

QC Group Meeting: VNCserver / VNCviewer

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What is it?

Virtual **N**etwork **C**omputing

==> remote control software that allows you to view and control the desktop of one computer from the desktop of another, anywhere on the net and independent of operating systems.

Requirements:

1. VNCserver must be installed on the machine that you want to control.
2. VNCviewer (or VNCclient) must be installed on the machine from which you want to control 1.

Both VNCserver and VNCviewer already exist on (all?) DFO machines!

Set-up Cookbook:

A. Download and install VNCviewer on your “remote” machine (laptop, home PC, etc.)

1. Mac OS X:

<http://www.realvnc.com/cgi-bin/download.cgi> (VNCviewer Enterprise 4.2.7 <= best)
<http://sourceforge.net/projects/cotvnc/> (Chicken of the VNC 2.0)
<http://www.versiontracker.com/dyn/moreinfo/macosx/9424> (VNCviewer 2.0.1)

2. Linux:

<http://www.tightvnc.org/download.html> (TightVNC)

3. Windows:

<http://www.realvnc.com/products/free/4.1/winvncviewer.html> (VNCviewer documentation)
<http://www.realvnc.com/products/free/4.1/download.html> (VNCviewer download)

Some documentation:

<http://www.nyu.edu/its/humanities/docs/vnc.html>
<http://www.realvnc.com/documentation.html>

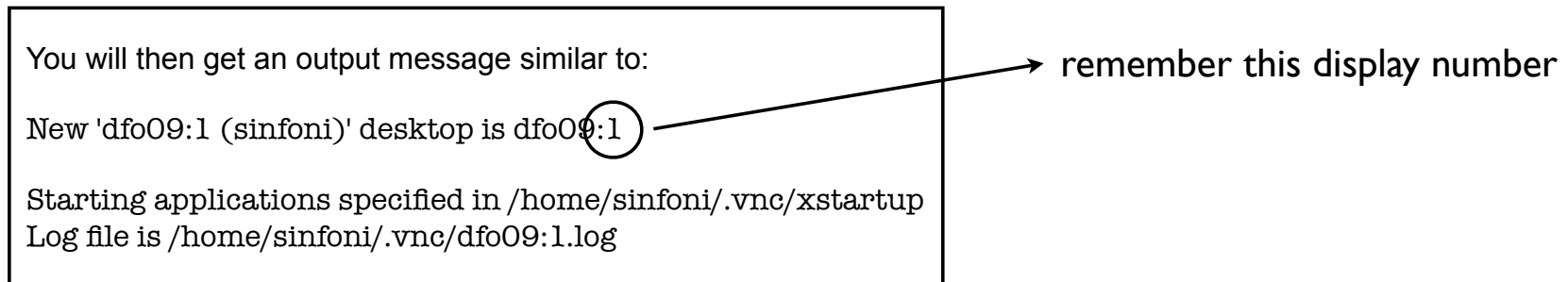
B. Start up the VNC server on your host machine:

- login to your host: `ssh sinfoni@dfo09.hq.eso.org`
- start the vncserver: `vncserver -depth 16 -geometry 1280x1024`

You will then get an output message similar to:

```
New 'dfo09:1 (sinfoni)' desktop is dfo09:1
Starting applications specified in /home/sinfoni/.vnc/xstartup
Log file is /home/sinfoni/.vnc/dfo09:1.log
```

remember this display number



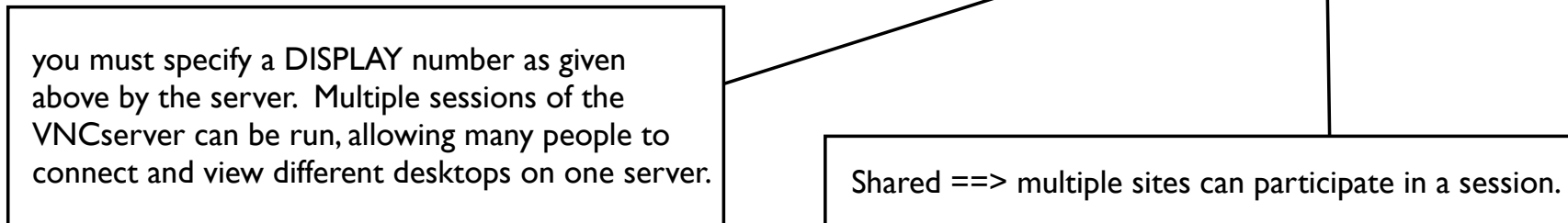
- set access password: `vncpasswd` (password will be set to ssh login user (ie. sinfoni))
- logout from host: `exit`

C. Start up the VNC viewer on your local terminal:

```
vncviewer dfo09.hq.eso.org:1 -Shared
```

you must specify a DISPLAY number as given above by the server. Multiple sessions of the VNCserver can be run, allowing many people to connect and view different desktops on one server.

Shared ==> multiple sites can participate in a session.



D. Using VNCviewer:

- from within ESO (Garching (HQ and IPP), ESO Guest House, La Silla, and Paranal) nothing else is needed to log in.
- from the beach:

requires VPN ... **V**irtual **P**rivate **N**etworks (advanced encryption and tunneling to permit secure, end-to-end, private network connections)

http://www.eso.org/projects/it/services/ras/vpn_index.htm (info and installation)

request a VPN account from HelpDesk:

<http://www.eso.org/projects/it/helpdesk/forms/vpn-request.html>

E. Troubleshooting:

- if VNCserver crashes or host is re-booted:
 - ➡ check that previous VNC's are not running (eg. `ps -efl | grep vnc`)
 - ➡ if so, kill them (eg. `vncserver -kill dfo09:1`)
 - ➡ restart VNCserver as in B. above