Handling Printers under Terminal Server

Here's a link to the Microsoft knowledgebase article regarding "Log On Locally" policies as they apply to domain controllers configured as terminal services application servers (note that Microsoft formally discourages the configuration of Terminal Servers as domain controllers for security reasons):

http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;247989

Here's a link to the article with the information on scripting default printer mappings in Terminal Services:

http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=http://support.microsoft.com:80/support/kb/articles/Q263/2/26.ASP&NoWebContent=1

Also, when dealing with printers at remote WAN locations, it's important to remember that Windows 2000 Terminal Services will not redirect network printers automatically (something which you may be used to if you've worked with Citrix). Here are some related tips:

This problem is specific to **mapped network printers** at the **client** side; if needed, there's a work-around that involves parallel port redirection. Take a look at this Microsoft knowledgebase entry:

<http://support.microsoft.com/?kbid=264039>

Be sure that you are running the latest remote desktop client on the client system. It is available at:

http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/downloads/rdclientdl.asp.

Here's how we tend to approach printer mapping in Terminal Server environments (the approach below is applies when the Terminal Server is *not* a domain controller- browse to the appropriate location under *Active Directory Users and Computers* on a system configured as a domain controller):

Share a printer on workstation X
Create a network printer on the server that is mapped to it.
Of course, the workstation must be on for the printer to be available.

In order to avoid the generation of unnecessary/confusing printer mappings, the automatic map back can be turned off for users who are on the same LAN as the server (this can also work for remote-office users if you have a reliable full-time VPN connection which permits you to use the above approach, with explicit mappings, to always-up printer shares):

For LAN-connected users:

Administrative tools
Computer Management
Local Users and Groups
Users

<Select a User>
Environment

Uncheck the following:
Connect client drivers at logon
Connect client printers at logon
Default to main client printer

Set the default printer (e.g., using scripting as outlined elsewhere).

There are many possible approaches to printer mapping in Terminal Server environments; it's not at all uncommon to have to make adjustments to reflect a specific business' requirements and/or preferences. We have found that this usually provides a good starting point.