C103-05 - Connecting PCs to CMRR servers with RealVNC

Install RealVNC, free version

Connect with putty or ssh client
This will connect a terminal session to a CMRR server.
Start putty, connect to range1.cmrr.umn.edu port 22
Log in with your CMRR user id and password

Start a vncserver session in putty
This will run a desktop session in the memory of the server.
vncserver
set a password (I usually recommend the same as your CMRR password)
(This will give you a desktop number, e.g. range1.cmrr.umn.edu:23)
exit

Connect using vncviewer
This will open a graphical desktop on the server.
On your PC, start RealVNC or other vnc viewer
Enter your desktop number (e.g. range1.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
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