
Subject: Re: IDL licenses thru a tunnel?

Posted by [Anthony J. Ferro](#) on Wed, 19 Mar 2003 19:17:31 GMT

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Hi all,

My thanks to all who helped and responded. I've now been able to get this to work, so I thought I'd post a summary of what I did to get this to work. (Note I'm doing this all under Linux, but it should work for other systems too.)

The basic problem in my original attempt is that IDL actually requires `_two_` connections to get a license. The first is to the FlexLM license manager. That's normally on port 1700 and that's what I was able to connect to originally. The second connection is to the VENDOR daemon, in this case RSI's `idl_lmgrd`. That normally falls to some unused default value, but it can be specified on the license server in the license file on the DAEMON line (aka the VENDOR line in the FlexLM docs). I've chosen to specify that port.

What I've now done to enable me to work from home (behind a NAT system) to connect to my work (behind a firewall) license server is....

On the server, `license.foo.edu`, I modified the license file so that it starts out something like this:

```
SERVER license 001122334455 1700
DAEMON idl_lmgrd /usr/local/rsi/idl_5.6/bin PORT=31700
```

On my home system, `home.bar.com`, I had to first modify my `/etc/hosts` file so that "license" is the loopback address:

```
127.0.0.1      localhost.localdomain localhost home license
```

This is required because the FlexLM license server knows who it is supposed to be (from the SERVER line). Next I have a "basic" `license.dat` file with:

```
SERVER localhost 001122334455 17000
USE_SERVER
```

So far, this has all been a one-time setup. Now, to run IDL locally, I first start up two ssh tunnels to my license server with a script which has:

```
ssh -f -N -L 17000:localhost:1700 license.foo.edu
```

```
ssh -f -N -L 31700:localhost:31700 license.foo.edu
```

Then I just use the "idl" command as normal. As long as those tunnels are up, everything should work. Note that I use the ports "17000" and "31700" just because they are free (high number) and might remind me why they are there.

I hope this helps anyone else trying to work out this type of configuration.

- Tony

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```
