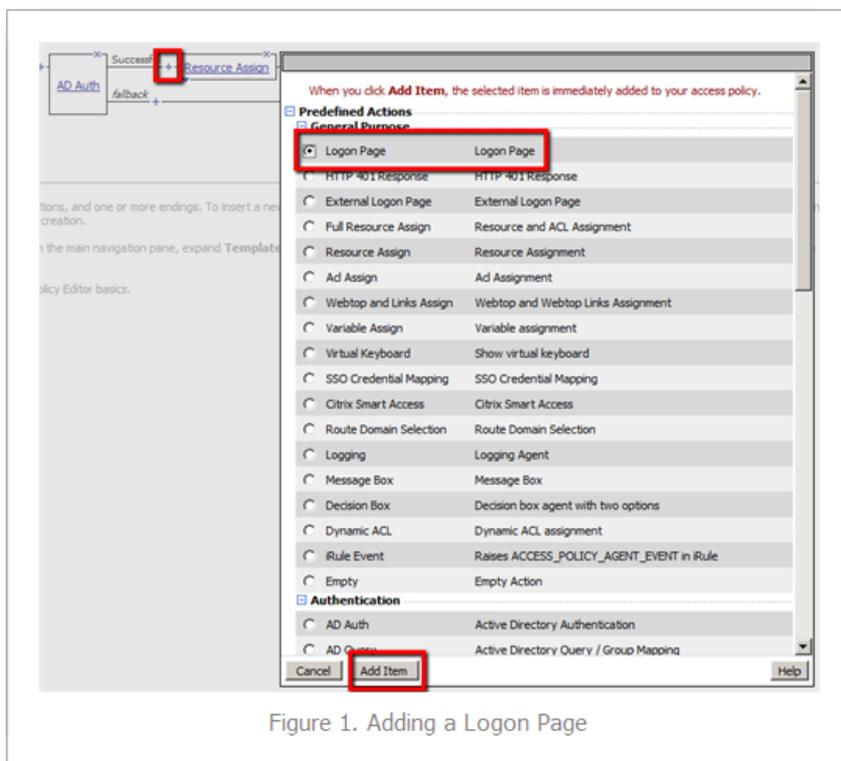

Figure 1. Adding a Logon Page

In the logon page configuration, change the name (optional) to RDP Hostname, set the field 1 post variable and session variable names to hostname, change the type for field two to none, then add some explanatory text to the Form Header Text field and specify Hostname in the text box for field 1. I also changed the Logon Button text to Continue instead of Logon since the logon has already occurred.
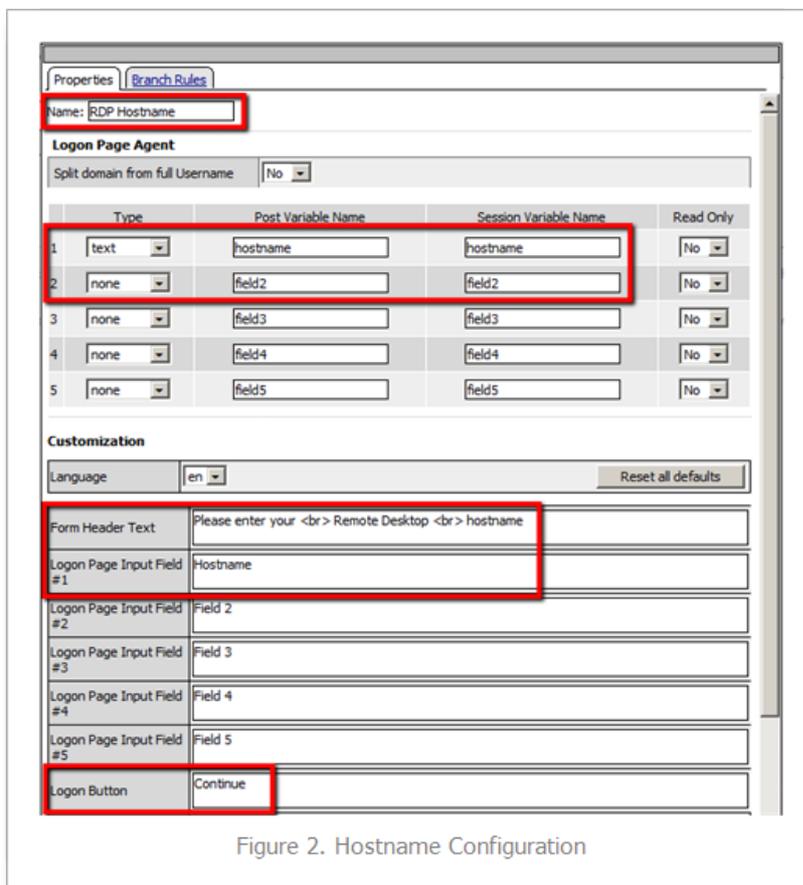
Figure 2. Hostname Configuration

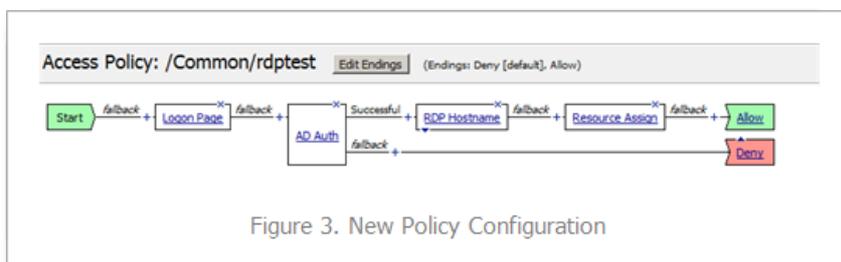Click save. Now the policy should look like the image in Figure 3.

Figure 3. New Policy Configuration

Modify the RDP Resource

After closing the policy editor, I open the Remote Desktop (Access Policy->Application Access->Remote Desktops->Remote Desktops) and change the destination from the static resource I assigned in part 1 to the variable I created in the policy: %{session.logon.last.hostname}

Figure 4. Remote Desktop Configuration
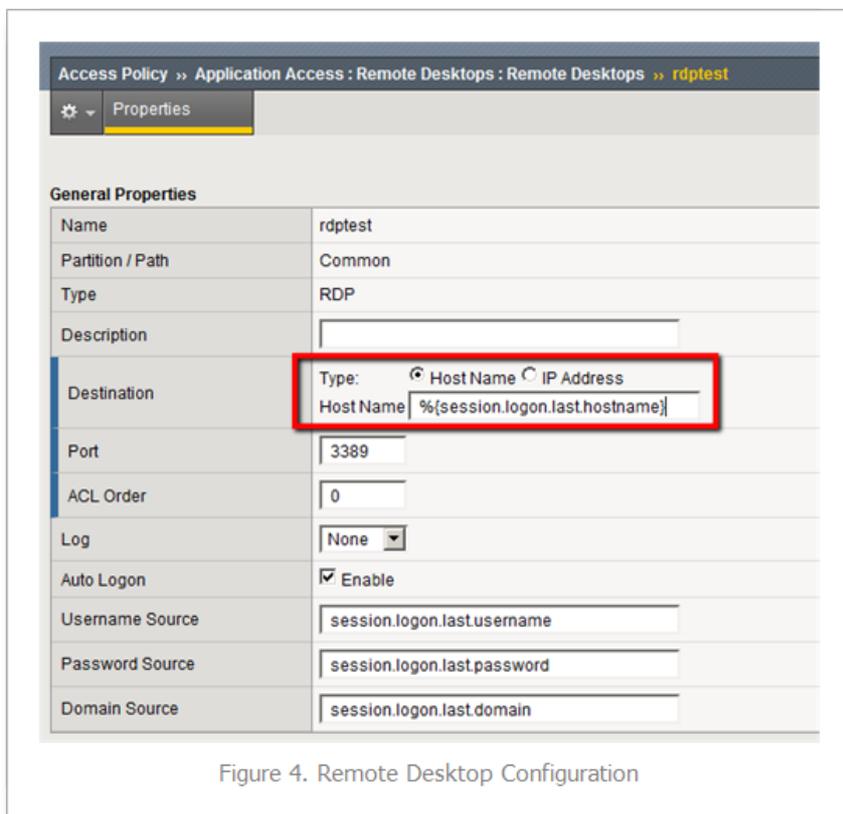
Optional Customization

To provide a description on the button that includes the user configured RDP host name, go to Access Policy->Customization and select the configured Remote Desktop, select the Localization tab in the menu and configure the Caption and Detailed Descriptions. Use the same session variable from above in the description field.

Figure 5. Button Customization
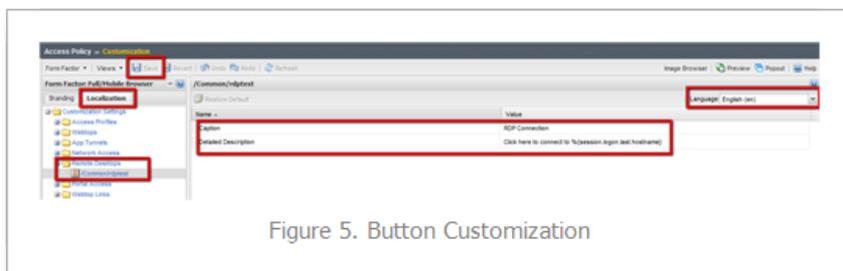
Make sure the caption is configured for each of the languages you support. I only changed the English one in this example. Next, apply the policy.

Figure 6. Policy Application
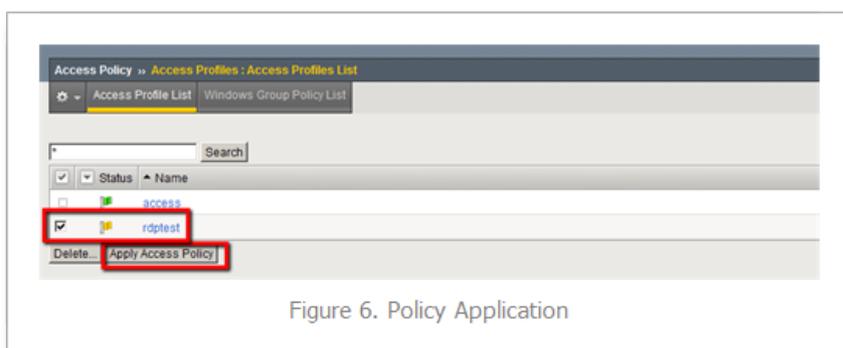
Testing the Changes

Now that my changes are complete, I can test them. Same initial login screen as part 1:
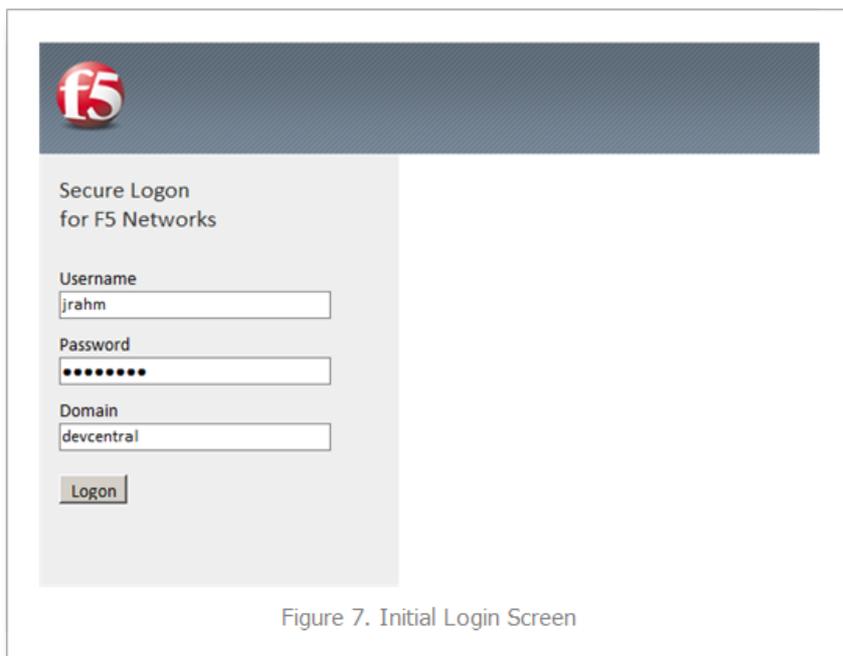

Figure 7. Initial Login Screen

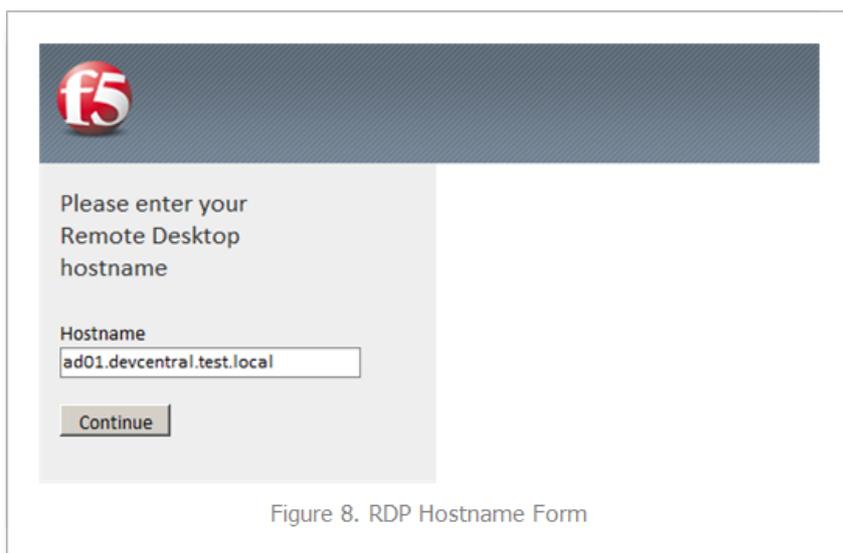Now I'm presented with the second logon page, this time asking for the host I'd like to connect to:

Figure 8. RDP Hostname Form

Note the continue I modified in the policy instead of it being labeled Logon. Now, My Webtop shows the Caption (RDP Connection) and the Description (ad01.devcen…) that I defined in the customizations in the policy.
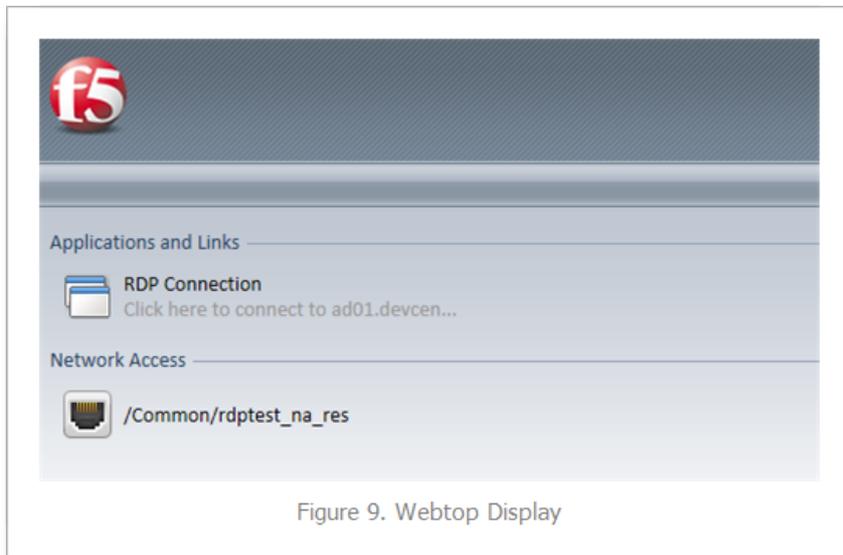
Figure 9. Webtop Display

Finally, clicking on the button takes me to my desired resource:
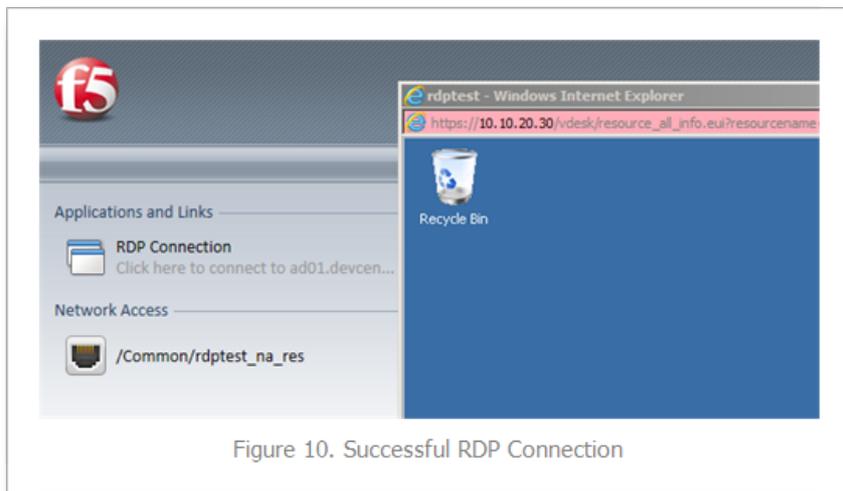

Figure 10. Successful RDP Connection

Conclusion

This solution extended the functionality in part 1 to allow for dynamic configuration of the RDP host destination for user access. In part 3, I'll explore an iRules option for providing session history as part of the solution.