

# How to Remote Log In

Daniel Whitehurst. Updated by Helena Richie.

December 2013. Upated May 14, 2020.

## 1 Introduction

This document is designed to instruct members on how to set up remote access for both Windows and Mac computers.

## 2 Getting Clearance

Before you will be able to remotely log on to the Astro computers you must be put on the VPN list. To get yourself on the list email Grace Gollinger at [gjgollinger@pitt.edu](mailto:gjgollinger@pitt.edu) with the lead undergraduate and MWV CC'ed.

## 3 Pitt VPN Client

Now we have to install the Pitt's VPN client, **Pulse Secure**. This program is available throught Pitt's software download service. Download instructions are given here: <https://www.technology.pitt.edu/help-desk/how-to-documents/pittnet-vpn-pulse-secure-connect-pulse-secure-client>. Once you are added to the VPN list by Gracie, you'll be able to follow these instructions and log onto the VPN using your Pitt computing account credentials.

## 4 X11 Forwarding: Windows

### 4.1 PuTTY

The first of multiple programs you will need to install to remotely log in is **PuTTY**. The latest version of **PuTTY** can be found at <http://the.earth.li/~sgtatham/latest/x86/putty.exe>. The program should download automatically and run from the download. I suggest you move the file to a safe folder and create a shortcut for it.

## 4.2 Xming

Next we must install **Xming**. This is a little bit more complicated. First go to <http://www.straightrunning.com/XmingNotes/>. Scroll until you see the **Public Domain Releases** heading, and download and install **Xming version 6.9.0.31**. Now go to <http://www.filewatcher.com/m/Xming-fonts-6-9-0-6-setup.exe.31559463.0.0.html>. Download and install the first link labeled **Xming-fonts-6-9-0-6-setup.exe**.

## 5 X11 Forwarding: Mac

### 5.1 XQuartz

First, download and install the XQuartz application, which can be found at <https://www.xquartz.org/>. This application is used to enable X11 forwarding for VNC through an ssh tunnel.

## 6 Remotely Logging In: Windows

Now that you have all the software, here is how to log in:

1. Initiate a secure connection by launching the **Pulse Secure VPN Client**.
2. Start **Xming**. No window will pop-up when you launch it; it just runs in the background. It should also be present in your notification center as a black X.
3. Start **PuTTY**. From here, you will first want to click the *Connection - SSH - X11* tabs on the left, then check the radio box that says *Enable X11 forwarding*. Next, click the *Session* tab, and in the *Host Name* text box type:

```
username@computer.phyast.pitt.edu
```

where *username* is your username for the AstroLab computers, and *computer* is the name of one of the computers in the lab that you would like to sign into. STEPUP most commonly uses *ptolemy* and *geb*. Be aware that Ptolemy is the only computer in the Astro Lab that will allow you to access the observatory computer.

4. Now click the *Open* tab at the bottom of the screen. A new window will open and prompt you for your password. This is the password you use to log on to the astro computers, *not* your normal university account password. Congratulations, you have successfully logged in!

## 7 Remotely Logging In: Mac

Now that you have all the software, here is how to log in:

1. Initiate a secure connection by launching the **Pulse Secure VPN Client**.
2. Open up a (bash) terminal window. Enter the following command:

```
ssh -Y username@computer.phyast.pitt.edu
```

where *username* is your username for the AstroLab computers, and *computer* is the name of one of the computers in the lab that you would like to sign into. STEPUP most commonly uses *ptolemy* and *geb*. Be aware that Ptolemy is the only computer in the Astro Lab that will allow you to access the observatory computer.

3. You will then be prompted in the same window for your password. This is the password you use to log on to the astro computers, *not* your normal university account password. Congratulations, you have successfully logged in!

## 8 WinSCP

While **WinSCP** is not necessary for logging in, it is needed to transfer files to and from the Astro computers. Go to <http://winscp.net/download/winscp518setup.exe> to download the software and install it on your computer. Once installed, open it. Under *File protocol*, choose SFTP. In the *Host name* text box type

```
username@ptolemy.phyast.pitt.edu
```

where *username* is your specified username, and *ptolemy* is the name of one of the computers in the lab, which can be replaced by any of the other computer names. Since it doesn't matter what Astro computer you log

into at this point (You can even log on to a different computer than you connected to with **PuTTY**) feel free to try other computers. Personally I usually use *ra* as it is much shorter and easier to spell than *ptolemy*.

**Port number** : 22

**User name** : Pitt username

**Password** : Your Astro account password, *not* your my.pitt password.

**Private key file** : leave it blank

Now click *Login* to connect. The program should launch an Explorer-like interface with two panes. On the right is the files on the astro computer and on the left is your computer. You can now move files between the two. As a side note, you don't need to remotely log in with **PuTTY** to use **WinSCP**. However, you must initiate a secure connection with the **VPN Client** before starting **WinSCP**.