

How to: RDP to Ubuntu

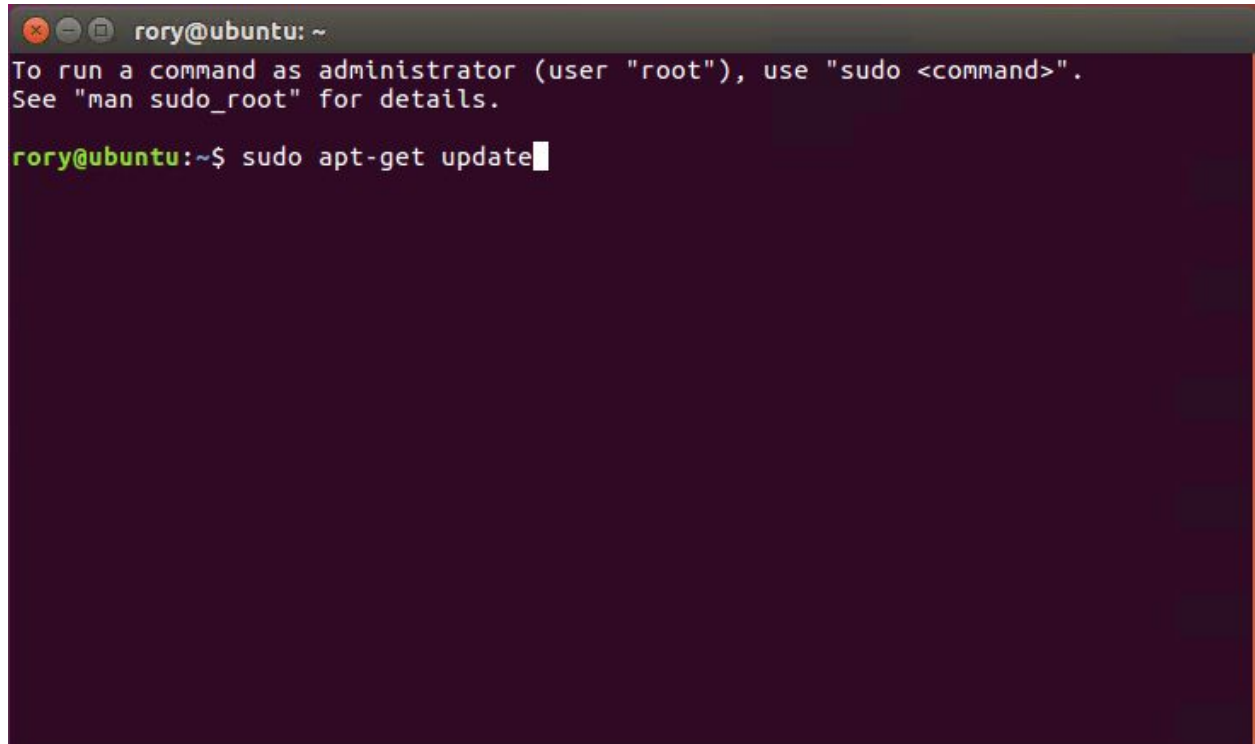


ubuntu

[Software Management](#) [System Administration](#)

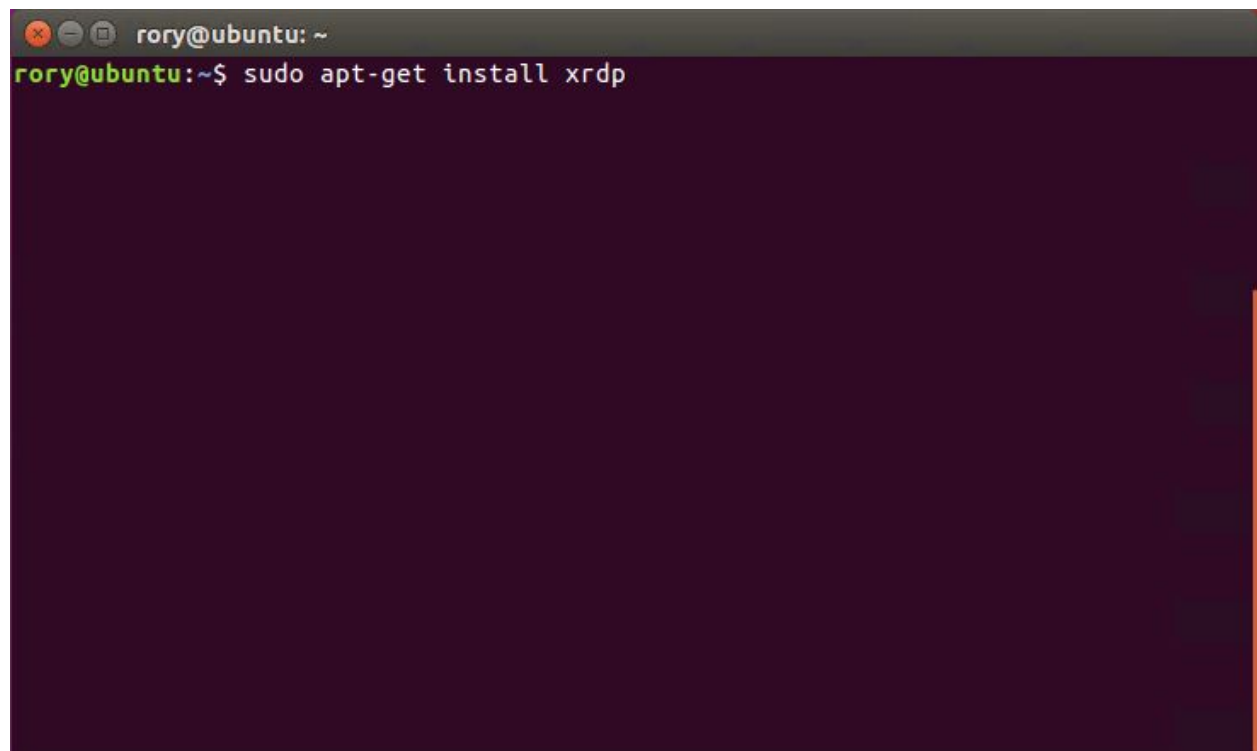
If like me, you RDP to VMs running in Hyper-V, XenServer or vSphere quite often and you run Ubuntu you likely want to remote to these VMs too. Every time I setup a new Linux VM, I set this up. I documented the manual process for my

own purposes and I thought I'd share. There are alternatives to using RDP of course but this is for those of you who prefer it.

A terminal window with a dark purple background. The title bar at the top shows three window control icons (close, minimize, maximize) and the text 'rory@ubuntu: ~'. The terminal content shows a message: 'To run a command as administrator (user "root"), use "sudo <command>". See "man sudo_root" for details.' Below this, the prompt 'rory@ubuntu:~\$' is followed by the command 'sudo apt-get update' with a white cursor at the end.

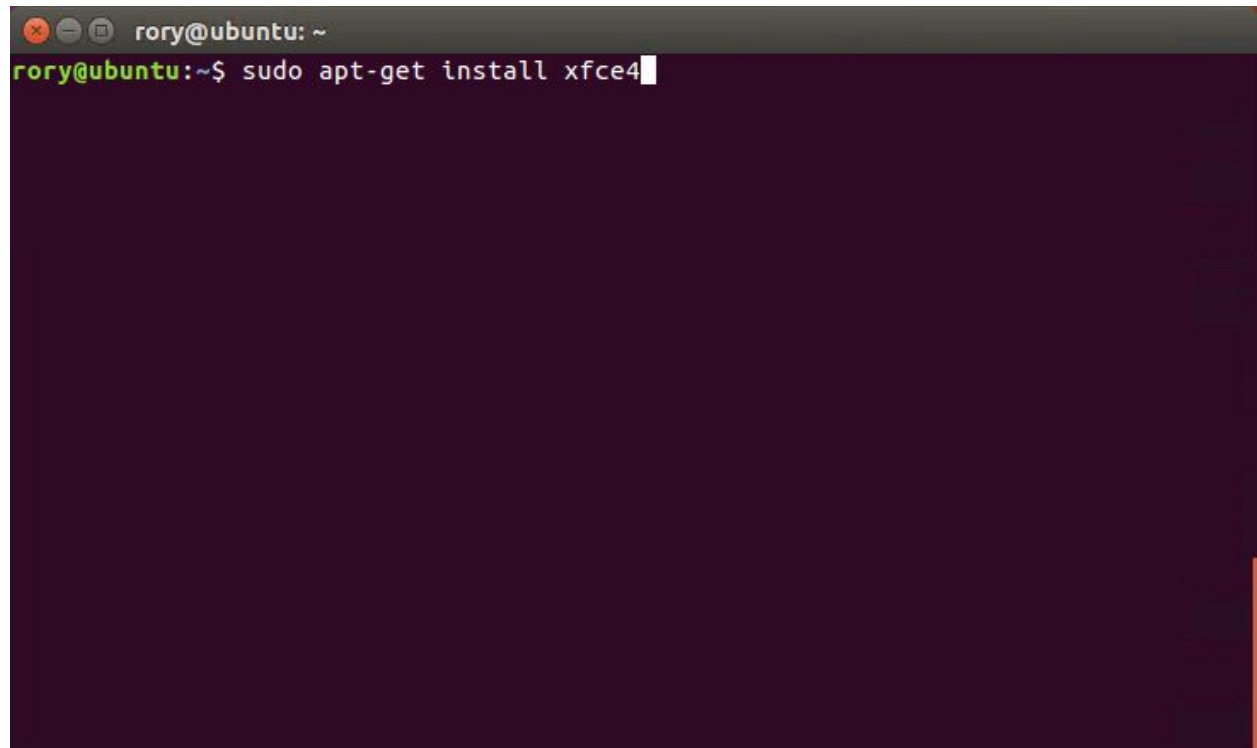
```
rory@ubuntu: ~  
To run a command as administrator (user "root"), use "sudo <command>".  
See "man sudo_root" for details.  
rory@ubuntu:~$ sudo apt-get update
```

Enter **sudo apt-get update** and hit enter. When prompted enter suitable credentials.

A terminal window with a dark purple background. The title bar at the top shows three window control icons (red, yellow, green) followed by the text 'rory@ubuntu: ~'. The terminal prompt is 'rory@ubuntu:~\$' in green. The command 'sudo apt-get install xrdp' is entered in white text. The rest of the terminal area is empty.

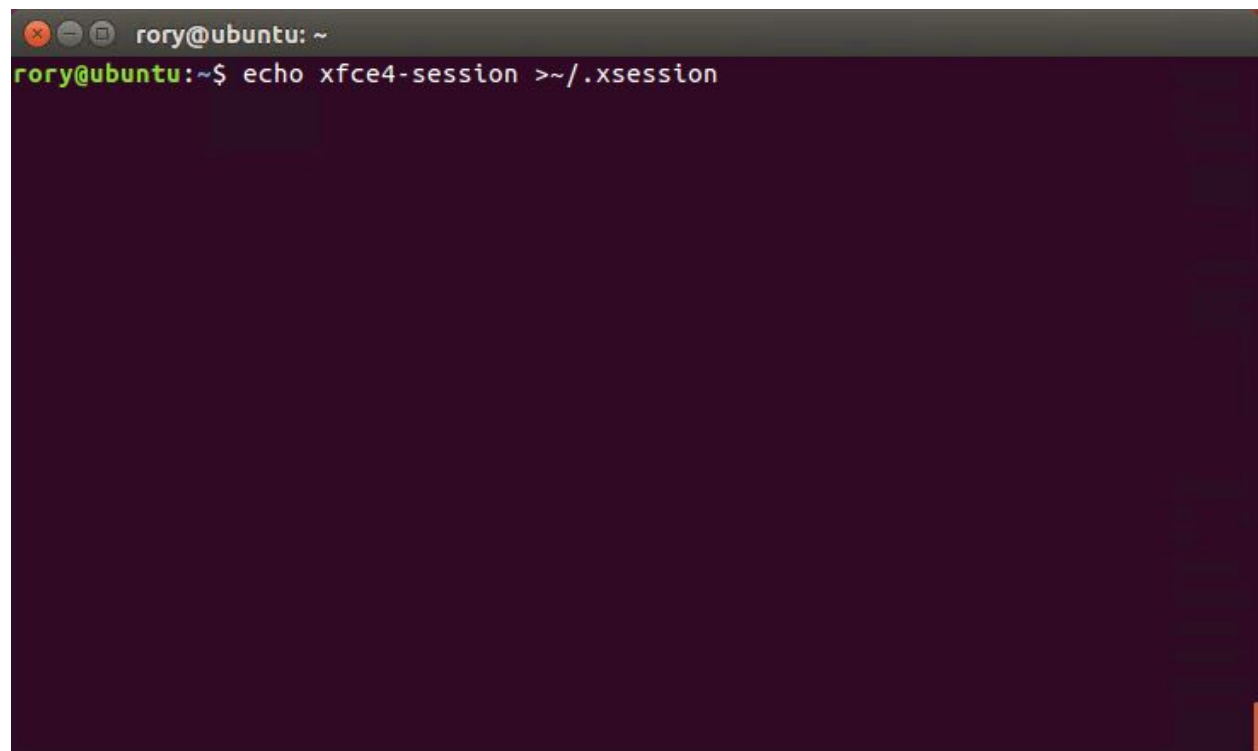
```
rory@ubuntu: ~  
rory@ubuntu:~$ sudo apt-get install xrdp
```

Enter **sudo apt-get install xrdp** and hit enter. This will install xrdp the remote desktop agent.

A terminal window with a dark purple background. The title bar at the top shows three window control icons (red, yellow, green) followed by the text 'rory@ubuntu: ~'. The terminal prompt is 'rory@ubuntu:~\$' in green. The command 'sudo apt-get install xfce4' is entered in white text, with a white cursor at the end of the line.

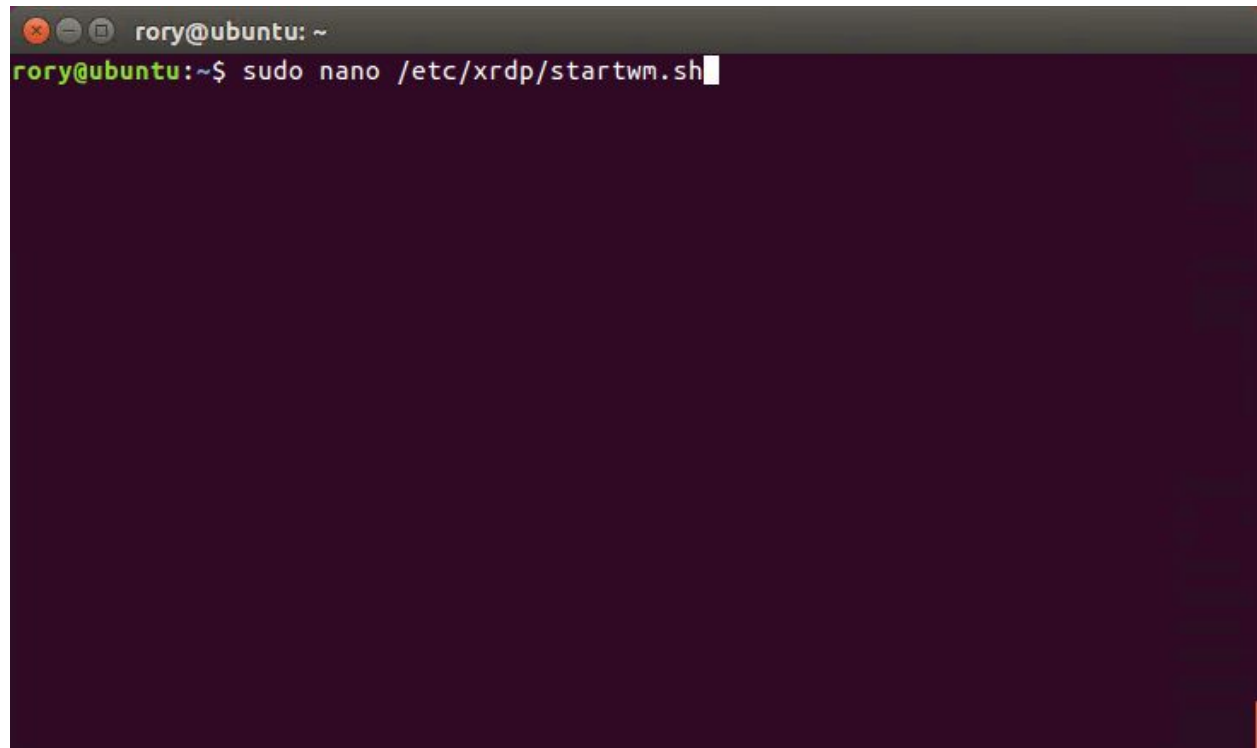
```
rory@ubuntu: ~  
rory@ubuntu:~$ sudo apt-get install xfce4
```

Enter **sudo apt-get install xfce4** and hit enter. This will install Xfce desktop environment.

A terminal window with a dark background and a light-colored title bar. The title bar contains three window control icons (close, maximize, and a third icon) followed by the text 'rory@ubuntu: ~'. The terminal content shows the prompt 'rory@ubuntu:~\$' followed by the command 'echo xfce4-session > ~/.xsession'. The command is written in a light green color. The rest of the terminal area is empty and dark.

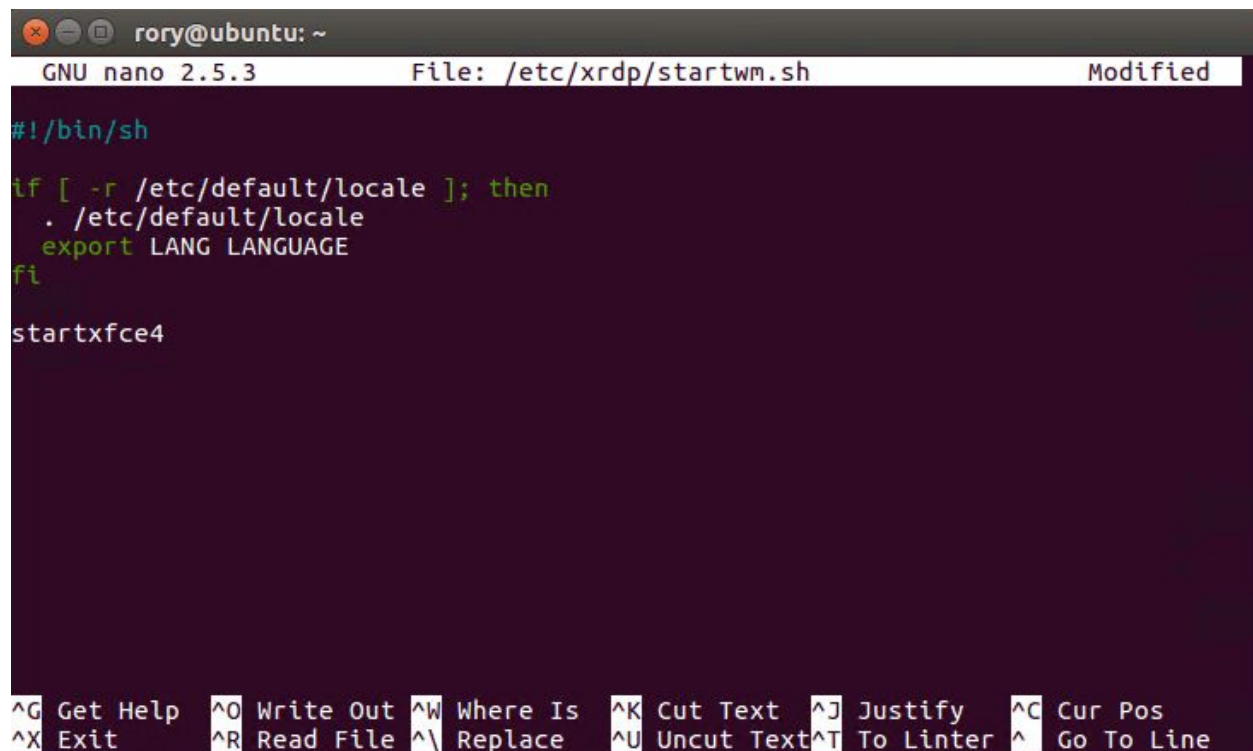
```
rory@ubuntu: ~  
rory@ubuntu:~$ echo xfce4-session > ~/.xsession
```

Enter **echo xfce4-session > ~/.xsession** and hit enter.

A terminal window with a dark background. The title bar at the top shows three window control icons (red, yellow, green) followed by the text 'rory@ubuntu: ~'. The command prompt 'rory@ubuntu:~\$' is followed by the command 'sudo nano /etc/xrdp/startwm.sh' which is currently being entered, with a white cursor at the end of the line.

```
rory@ubuntu: ~  
rory@ubuntu:~$ sudo nano /etc/xrdp/startwm.sh
```

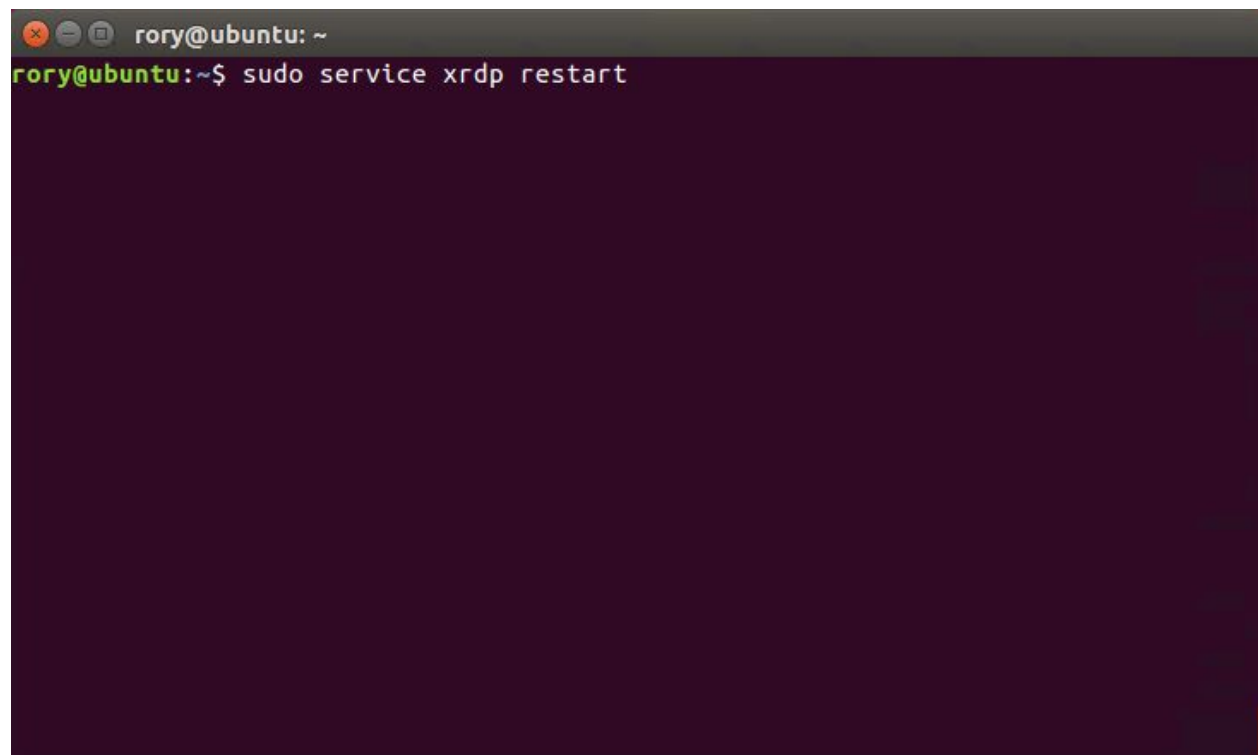
Enter **sudo nano /etc/xrdp/startwm.sh** and hit enter to modify the text file.



```
rory@ubuntu: ~  
GNU nano 2.5.3      File: /etc/xrdp/startwm.sh      Modified  
#!/bin/sh  
  
if [ -r /etc/default/locale ]; then  
    . /etc/default/locale  
    export LANG LANGUAGE  
fi  
  
startxfce4
```

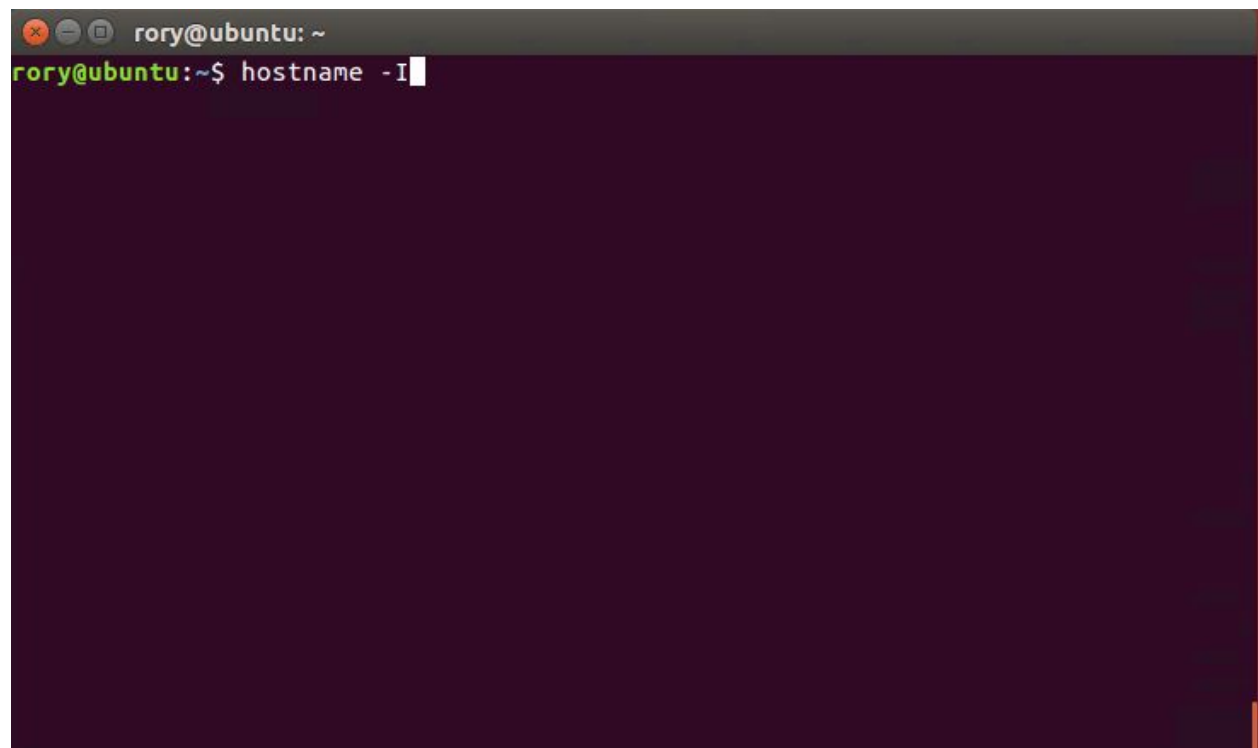
^G Get Help ^O Write Out ^W Where Is ^K Cut Text ^J Justify ^C Cur Pos
^X Exit ^R Read File ^\ Replace ^U Uncut Text ^T To Linter ^_ Go To Line

Remove the line **./etc/X11/Xsession** and add the line **startxfce4** and then hit ctrl+X and save the file.

A terminal window with a dark background. The title bar at the top shows three window control icons (close, minimize, maximize) and the text 'rory@ubuntu: ~'. The terminal content shows the prompt 'rory@ubuntu:~\$' followed by the command 'sudo service xrdp restart' entered on the next line. The rest of the terminal area is empty.

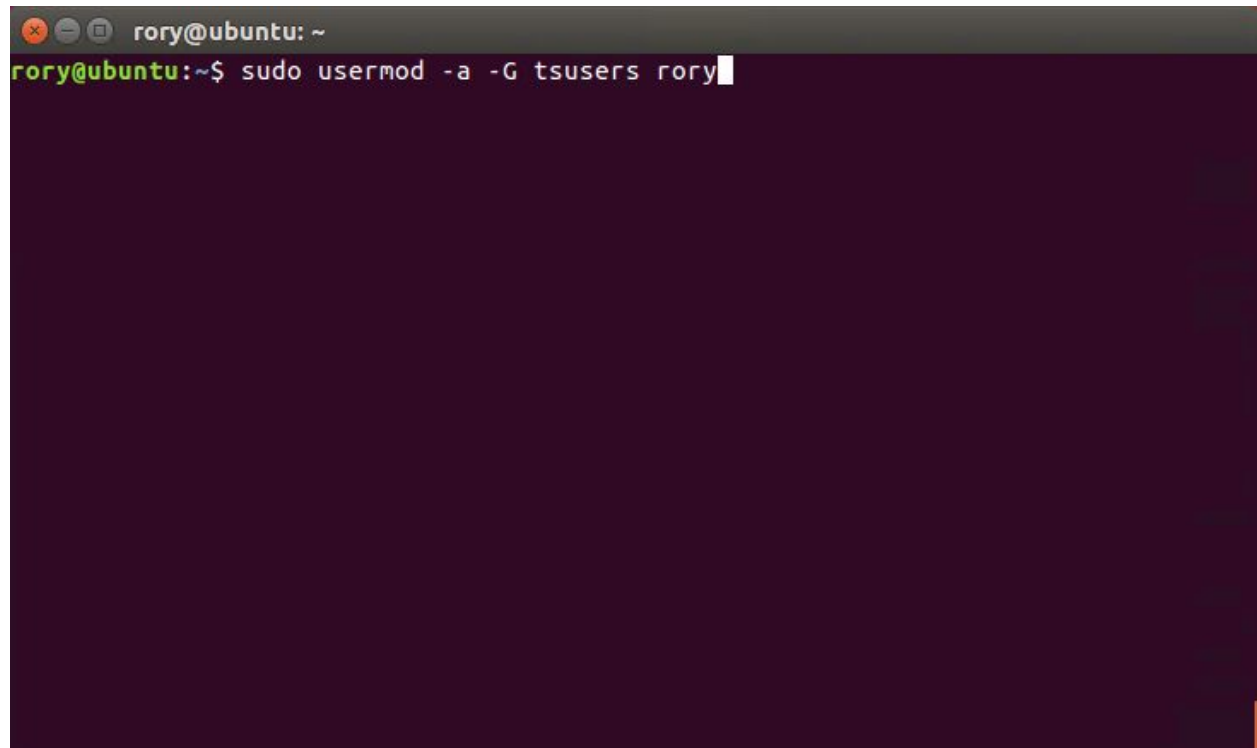
```
rory@ubuntu: ~  
rory@ubuntu:~$ sudo service xrdp restart
```

Enter **sudo service xrdp restart** and hit enter.

A terminal window with a dark background. The title bar at the top shows window control icons and the text 'rory@ubuntu: ~'. The terminal content shows the prompt 'rory@ubuntu:~\$' followed by the command 'hostname -I' and a cursor at the end of the line.

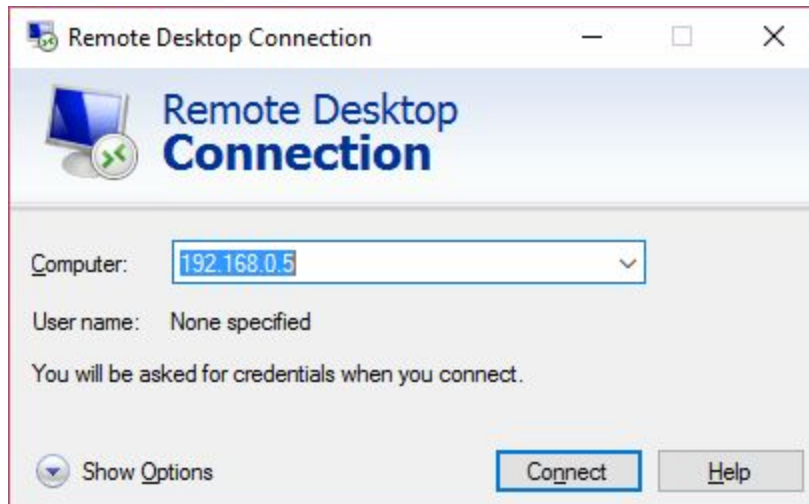
```
rory@ubuntu: ~  
rory@ubuntu:~$ hostname -I
```

Enter **hostname -I** and hit enter. Make a note of the IP address.

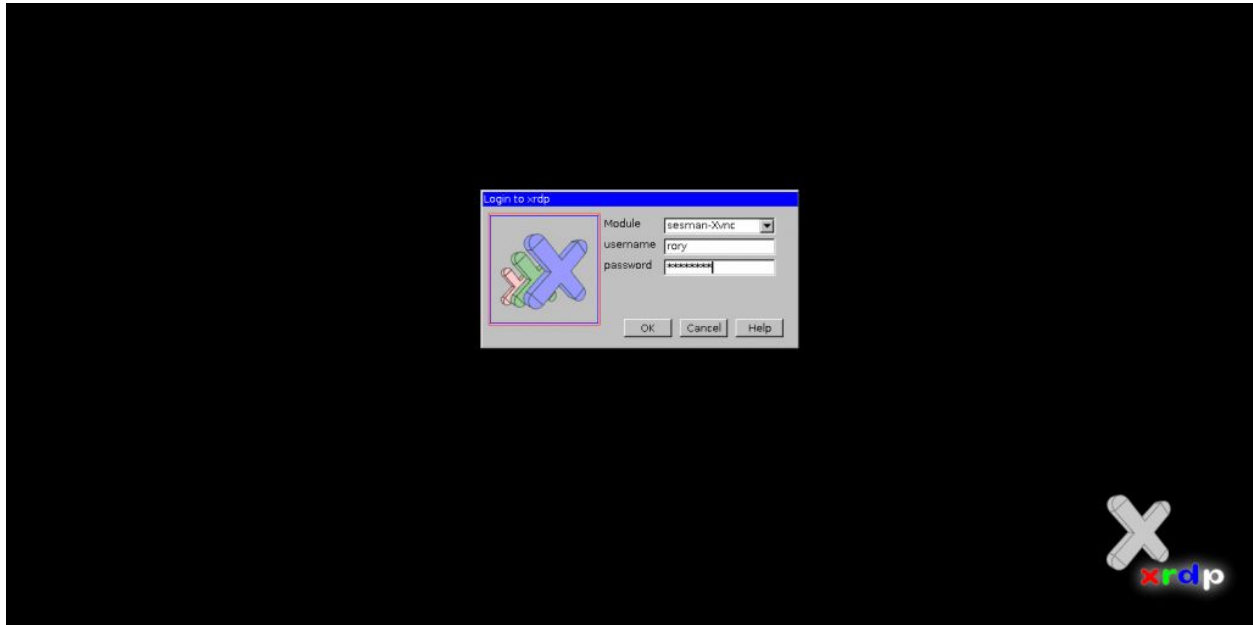
A terminal window with a dark purple background. The title bar at the top shows three window control icons (close, minimize, maximize) and the text 'rory@ubuntu: ~'. The terminal prompt is 'rory@ubuntu:~\$' in green. The command 'sudo usermod -a -G tsusers rory' is entered in white text, followed by a white cursor. The rest of the terminal area is empty.

```
rory@ubuntu: ~  
rory@ubuntu:~$ sudo usermod -a -G tsusers rory
```

Enter **sudo usermod -a -G tsusers <username>** and hit enter. This will add your account to the tsusers group which by default is the group with rights to RDP to this machine. Repeat this for all accounts you wish to RDP to the box with.



Launch the RDP client on your Windows machine, Mac or whatever you use and **Connect** to the IP address from your Ubuntu VM.



Enter your account credentials. Remember the username is case sensitive and hit **OK**.

