

Microsoft Remote Desktop on Linux

This page describes how to connect to a Windows system at the institute, from your own Linux machine, either on the laptop or wireless network, or from outside the institute. This documentation is for LION based desktops.

Tunnel

First, a secure tunnel has to be set up using ssh. The tunnel connects a local port to a remote port on a specific machine. The port we want here is 3389, which is the port of the remote desktop protocol. This example logs in to `ssh3.physics.leidenuniv.nl` and sets up the tunnel to a remote Windows Desktop:

```
ssh -L 3389:<your desktop name>:3389 username@ssh3.physics.leidenuniv.nl
```

Alternatively you can use `ssh.strw.leidenuniv.nl` for Observatory environment:

```
ssh -L 3389:<your desktop name>:3389 username@ssh.strw.leidenuniv.nl
```

Now, you probably don't want to remember this and type it all the time, so an easy solution is to add an alias in your `.profile` (which contains the settings that are executed every time you open a new shell in a terminal):

```
alias <your desktop name>='ssh -L 3389:<your desktop name>:3389  
username@ssh3.physics.leidenuniv.nl'
```

Some additional notes:

- Users should use the appropriate ssh server for their own institute (here LION users `ssh3.physics.leidenuniv.nl`)
- The Windows machine to log in to can just as well be your own Windows desktop, if you have one
- The `username@` part can be omitted if you have the same username locally on your Linux and on the ssh server.

Remote Desktop client

A good rdp client for Linux is `remmina`, it even allows you to directly setup a tunnel as described above. Alternatively you can use `xfreerdp`

See how to setup `remmina` from the [bachelors server access pages](#).

Now you should see the familiar Windows log in screen and you can go about your business.

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