C103-05 - Connecting PCs to CMRR servers with TightVNC

Install TightVNC, free version

https://www.tightvnc.com/download.php

Select Custom Install. Deselect VNC Server. **DO NOT INSTALL THE SERVER COMPONENT**. Install the Viewer option for the software.

Connect with ssh client in Terminal/CMD/PowerShell

This will connect a terminal session to a CMRR server.

Start Terminal/CMD/PowerShell>ssh to (CMRR ID)@range6.cmrr.umn.edu

Log in with your CMRR password.

To start a vnc server session, enter:

vncserver

set a password

(I usually recommend the same as your CMRR password)
(This will give you a desktop number, e.g. range6.cmrr.umn.edu:23)

Connect using TightVNC

This will open a graphical desktop on the server.
On your PC, start TightlVNC or other vnc viewer
Enter your desktop number (e.g. range6.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

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Revision History

SOP Number / Version:	C103-05 / 1.1
Approval Date:	07/21/2015
Implementation Date:	07/21/2015
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:	