Exchange 2007 – Outlook Anywhere 2007 with ISA Server 2006

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Abstract

In this article I will show you how to publish Outlook 2007 RPC over HTTPS with Exchange Server 2007 Beta 2 and ISA Server 2006

Let's begin

Beginning with Exchange Server 2003 and Outlook 2003 users can use their Outlook with full functionality over the Internet. Outlook 2003 is a fully MAPI Client which uses RPC to communicate with the Exchange Server. This is definitely not Firewall friendly so Microsoft developed a new technology called RPC over HTTPS. Using RPC over HTTPS RPC packets will be tunnelled through HTTPS, so you only need to open the HTTPS Port on the Firewall.

Exchange 2007 has changed the name from RPC over HTTPS to Outlook Anywhere but the technique is the same.

On Exchange Server site

First, the RPC over HTTPS Proxy component must be installed on the Exchange Server.

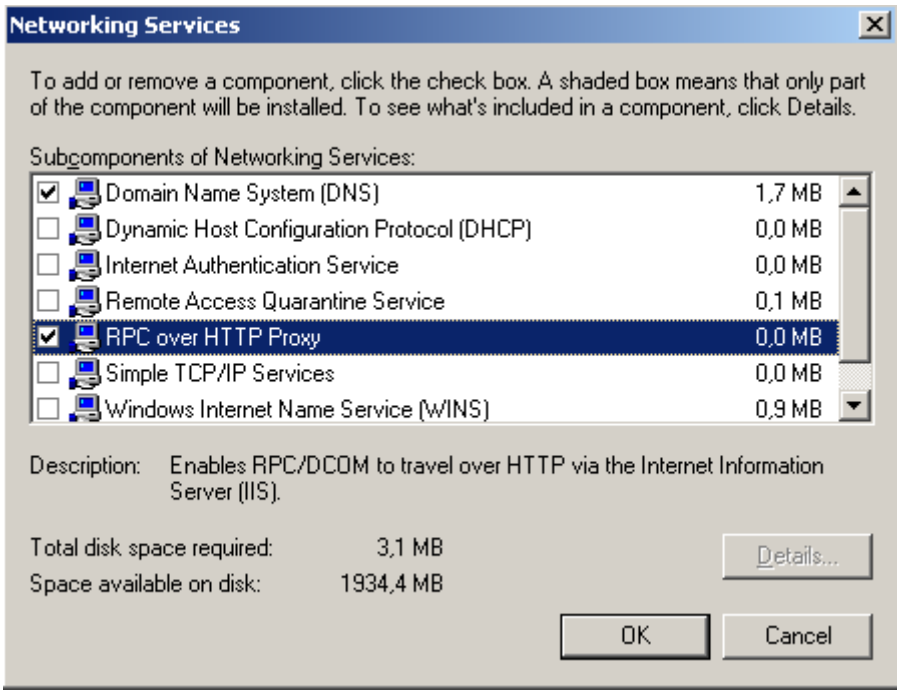

Figure 1: Install the RPC over HTTPS Proxy

Open the Exchange Management Console and enable Outlook Anywhere under the Client Access role in the *Server Configuration* container.

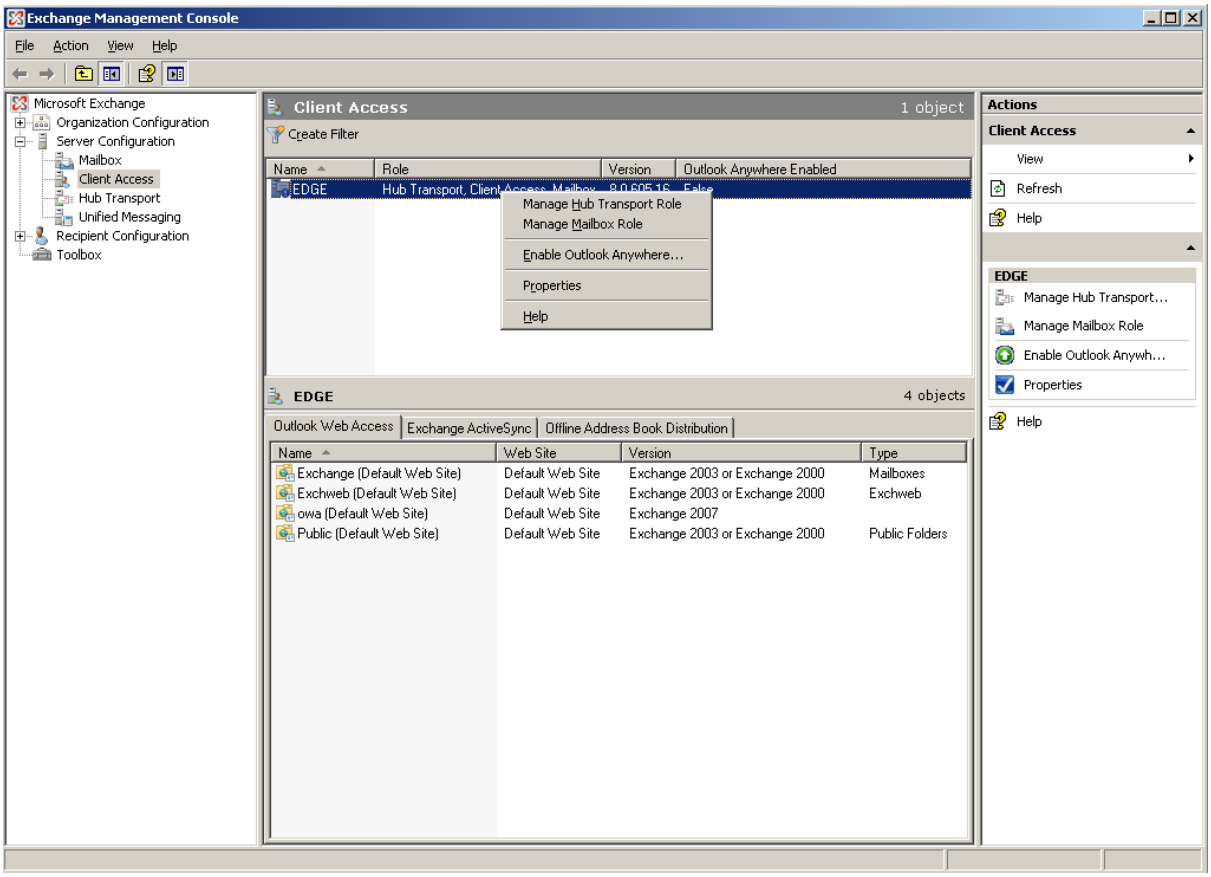

Figure 2: Enable Outlook Anywhere

Select the Eternal authentication methods. For this example we select *Basic Authentication*.

Please note:

If you are using ISA Server 2006 as the Firewall it is possible to select NTLM authentication, so the password prompt if users are open Outlook 2007 is gone (this is also possible with Outlook 2003 and Exchange Server 2003).

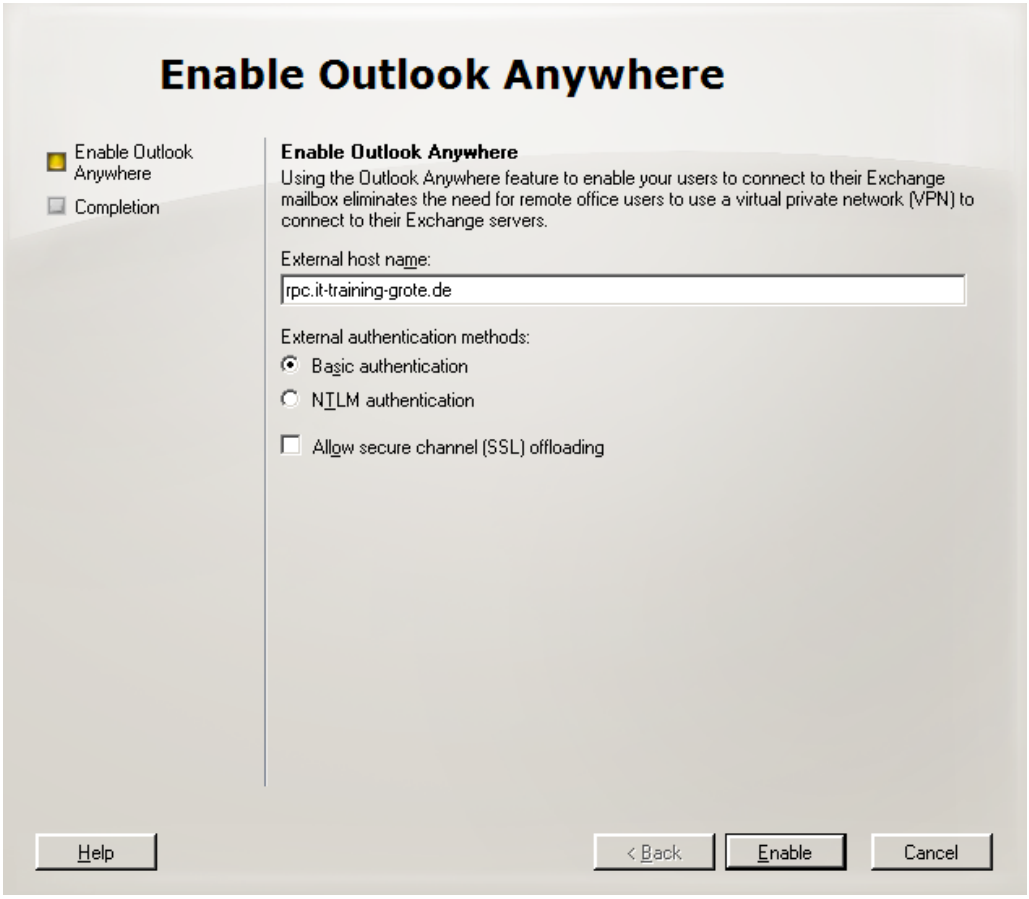

Figure 3: Select Authentication method

On IIS Site

The installation of the RPC over HTTPS proxy components creates a new Virtual Directory in IIS called *RPC*. You must enable SSL for this Directory and activate *Integrated Windows Authentication* or *Basic Authentication* depending on the Authentication selection in Exchange Server 2007.

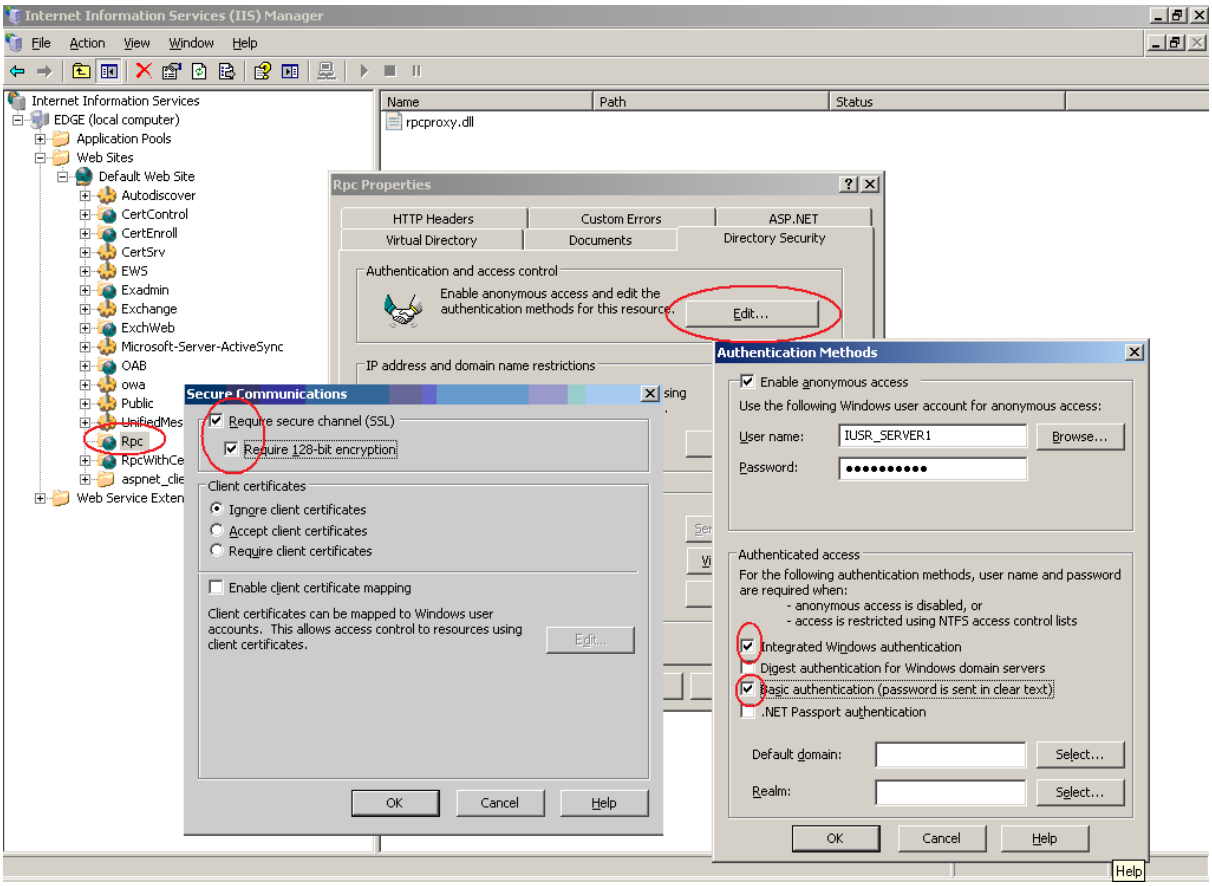

Figure 4: Enable SSL and Authentication

Split DNS or HOSTS file?

The Public Name RPC.IT-TRAININGR-GROTE.DE in the RPC Weblistener must be resolvable to the internal Exchange Server IP Address, so you have two options:

- Split-DNS or
- HOSTS file

If you are using Split DNS you must create a new Forward Lookup zone in DNS named *IT-TRAINING-GROTE.DE*. Second you must create a new A-record named *RPC* in the new Forward Lookup zone with the IP Address of the internal Exchange Server.

If you are using the HOSTS file you only need to extend the file with an entry like that:

IP address of the Exchange Server RPC.IT-TRAINING-GROTE.DE

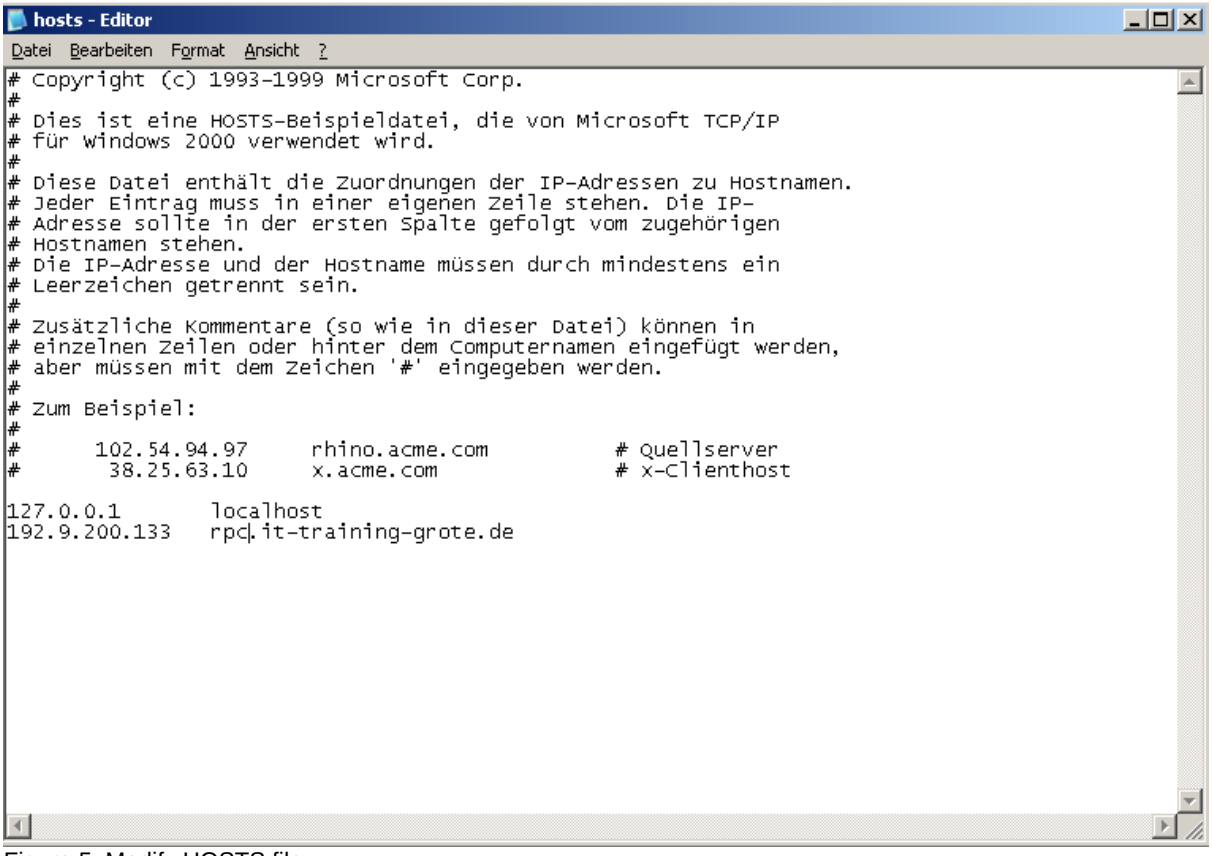

Figure 5: Modify HOSTS file

The next step is to request a certificate for the RPC Listener on ISA Server because we are using HTTPS-Bridging, ISA Server terminates the SSL connection from the Outlook 2007 client, inspects the traffic and encrypts the connection to the Exchange Server again. The common name (CN) of the requested certificate must match the Name of the Server that Outlook 2007 clients use in the Outlook profile. In this example the Public FQDN is RPC.IT-TRAINING-GROTE.DE so the CN of the certificate must be RPC.IT-TRAINING-GROTE.DE. You can request certificates via the CA servers webconsole (http://caservername/certsrv). You must request a Webserver certificate as shown in the following figure.

Please note:

Depending on your ISA Server Firewall rules you must create a Firewall rule that allows HTTP or HTPS access from your ISA Server to the CA Server.

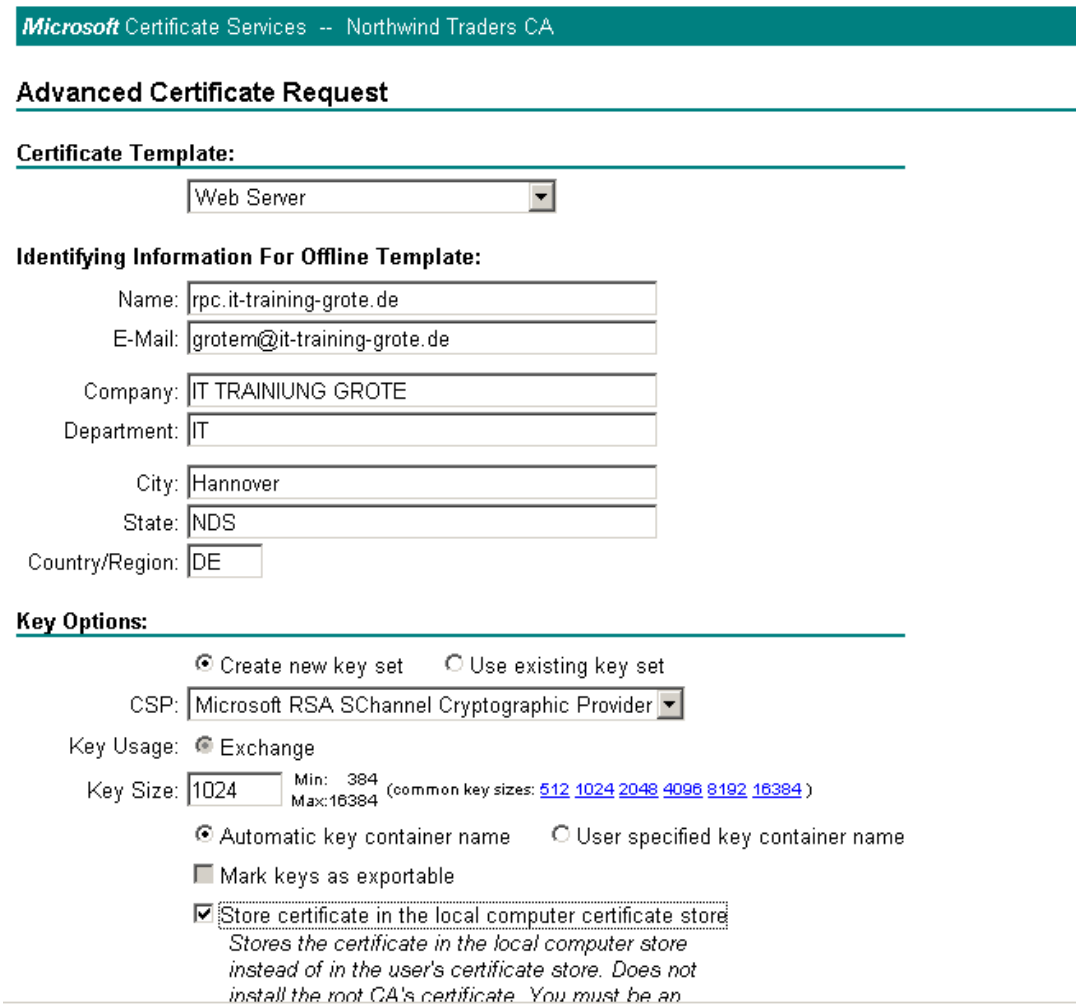

Figure 6: Request a certificate for ISA

Now it is time to create the Exchange Webclient Access Publishing rule.

Start the ISA MMC click - *New* - *Exchange Webclient Access Publishing Rule*. Name the rule and select the Exchange Version and that you want to publish Outlook Anywhere.

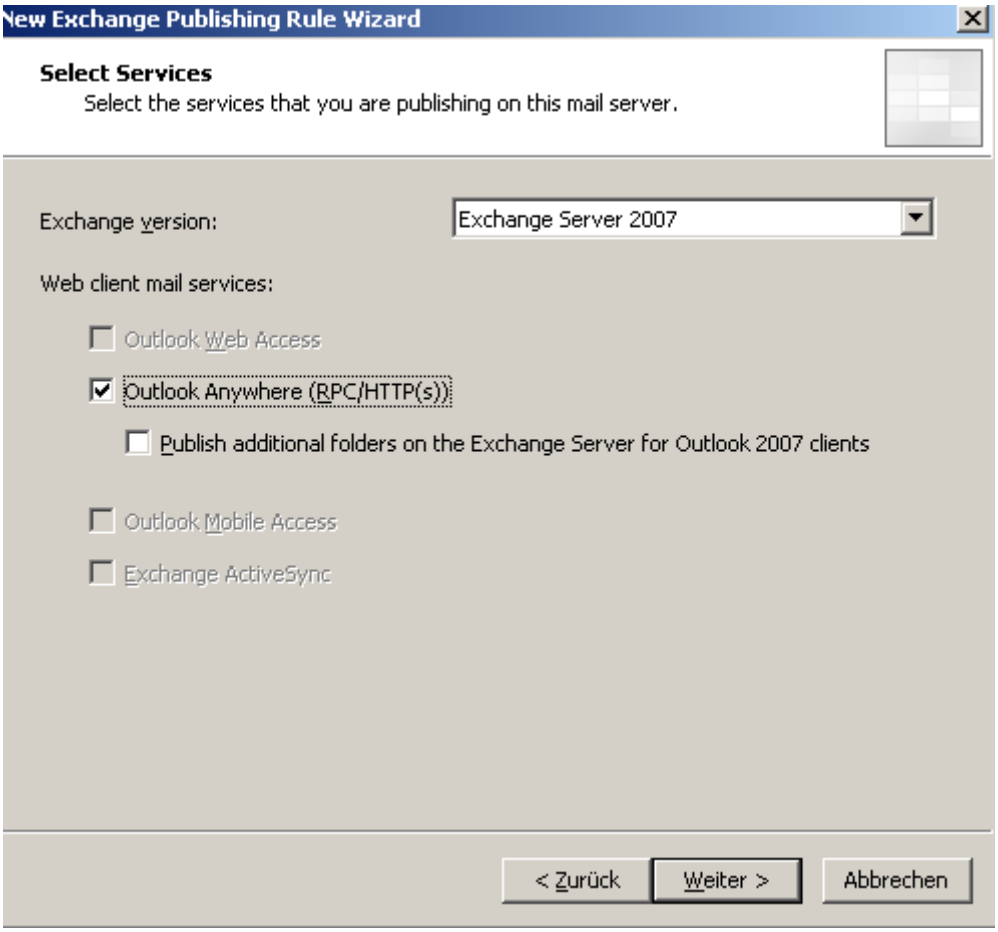

Figure 7: Select Outlook Anywhere

Select *Publish a Single Website or load balancer*

In the next window of the Wizard select the option *Use SSL to connect to the published Web server or server farm.*

Enter the Name of the Internal Site Name. You can specify a NetBIOS servername or DNS FQDN.

Next you must enter the Public Name that RPC over HTTPS users with Outlook 2007 must use when they want to access the Exchange Server with Outlook 2007 from the Internet. You can see the configuration in the next figure.

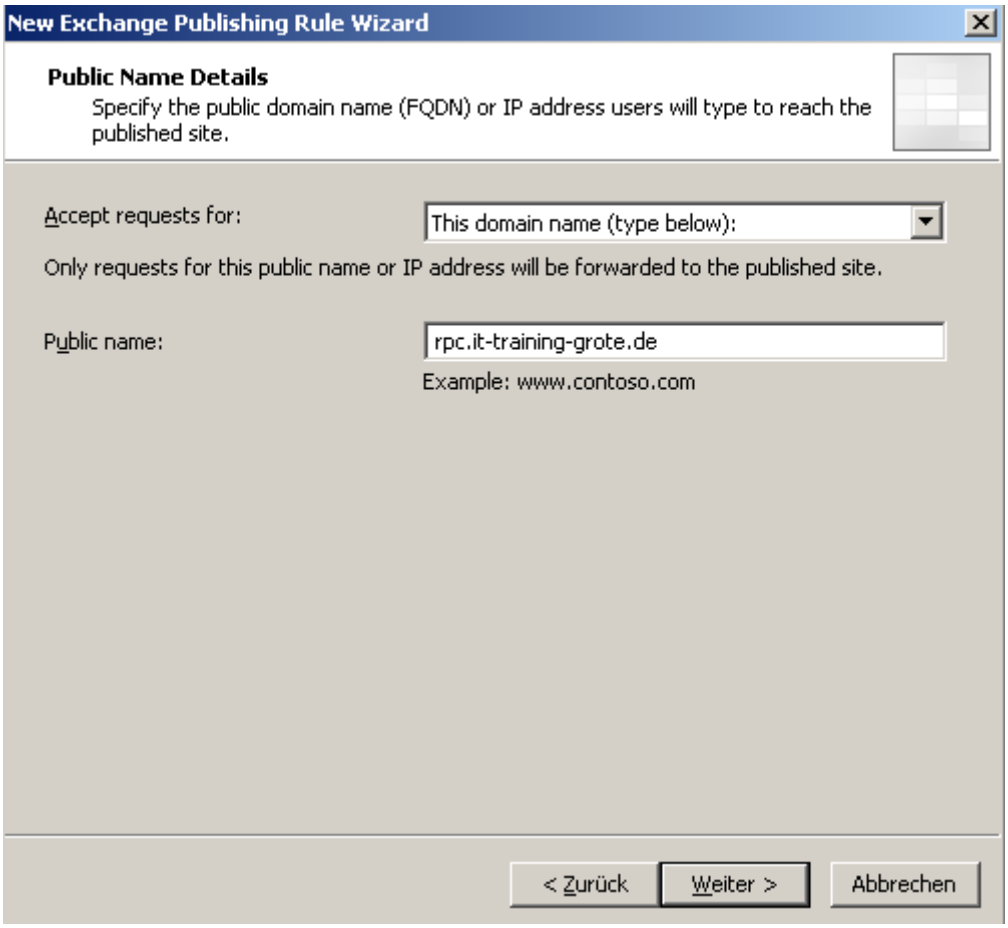

Figure 8: Enter the Public name

New Weblistener

The next step in the wizard is to create a Weblistener. ISA Server uses Weblisteners to listen for incoming requests that matches the Listener settings. A Weblistener is the combination of an IP address, a Port and when you use SSL a certificate. You must give the Weblistener a unique name.

In the next window of the Wizard select *Require SSL secured connections with clients*.

You must specify the Web Listener IP Address. If the request comes from the Internet you must select the Network External. If your ISA Server has more than one IP Address bound to the External Network Interface you can select the IP Address used for Outlook Web Access.

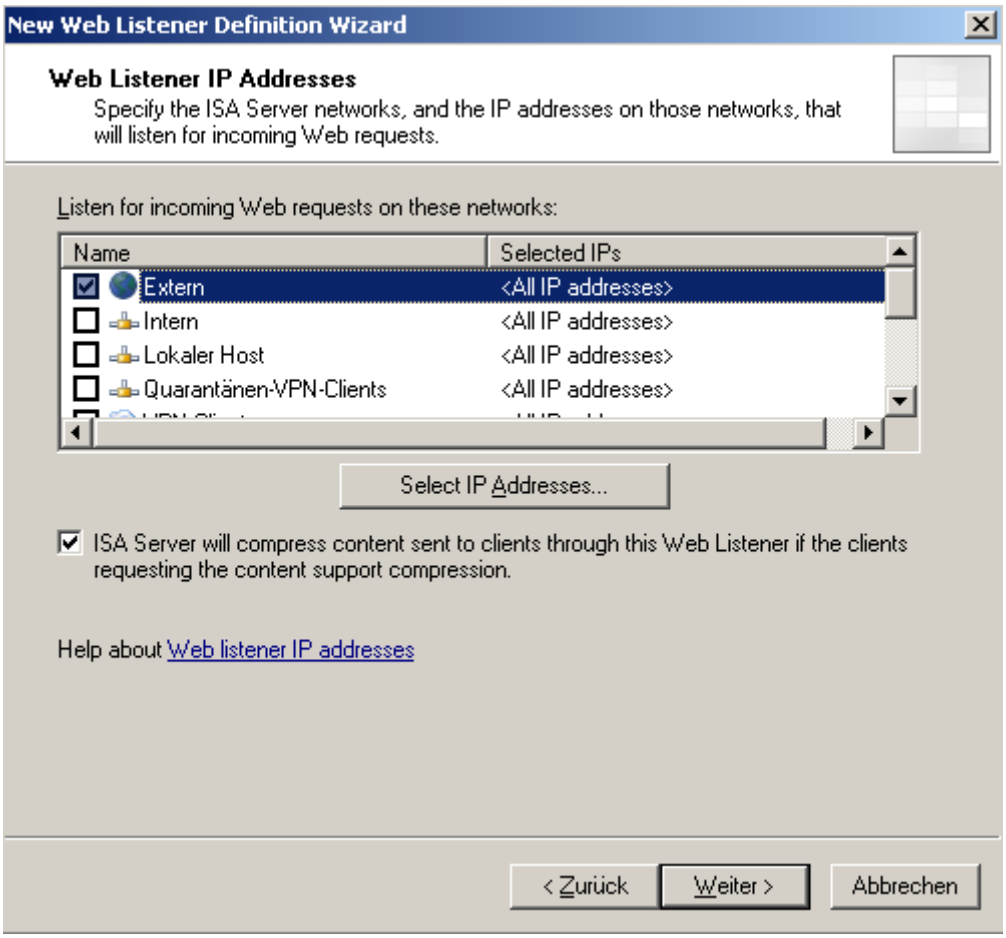

Figure 9: Select the Network Listener

Select the Certificate that you had requested from the internal CA server and click *Next*.

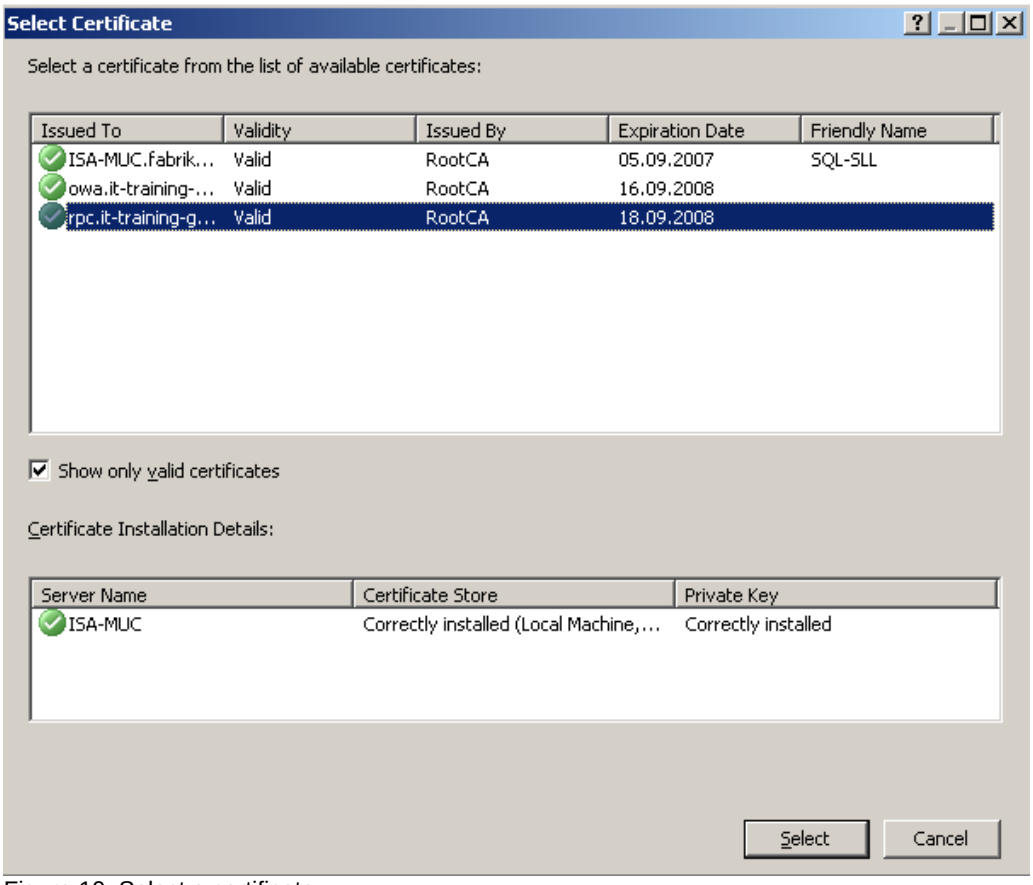

Figure 10: Select a certificate

Select *HTTP Authentication* from the dropdown field and select *Basic* as the Authentication method.

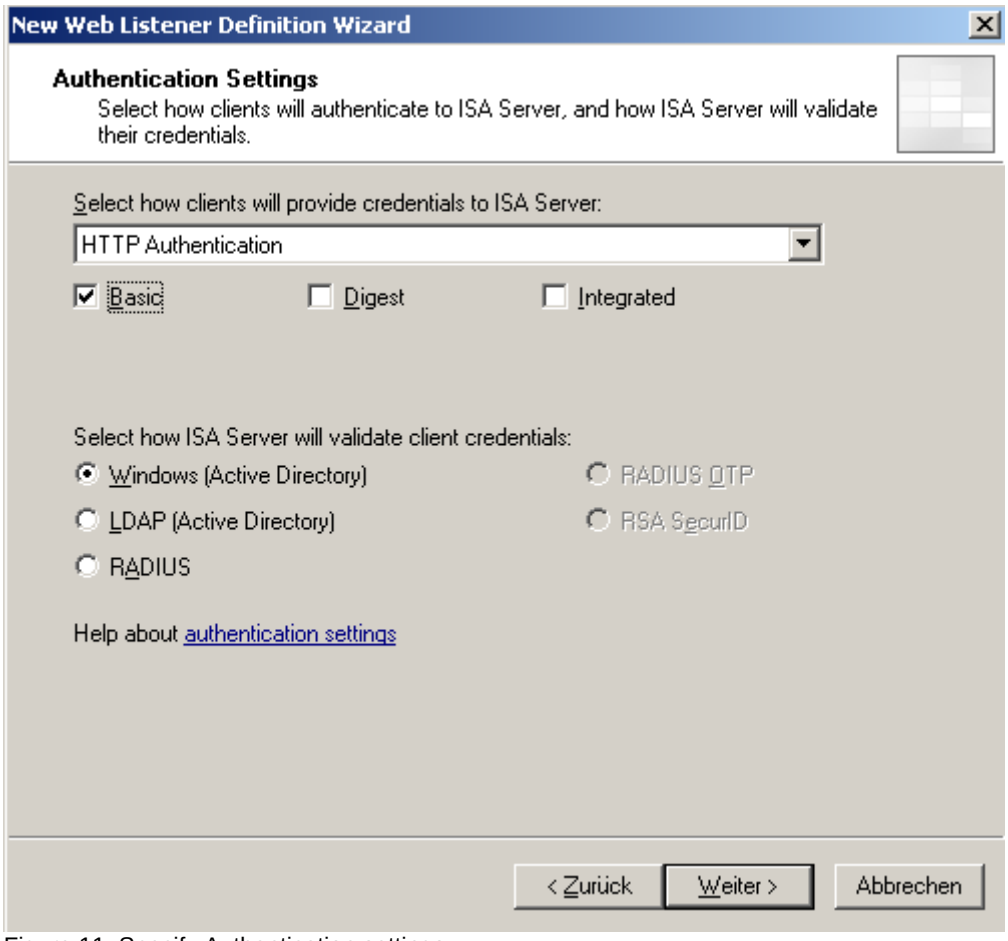

Figure 11: Specify Authentication settings

In the Authentication Delegation dialogue box select *Basic Authentication*.

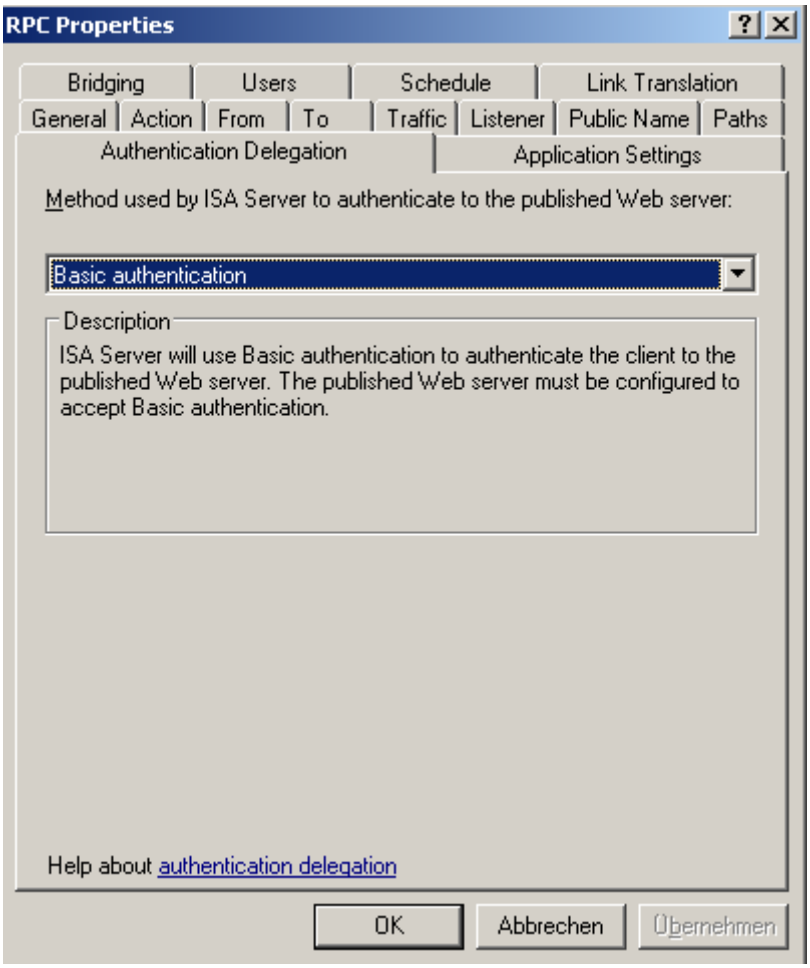

Figure 12: Select Authentication Delegation

The last step in the Wizard is to specify the user group for which the Firewall rule applies to. The default setting is “All Authenticated Users”.

Finish the Wizard and Click *Apply* to save the settings.

After creating the RPC rule you should change some settings:

- Change “Requests appears to come from the original Client” in the “To” Tab
- Enable “Require 128 Bit encryption for HTTPS Traffic” in the “Traffic” Tab

Test the Client Connection

After successfully configuring Exchange Server 2007 and the RPC Publishing rule you can test the connection from one of your clients. For this article the client is a Windows XP Service Pack 2 machine with Office 2007 Beta 2 installed.

You must create a new e mail profile for the user. After creating the profile you must configure Outlook Anywhere by activating *Connect to my Exchange Mailbox using HTTP*.

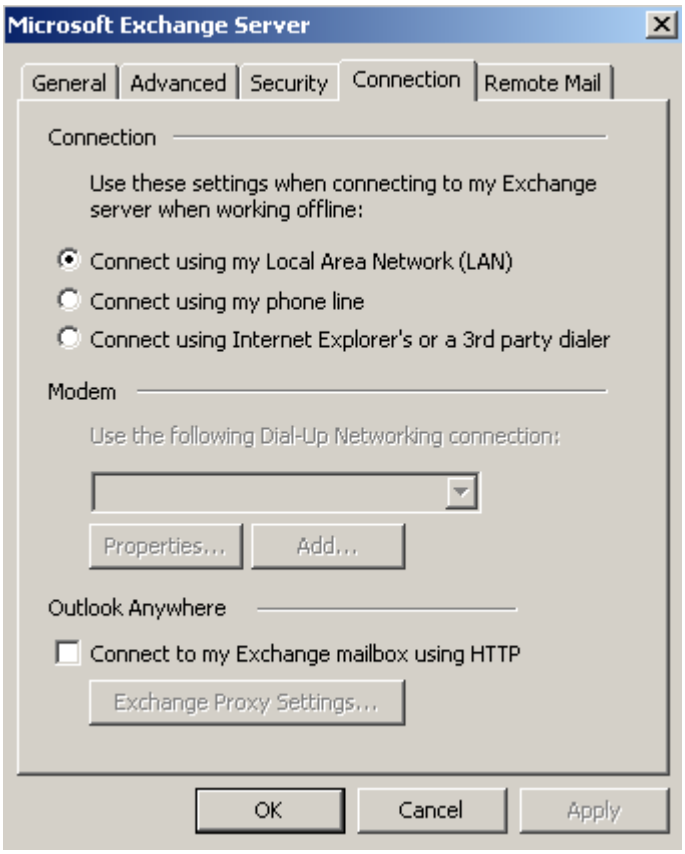

Figure 14: Activating Outlook Anywhere in Outlook 2007

The public name is *rpc.it-training-grote.de*, the Proxy authentication settings is *Basic Authentication*.

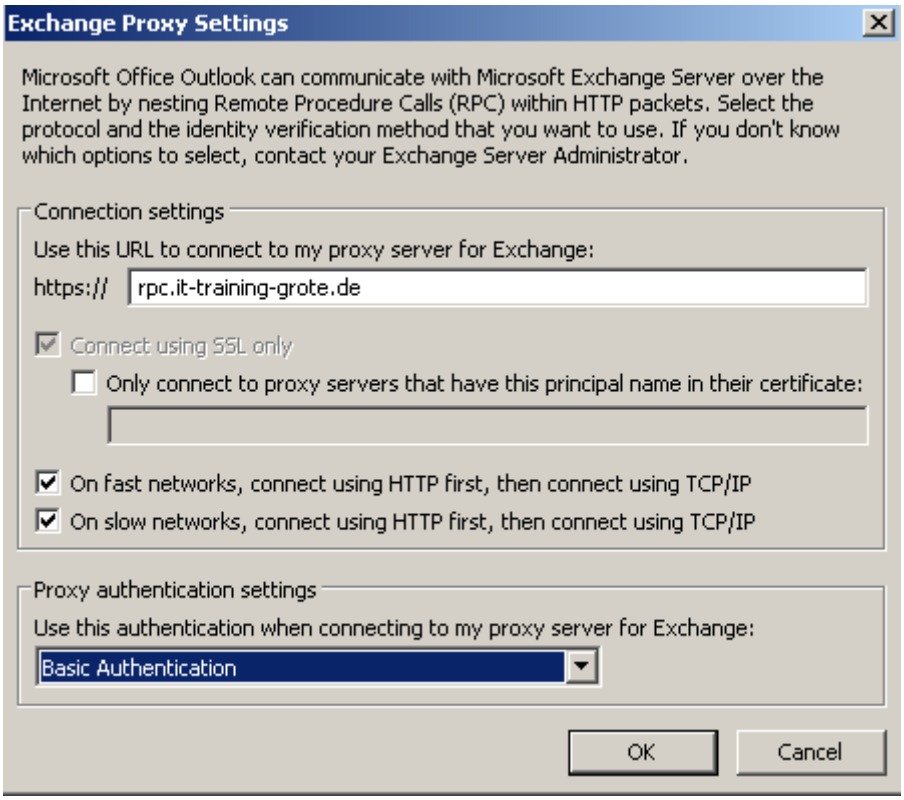

Figure 15: Configuring Outlook Anywhere in Outlook 2007

After the Mail profile is configured you should be successfully logged on to the Exchange Server.

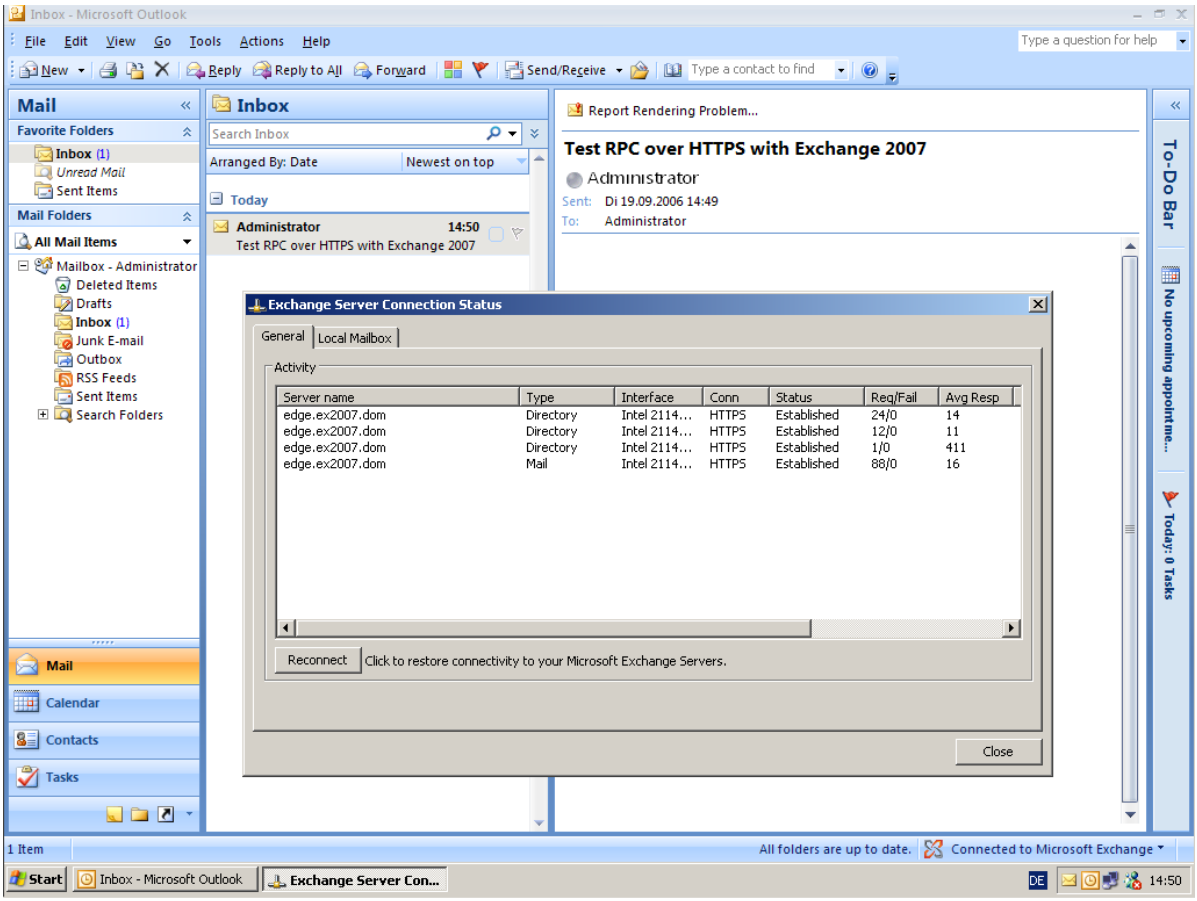

Figure 16: Outlook 2007 connection with HTTPS

Conclusion

Outlook Anywhere in Exchange Server 2007 is a nice feature to support the full Outlook 2007 client functionality over the Internet. Outlook Anywhere published over ISA Server 2006 is the ideal solution to secure the access to your LAN.

Related Links

What's New and Improved in ISA Server 2006
http://www.microsoft.com/isaserver/prodinfo/whatsnew.mspx
Exchange Server 2007 Beta 2 Technical Library
http://www.microsoft.com/technet/prodtechnol/exchange/2007/library/default.mspx
Exchange Server 2007 Beta 2 Product Overview
http://www.microsoft.com/exchange/preview/evaluation/overview.mspx