

# 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.

## VPN

If you are connected through our institute [VPN](#), you should be able to connect directly (so you can skip the tunnel setup). The same is true for our wired (not wireless!) laptop net.

## Tunnel

Otherwise, 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 machine to log in to can just as well be your own desktop, if you have one (and if it has been set up to run RDP)
- The `username@` part can be omitted if you have the same username locally on your Linux and on the ssh server.

Note that where ever is written `<your desktop name>` this might be replaced with our Remote

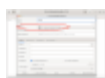
Windows Desktop Server pool: `remote.strw.leidenuniv.nl` or  
`remote.physics.leidenuniv.nl`

## Remote Desktop client

A good rdp client for Linux is remmina ([Remmina Remote Desktop Client](#)) , it even allow you to directly setup a tunnel as described above. Alternatively you can user xfreerdp, vinagre or the Gnome Connections app.



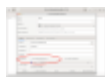
Open the application and press the + icon (New connection profile) in the upper left corner (see left image; click to enlarge).



Give the profile a name and select RDP as protocol.



Enter the server name and your username. When connecting to Windows computers, provide the correct windows domain here (STERREWACHT or PHYSICS).



Optionally, set a suitable custom resolution at Resolution (Usually, the default will work just fine).



To allow the communication to go through an ssh tunnel, go to the SSH Tunnel tab. Press Enable SSH tunnel and enter your username.



Initialise the session by pressing Save and Connect

You should now see a login screen for the machine you are connecting to. Once logged in, you will see a complete desktop environment, running in a window (or fullscreen) on your local computer.

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