

SESE-GIS

What is it?

SESE-GIS is a Windows Remote Desktop Host capable of supporting several users at a time. Its purpose is to provide computational power and remote access to Windows software for the School of Earth Society and Environment. Please try to limit your use of the machine to work that directly benefits from its computational power.

Maintenance

We will perform regular maintenance on the second or third Thursday of every month between the hours of 5AM and 7AM. During this time, the machine will be restarted to apply patches, ending any existing user sessions. When your user session ends, any unsaved work will be lost, so please be mindful of these scheduled windows. Every time you logon you will receive a message stating when the next scheduled maintenance period is. Longer maintenance windows may be occasionally required to allow for updating certain software. We may also need to perform emergency maintenance on rare occasions. This maintenance would occur with little to no notice, but only if it is absolutely critical to the security or functionality of the server.

How to Connect

Windows: Download the RDP file from [here](#). This file is preconfigured with all settings needed to connect from both on and off campus. After it downloads, open it. You'll be prompted for a username and password. Enter UOFI\YourNetID and your University password.

Mac: Search for and install the free 'Microsoft Remote Desktop' app from the App Store. Then download the RDP file from [here](#). This file is preconfigured with all settings needed to connect from both on and off campus. After it downloads, open it. You'll be prompted for a username and password. Enter UOFI\YourNetID and your University password.

How to End Your Session

When you wish to end your session you have two options:

- 1) Disconnect. This can be accessed by clicking the power button on the lower left of the Start Menu or by simply closing out of the remote desktop application. This leaves your account logged on and allows any scripts or applications to continue running while you are not connected. **Disconnected sessions will terminate after 72 hours of inactivity.**
- 2) Sign Out. This can be accessed by clicking the user icon on the lower left of the Start Menu. This ends your session and any running applications. We recommend you choose this option unless you need applications to continue running.

Data

Personal User Folders

When you log on, 2 user folders are automatically created for you. The first is a temp folder on the Temp (T:\) drive of the computational server. The purpose of this folder is for applications to store temporary data that it needs while operating. Many GIS programs create sizeable temp files, so you may periodically receive an email from us asking you to clean out your temp space. You may add data to your temp folder, but please be aware that it is not backed up and may be deleted without warning. The second folder is your home directory, which is located on the GIS data server. This is where your Desktop, Documents, and other library folders reside. Each of these folders has a quota applied to it to prevent any individual user from using up too much space. For departmental users (Faculty, Staff, and Graduate Students who have requested access*) this limit is 250GB by default, and can be raised on a case by case basis. For guest users who are using the system as part of undergraduate coursework, the home directory is limited to 30GB. Guest user accounts are not backed up and are deleted after the semester ends. Your user folder is mounted as the U drive.

*Note for GGIS, GEOL, ATMOS, & ESE graduate students: If your instructor requests access for all students in your course, you will receive a guest account by default unless you already had or request departmental access for yourself.

Shared Projects Folders

The GIS data server also has a special folder for collaborative work, called "Projects". Project folders are available upon request. To request a project folder, send an email to help@earth.illinois.edu with the following information:

- 1) The name of the administrative contact(s) for this project. (If not yourself.) These are the people who will be allowed to add or remove people from the project folder access list.
- 2) The desired name for the project folder.
- 3) The length of time the project will run for. Please provide your best estimate for how long we will be storing the data. When the expiration date comes, we will work with the administrative contacts to determine if the data can be removed or if an extension is needed.
- 4) The size of the data and whether/how quickly you expect that size to increase.
- 5) Who should have read + write access to the project folder?
- 6) Who, if anyone, should have read only access to the project folder?

The Projects folder is mounted as the P drive on the computational server. Any projects you have access to will appear within it.

Connecting to Data Remotely

The GIS data server is automatically accessible from the computational server via your user libraries and drive maps. These drives benefit from a very fast connection. However, your data can be accessed from any campus network by connecting to:

Windows: Open a 'Run' window. Enter: <\\sese-gisdata.ad.uillinois.edu>

You'll be prompted for credentials. Use UOFI\NetID with your University password.

Mac: Click on Go > Connect to Server. Enter: smb://sese-gisdata.ad.uillinois.edu

You'll be prompted for credentials. Use your NetID with your University password.

Software

The following software is installed:

Chrome	Firefox	Java	7-Zip	R	RStudio
Matlab	ArcGIS + Workstation	QGIS	Grass GIS	Python	Illustrator*
Photoshop*	XShell	XFtp	VCXServ	Envi	FugroViewer
LASTools	GeoDa	Google Earth Pro	Notepad++	PhotoScan Pro	MAPublisher

Software that receives small and frequent updates like Chrome and Firefox will be updated during normal monthly maintenance. Software that receives infrequent and large updates like ArcGIS and MATLAB will generally only be updated between semesters.

Additional software can be requested by sending an email to help@earth.illinois.edu with the name of the software, a download link, and any necessary licensing information. We will try to accommodate any reasonable software request, but prefer to only install software that can take advantage of the computational power of the machine.

*Due to Adobe licensing restrictions, these applications can only be run by Faculty and Staff.