
Connecting from Home & Drop-In Session

Bruce M Gittings

Connecting from Home & Tie-Up

- This section of the Introductory Computing Course will:
 - Review options for getting access from home
 - Connecting your M: drive from home
 - Talk briefly about Optify
 - Mention viruses
 - List software you might need at home
 - Answer any questions you have left

Remote Access

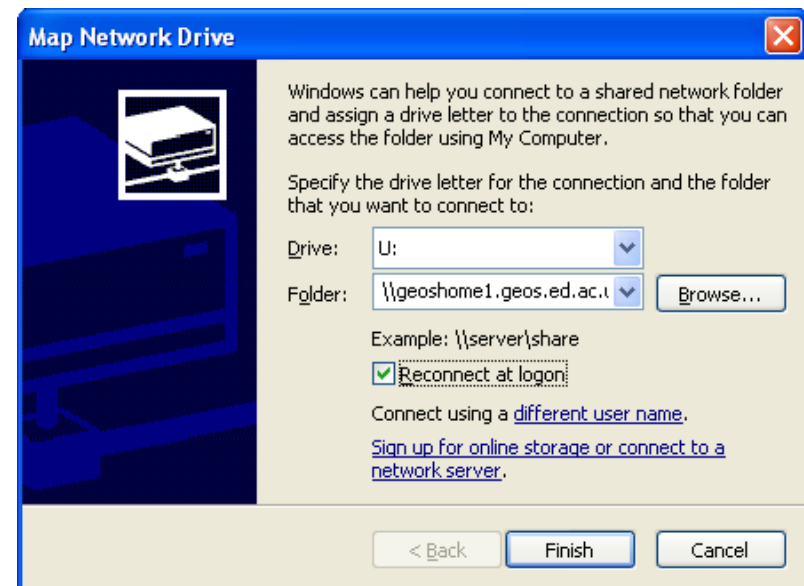
- It is useful to be able to access the GeoSciences facilities remotely
- You will probably want to get onto the Internet from home for other reasons too
- You can do this from home, you need:
 - a computer (!)
 - a broadband modem/router
 - an Internet Service Provider (ISP)
- Broadband is now very cheap (<£10 / month) esp. when combined with a telephone or tv package
- Alternatives are using your phone as a hotspot (if you've got lots of data) or a USB mobile broadband device - but can be slow if poor signal

What you can do from home

- Using VPN, you can do anything you would be able to do in the University
- eg.
 - connect your M: drive and printing services
(see www.ed.ac.uk/geosciences/intranet/it/data-storage/personal-storage)
 - You will be able to use email and web
 - Access any web pages restricted to the ed domain
 - Set up X-windows
 - Use Library facilities, Web of Knowledge, E-Journals
 - You will have to set up a secure connection (SSL) and authentication to send outgoing email (SMTP)
 - You should also be able to connect to ssh.geos
 - From there you can connect on to other machines

Connecting network drives at home

- Map your M: drive (home directory):
`\\students.geos.ed.ac.uk\s1xxxxxx`
- Need to be registered for and running VPN
- You can 'map' the network drive to an unused drive letter on your home PC (eg. M or U):



X-Windows – XRDP service

- PCs and other devices can act as X-Windows client
- Connect directly to LINUX servers
- Need *Remote Desktop* (available for Windows, Tablet, Mac)
- See: www.ed.ac.uk/geosciences/intranet/it/linux-servers/xrdp
- This means that a program running on a server (or another workstation) can display its windows on the machine you are sitting at
- You can get the user interface of a workstation whilst sitting elsewhere

Optify

- Available in most University residences and some University-owned flat complexes
- Internet, phone and tv service
- Wired port and wireless access
- Very fast
- High level of security, but this may gives rise to some restrictions
- Free - part of your rent
- May be necessary to register your devices
- 24 hour helpdesk (phone or email)
- Take care with the regulations !

Broadband

- Delivered through either:
 - ADSL (ie. phone line; many providers, sell on BT)
 - Cable (ie. cable TV; one provider NTL-TeleWest)
- Variable speeds ($\geq 8\text{Mb/sec}$ upload / 0.25Mb/sec down)
- See www.adslguide.org.uk or www.uswitch.com
- Can connect multiple machines (home network)
- Thus good value if you club together with your flat-mates, as you can all use one connection
- Basic modem/router usually free, giving wired and wireless access

Software you might need

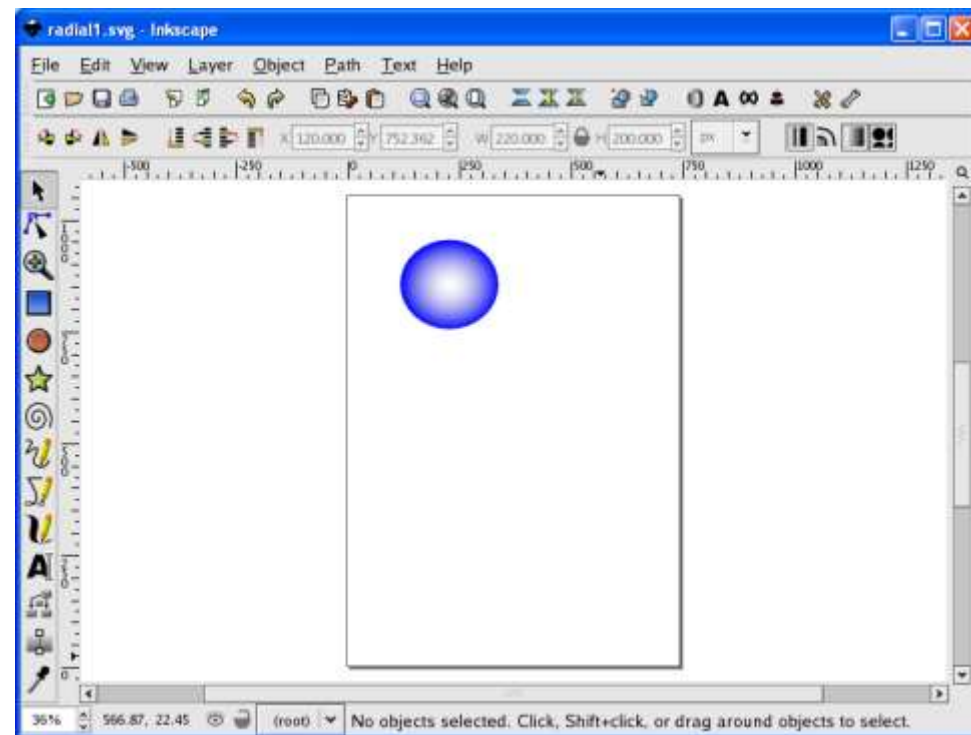
- Windows Remote Desktop Connection
- There may be a very poor ftp package with your Windows installation
- Much more flexible ftp packages are available, either as shareware or freeware eg. WS_FTP, WinSCP
- You may also need to install a better web browser (Firefox) or email client (Thunderbird) on your home machine (both free)

Viruses

- All University machines are fully protected
- You must protect your own machine, especially if you connect it to the University network
- Use Microsoft Security Essentials (free!)
- Check this is fully operational on your home machine tonight!
- Will also protect against ***spyware*** and ***adware***

Lots of Other Software Around

- Inkscape (on Windows and LINUX)
- Vector graphics editor
- Import Illustrator files
- Edit SVG
- GIMP is open-source raster graphics



- Collection of useful PC software:
<http://xweb.geos.ed.ac.uk/~bmg/software/>

Lots of interesting information...

- IT Help Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) at:
www.geos.ed.ac.uk/it/FAQ/
- Also at:
www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/computing

Anything Else We Didn't Tell You?

