Terminal Services Manager

Quick Start Guide

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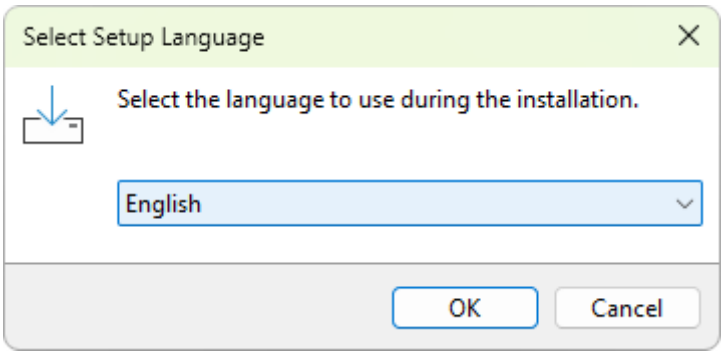
Install and launch

Terminal Services Manager installs in under a minute. You only need to do this once on the machine you will run it from.

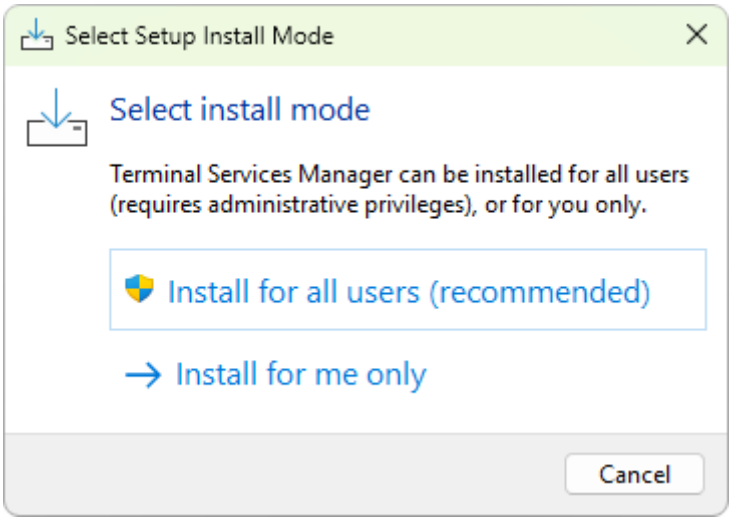
Download and install

Get the latest installer, `tsmanager_setup.exe`, from the LizardSystems download page.

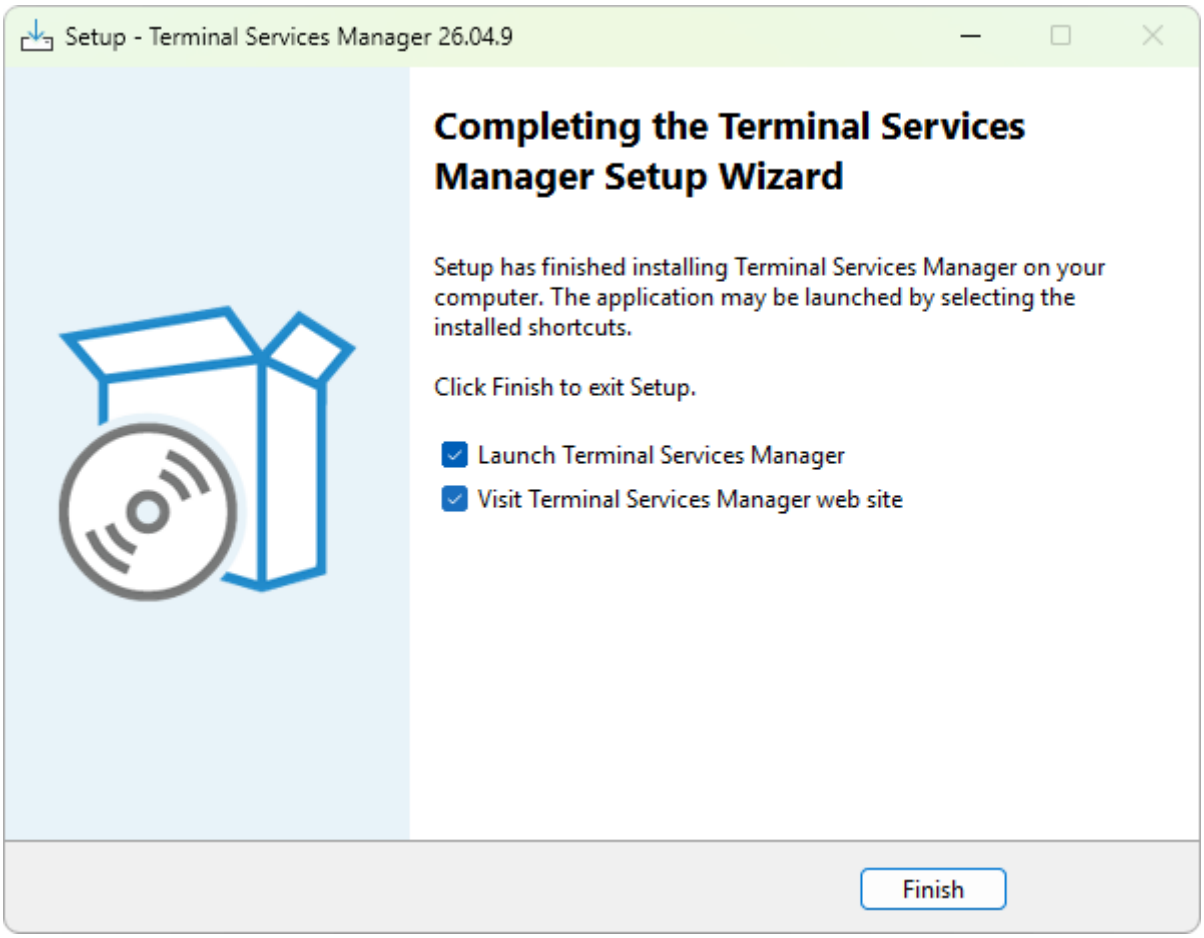
Run the installer. When Windows asks for permission to make changes, confirm it, then pick the language to use during setup.



Choose **Install for all users** if you have administrative rights on this machine, or **Install for me only** otherwise.



Accept the license agreement, keep the default install folder, and let the wizard finish. On the last page, leave **Launch Terminal Services Manager** ticked and click **Finish**.



If you prefer the command line, you can install with the Windows Package Manager instead: `winget install tsmanager`. The handbook covers winget and silent installs in full.

Launch with administrator rights

Terminal Services Manager needs administrator rights to read session data and run actions against Remote Desktop Services hosts, so Windows shows a User Account Control prompt every time it starts. Confirm the prompt to continue.

For the best results, run the program under an account that already has administrative rights on the servers you plan to manage. That way it can connect without asking for separate credentials each time. If your servers live on another domain, hold **Shift**, right-click the program shortcut, and choose **Run as different user** to start it under the right account.

When the main window opens, the computer list on the left is empty. The next step fills it.

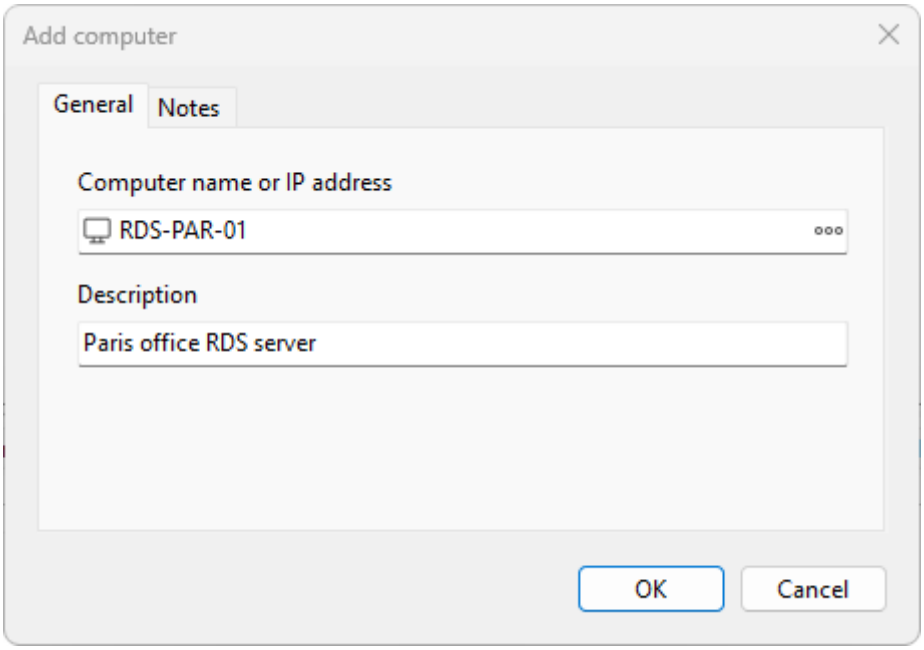
Next: Add your first server.

Add your first server

Terminal Services Manager monitors the servers on its computer list. To watch your first one, add it by name or IP address.

Add the server

Choose **Computers > Add computer...**, or right-click an empty spot in the computer list and choose **Add computer...**.



On the **General** tab, type the server's name or IP address in **Computer name or IP address**. A host name, a fully qualified name like `rds01.example.com`, or an IP address all work. Click the button next to the field to browse the network and pick a computer instead.

Add a short **Description** if you like, then click **OK**.

The server appears in the computer list and Terminal Services Manager starts connecting to it. An online server shows live counts and a normal status icon; a server it cannot reach is marked offline so you can tell the two apart at a glance.

Add the machine you are on

To try the program against your own machine first, add `localhost` (or this computer's name) as the server. You will see your own session and processes immediately, with no remote host required.

Connecting to a server that needs other credentials

Terminal Services Manager talks to every server under the Windows account it is running as; it does not store a separate user name and password per server. If the account you are signed in with does not have rights on the server, close the program and start it under an account that does: hold **Shift**, right-click the program shortcut, and choose **Run as different user**. See connection credentials for more.

With at least one server on the list, you are ready to read its live data.

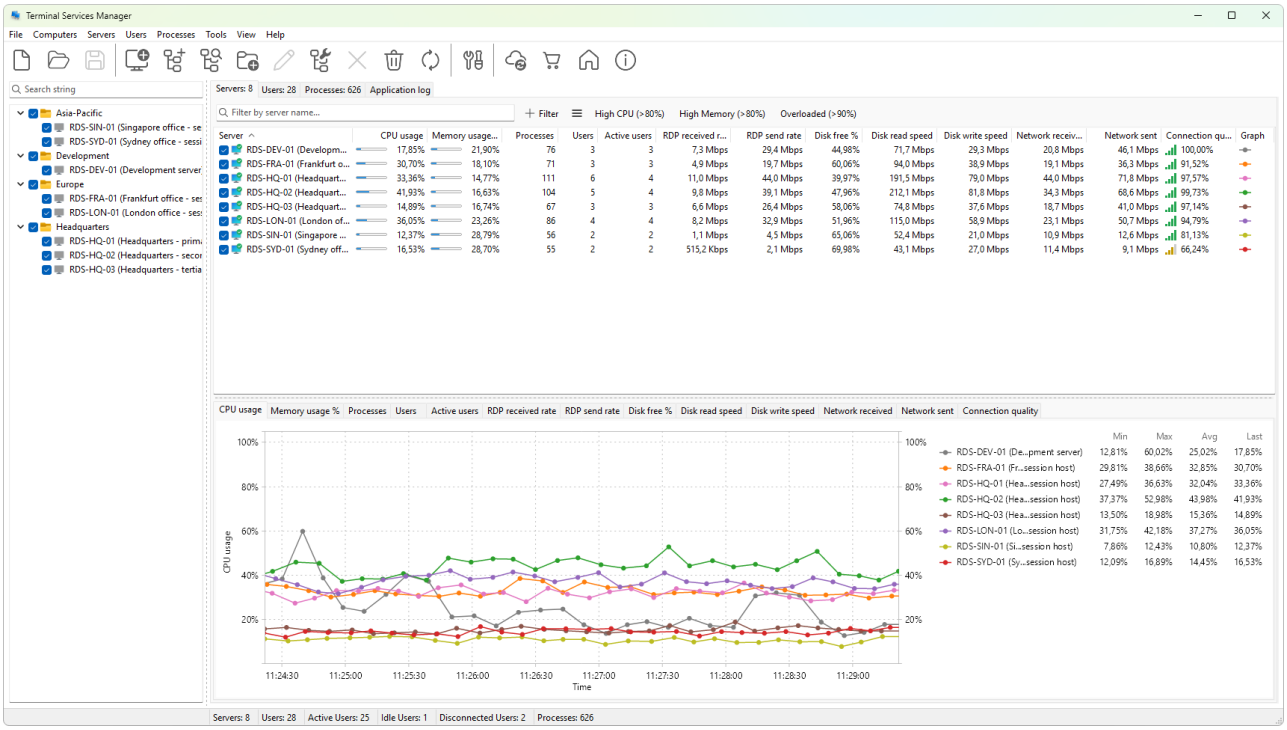
Next: Explore your servers.

Explore your servers

The detail pane on the right has four tabs. Together they answer the everyday questions: which servers are healthy, who is signed in, and what is running.

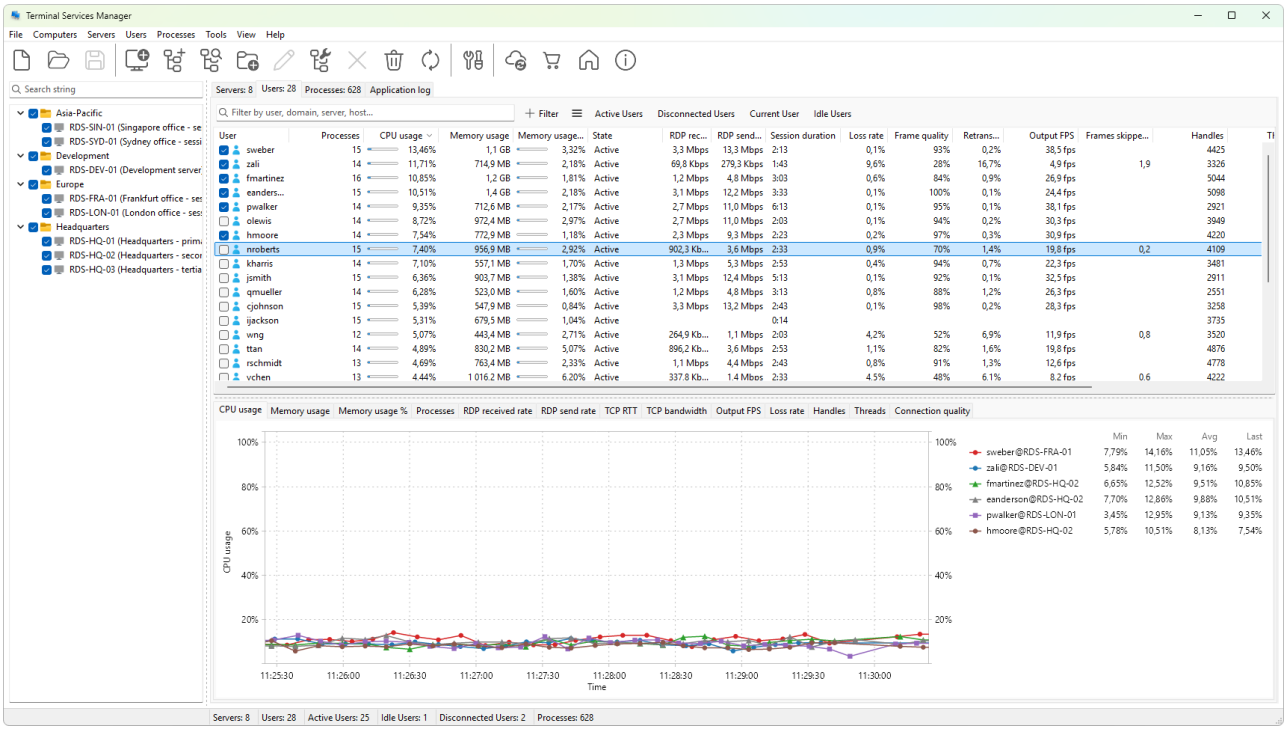
The Servers tab

The **Servers** tab lists every monitored host with live metrics: CPU and memory use, disk and network activity, and the number of sessions, users, and processes on each one. This is the place to spot a server that is running hot or has stopped responding.



The User sessions tab

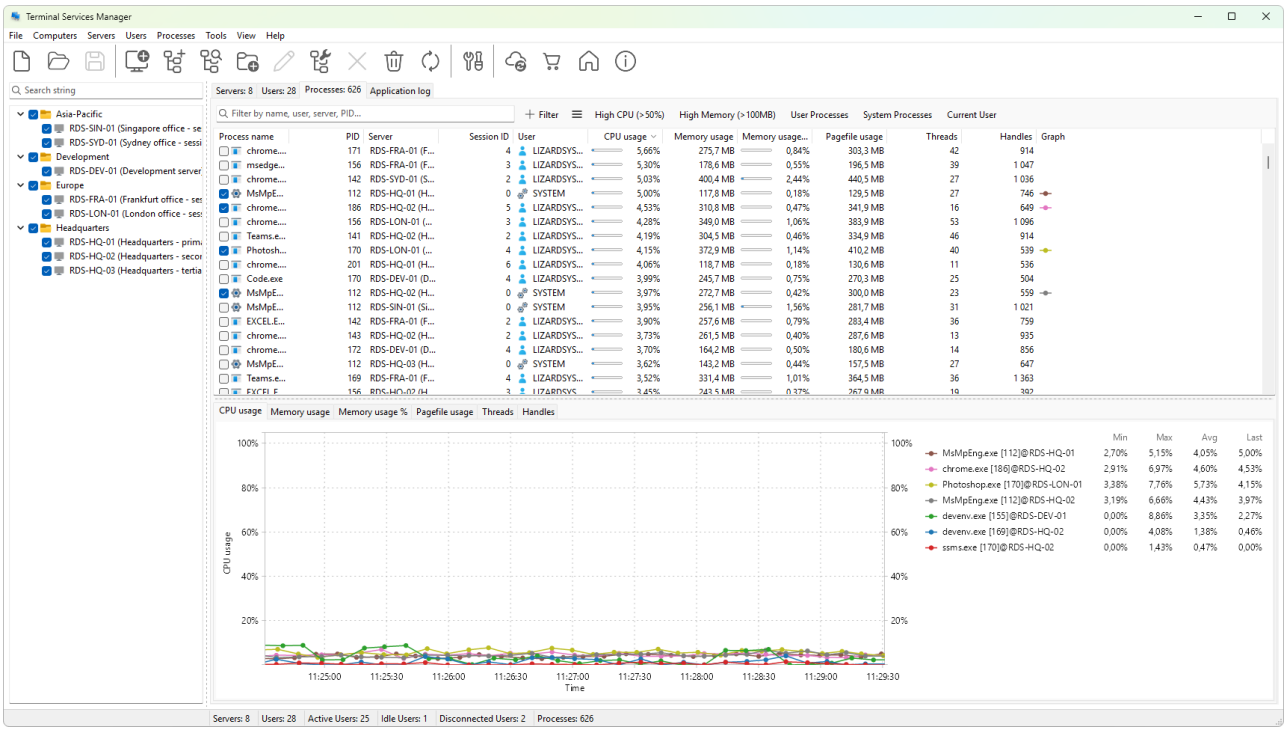
The **User sessions** tab shows every session across all your servers in one list. For each session you can see the user, the server, the session state (active, idle, or disconnected), how long it has been idle, when the user logged on, and the client they connected from.



A long idle time often means a session that is holding resources but doing nothing, which is a good candidate to disconnect or log off later.

The Processes tab

The **Processes** tab lists the processes running inside sessions, with the user, session, CPU, and memory each one is using. Sort by CPU or memory to find a runaway process quickly.



The status bar and graphs

The status bar along the bottom keeps a running tally: total servers, total users, and how many users are active, idle, or disconnected. The graph panel under each tab plots the metrics you pick over time, so you can watch a trend instead of a single snapshot.

You now have a full picture of your servers. The last step is acting on what you see.

Next: Take your first action.

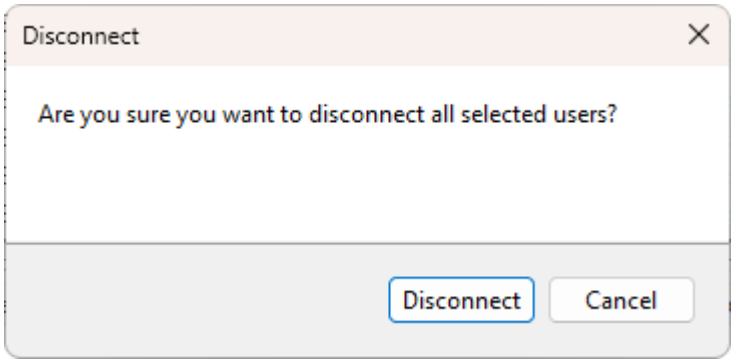
Take your first action

Monitoring is only half the job. From the **User sessions** tab you can act on a session straight away, without opening a remote desktop connection to the server. Select a session, then use the **Users** menu or right-click the row.

Disconnect a user

Disconnecting ends the connection but leaves the session running on the server. The user's programs keep going, and they can reconnect later and pick up where they left off.

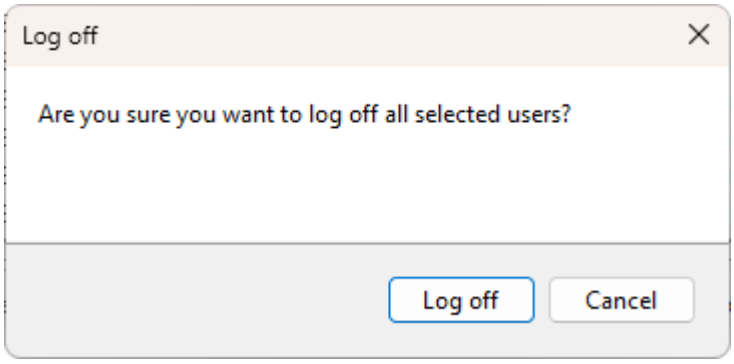
1. Select the session and choose **Users > Disconnect**.
2. Confirm the prompt by clicking **Disconnect**.



Log off a user

Logging off ends the session for good and closes the user's programs. Use it to free resources when someone is finished, but warn the user first if they may have unsaved work.

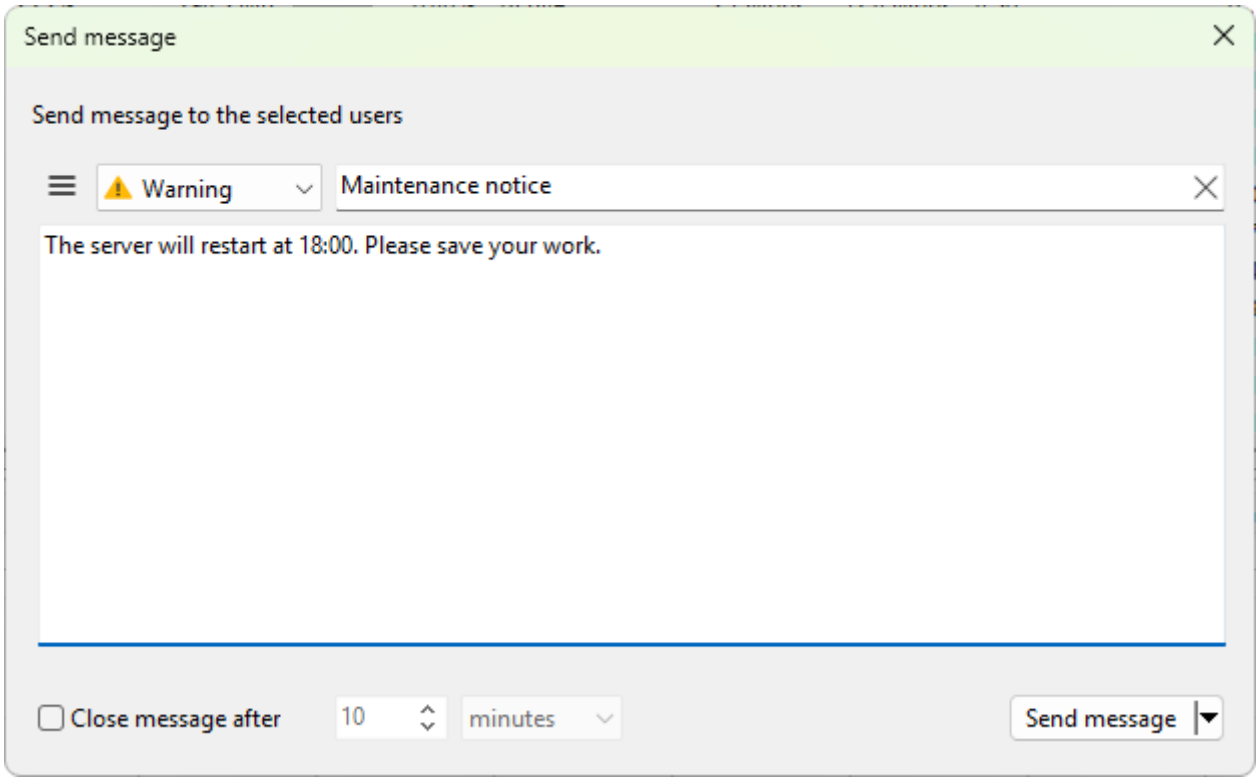
1. Select the session and choose **Users > Log off**.
2. Confirm the prompt by clicking **Log off**.



Send a message

Before you disconnect or log someone off, it is courteous to tell them. You can send a pop-up message to one user or to everyone on a server.

1. Select one or more sessions and choose **Users > Send message**.
2. Type a message title and the text you want to send, then click **Send message**.



The message appears on the user's screen right away.

Where to go next

That is the core loop: add servers, watch sessions, and act when you need to. From here:

- The Administrator Guide covers building a large computer list, RDS administration tools, the application log, and updates and licensing.
- The handbook is the complete reference. See managing user sessions for shadowing, message presets, and resetting sessions, and filtering and searching to narrow large lists.