C103-05 - Connecting PCs to CMRR servers with RealVNC

Install RealVNC, free version

Connect with putty or ssh client

This will connect a terminal session to a CMRR server.
Start putty, connect to range1.cmrr.umn.edu port 22
Log in with your CMRR user id and password

Start a vncserver session in putty

This will run a desktop session in the memory of the server.
vncserver
set a password (I usually recommend the same as your CMRR password)
(This will give you a desktop number, e.g. range1.cmrr.umn.edu:23)
exit

Connect using vncviewer

This will open a graphical desktop on the server.
On your PC, start RealVNC or other vnc viewer
Enter your desktop number (e.g. range1.cmrr.umn.edu:23)
Give your VNC password
Your desktop should open up in a window. You can now start programs
To leave, just close the window (do not choose log out from the menu)
The programs will continue to run in the memory of the server.
You only need to start a session once, you can close and open it multiple times.
If the server is rebooted, your session will end and you will need to start another one.

Killing a VNC session

Log into the server with putty as above
Use the desktop number for your session
ps -fu userid
vncserver -kill :23

Changing your vnc password

Start putty and connect as above
cd .vnc
mv passwd passwd.bak
vncserver
This will start a new session (e.g. range1.cmrr.umn.edu:24) and prompt you for a new
password
Kill the new, unneeded session (e.g. vncserver -kill :24)
exit

Updating your xstartup / Using XFCE

XFCE works better than Gnome/KDE on Centos and RHEL7. To update your xstartup and to
start using XFCE, do the following:
Start putty and connect as above
cd .vnc
cp /opt/local/bin/xstartup.vnc xstartup

Purpose

Scope

Definitions

Responsibility

References

Forms / Templates

Appendices / Tables

Revision History

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Author/Owner:	Brian Hanna / John Strupp

Version Number	Approval Date	Change from Previous Version
1.0	7/08/2015	
1.1	7/21/2015	Standard formatting
1.2	3/29/2019	Added XFCE recommendation for Centos/RHEL 7

Approval Signatures	Date
Author/Owner:	
Regulatory Compliance Coordinator:	
Center Director:	