

# 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'
```

or alternatively:

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

Some additional notes:

- Users should use the appropriate ssh server for their own institute (here LION users `ssh3.physics.leidenuniv.nl` and STRW users `ssh.strw.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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Last update: **2022/10/18 07:04**

