

Welcome to the

CIAB Remote Desktop System v2.1

Installation Guide

for Ubuntu 18.04 LTS

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CIAB version 2.1 introduces the following improvements.

Both file uploads and downloads now work between a Users local PC and their CIAB Remote Desktop system.

Entry of a Login ID and Password is now only required one time for both CIAB's Guacamole and the CIAB Remote Desktop connections.

If a CIAB User only has a single Remote Desktop connection configured for them they will be connected to that Desktop immediately after entering their User ID and Password.

1. If a CIAB user has only one CIAB Guacamole “connection” configured for them by the CIAB Admin then after entering their Login ID and Password they will automatically be presented with that connection’s Ubuntu Mate Desktop. If however, they have more than one connection configured then they will be presented with a menu from which they can choose which connection (ie Desktop) they wish to connect to.
2. A CIAB Remote Desktop user is now only required to enter their CIAB Remote Desktop system UserID and Password one time to gain access to any CIAB Remote Desktop that the Admin has configured them to have access to. Previously the users were required to enter their UserID and Password once to log into CIAB's Guacamole, then after clicking on one of their Admin permitted Remote Desktops they were required to enter their UserID and Password again to access the Ubuntu linux running in the LXD container and its Ubuntu Mate desktop. This second login is no longer required!

IMPORTANT NOTE: This assumes the CIAB Admin has done 2 things during installation of the CIAB Remote Desktop system when configuring each “connection” within CIAB's Guacamole.

PARAMETERS


Network

Hostname:

Port:

Authentication

Username:

Password: 

Domain:

Security mode: ▼

Disable authentication: ☐

Ignore server certificate: ☐

Remote Desktop Gateway

Hostname:

- First, when configuring the CIAB's Guacamole “connection” for a Desktop the Admin must change the following the Username and Password entries as shown in the Authentication section of the picture above!

- Set the Authentication field Username to: `${GUAC_USERNAME}`
- Set the Authentication field Password to: `${GUAC_PASSWORD}`

NOTE: Guacamole prevents you from seeing the text you enter in the Password field so type carefully.

- Second, to use this feature/capability, the CIAB Admin must configure the same UserID and Password in CIAB's Guacamole as in the LXD Ubuntu containers those Desktops run in.

NOTE: *capability to use a one-time login to CIAB Guacamole to connect to one of the CIAB Desktops is **Optional!***

In some use-cases you may want/need a separate LoginID and Password for the CIAB Guacamole and one or more target remote desktop servers.

Example: if there was an existing Windows Server and you do not control the Login ID and Passwords of users on that machine.

If that is the case, then you will not want to configure the CIAB Guacamole “connection” to that machine with any entries in the Authentication Section for “Username” and “Password”.

NOTE: In a future version of CIAB Remote Desktop System I hope to figure out how to integrate some sort of single sign-on (SSO) applicaiton capability for both CIAB Guacamole and for the CIAB Remote Desktop users.

CIAB version 2.0 has many changes and improvements.

1. Guacamole v1.0.0 has now been integrated/implemented. Guacamole v1.0.0 introduces major new features/capabilities to Guacamole such as:
 - Support for User Groups
 - Multi-factor authentication with Google Authenticator / TOTP
 - Support for RADIUS authentication

- Support for creating ad-hoc connections
 - Support for renaming RDP drive and printer
 - Cut & Paste for text-only (no pictures) now works as it normally would on a desktop
 - Configurable terminal color schemes
 - Optional recording of input events
 - SSH host key verification
 - Automatic detection of network issues
 - Support for systemd
 - Incorrect status reported for sessions closed by RDP server
 - Automatic connection behavior which means Guacamole will automatically connect upon login for users that have access to only a single connection, skipping the home screen.
2. All supporting applications, including Guacamole, Tomcat, NGINX, MySQL etc are now installed in an LXD container (CIAB-GUAC).
 3. A new capability utilizing the recently added LXD Device Map feature, is now automatically configured when ciab-desktop has installation is complete. It will map Port 443 (re HTTPS) on the Host Server to Port 443 in the CIAB-GUAC LXD container. After this, any remote Browser pointed to your Cloud or VM Host Server IP address & Port 443 will be redirected to the LXD CIAB-GUAC container's Port 443 where it accesses Guacamole so initial Admin setup with Guacamole can be accomplished.
 4. Since the CIAB's Guacamole container and any Desktop containers (re CN1) are all on the same internal private 10.x.x.x network subnet CIAB's Guacamole will be able to let users access any other LXD container cloned from CN1 that you create (assuming you configure CIAB's Guacamole with "connections" to all containers).
 5. An extensive collections of Web Applications have been included for selection by the CIAB Admin. These applications are especially selected as best-of-class in open source for categories such as and the CIAB Admin can install them via a convenient GUI application.

These applications will be installed as individual, "nested", LXD containers inside the CIAB-GUAC container. Each of the "nested" application containers will be attached to the same 10.x.x.x private network that the CIAB-GUAC management container and the CN1 user MATE Desktop Container are attached to. This will enable any validated CIAB Mate Desktop user :

- *Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)*
- *Project Management*

- *Content Management Systems (CMS)*
- *Social Media systems*
- *eCommerce Systems*
- *Learning Management Systems (LMS)*
- *IT Management systems*
- *Blogging systems*

The implementation & use of “nested” LXD containers for these Web Applications greatly reduces their Security exposure footprint!

This is due to the fact that the Web Applications by default are ONLY accessible by validated CIAB Desktop users and ONLY on the private 10.x.x.x network. Those applications, by default, are NOT accessible from the Internet although the applications themselves have access “to” the Internet although at the discretion of the CIAB Admin they can change that to where Internet Users could be allowed access to one or more of the installed CIAB Web Apps.

6. Sound/Audio now works !!! In any of the LXD CIAB Desktop containers.

What is CIAB Remote Desktop System?

CIAB Remote Desktop (CIAB – Cloud-In-A-Box) was originally envisioned around 2008 after I had the opportunity from my then employer Cisco Systems to spend nearly 18 months on a Fellowship with a non-profit here in North Carolina that provides the networking connectivity (NCREN) to all of the schools in North Carolina.

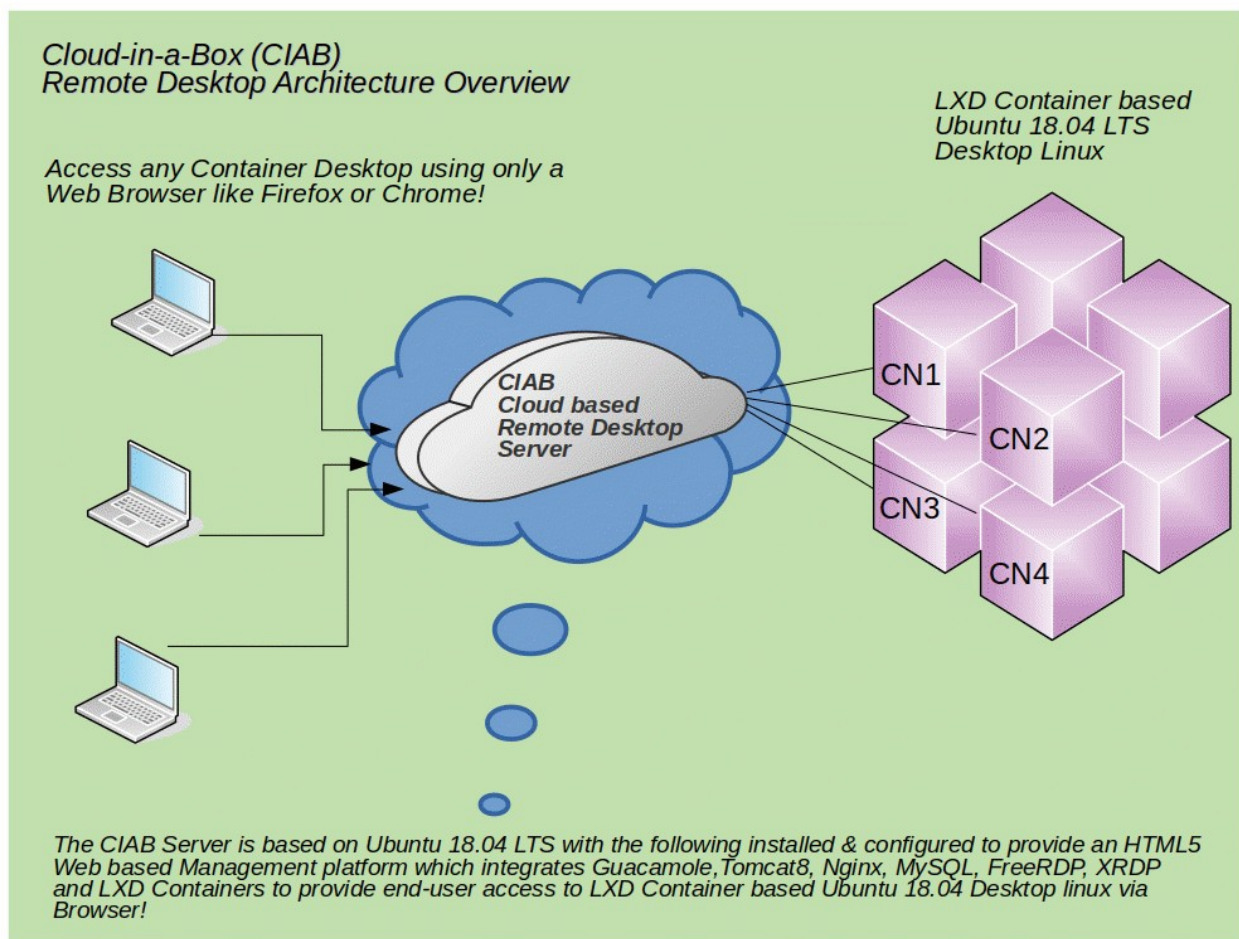
At the time, cloud computing was just beginning and Amazon's AWS was practically the only game in town. Having used AWS myself quite a bit by that time I tried to investigate how “cloud” could be used by K-12 schools as a possible low cost solution to the problems they faced such as:

- lack of funds often prevent hiring top tech support or buying new equipment
- local inexperienced technical support which often-times consisted of a librarian, teacher or volunteers
- a hodge-podge of mixed old/new computers (desktop, laptops)

Today the available computers now also include mixes of chromebooks, tablets as well. Security & viruses on the student machines was a constant problem.

The above circumstances and combination of problems often created a frustrating experience for teachers, students and parents. So in 2008 I first starting thinking about how to bring together a Cloud based Remote Desktop solution that while not solving every problem, would try to adhere to the 80/20 rule of trying to solve 80% of the problems.

***CIAB Remote Desktop only requires a working HTML5 web browser
on your local PC/Laptop/Chromebook!***



The amount of memory, disk drive space, operating system on the local computers ***no longer matters*** as the real User “desktops” are *remote* and the “server” they run on can be scaled in the “cloud” to as large as needed in size or number based on availability.

The school would only need decent Network connectivity in regards to speed & reliability.

For example, on AWS EC2 one of the larger Virtual Machine you can spin up today approximates this:

Instance Type	#vCPU	Memory (GB)	Storage (GB)	Network Speed
m5d.12xlarge	96	384GB	4x900 NVMe SSD	25Gbps

Today there are lots of great IaaS (Infrastructure as a Service) Cloud providers including AWS, Digital Ocean, Hetzner and others.

If you were to install CIAB Remote Desktop on such an AWS server you would pay by the hour or month but as the above stats show you would be using a *very powerful server* to provide remote desktops to the users or students.

CIAB Remote Desktop Use-Case Benefits

1. Since any applications or databases used by the CIAB Remote Desktop users run on the remote server it doesn't really matter much how old or slow your local computing device is!
2. For an Admin... to upgrade/delete/add or configure an application only requires doing so in one place not on dozens or hundreds of local computers.
3. Security. Regarding Security and/or viruses the remote desktop environments all are running on Linux. Security is managed in perhaps 1 or just a few servers versus again dozens or hundreds of local computers. Viruses... I'm not sure that there are any that affect Linux.

Also, **CIAB Remote Desktop uses HTTPS (SSL)** so the Browser connection to the remote desktop can be fully encrypted between the user and the Remote server providing the Desktop Environment.

4. For a school, students can access their CIAB Remote Desktop while at School or Home just using a web Browser. Do homework at home or at school just using a browser! For non-students, your remote desktop is always available to you from home or while traveling.

Beyond schools, CIAB Remote Desktop could be useful for many different use-cases.

Besides the above benefits, if installed on one of your home computers you could access your Home Desktop from anywhere.

But even if you just wanted to use CIAB Remote Desktop on your own laptop/desktop just to have multiple individual Desktops available to install/test or just work with.

Installing CIAB Remote Desktop

I've created and provided these scripts to completely automate installation of the CIAB Remote Desktop System for you onto an Ubuntu 18.04 Server whether that is a Physical local machine or VM, or a Cloud instance.

***Note:** A recent addition to the CIAB Remote Desktop system [are the CIAB Web Applications](#). These are a large group of Web based applications that can be installed in LXD containers on the same Host/Server as the CIAB Remote Desktop itself. Each selected application is installed in a "nested" LXD container inside the CIAB-GUAC LXD container. This allows the backup or copy of all installed Web Applications just by copying or backing up the CIAB-GUAC container itself.*

Also, there are now 2 YouTube video's regarding CIAB I have created to help you with installation and configuration:

[CIAB Remote Desktop Part 1 - Installation](#)

and

[CIAB Remote Desktop Part 2 - Configuration and Use](#)

Before Starting the Installation Scripts

Some *assumptions*:

1. CIAB has been tested on Ubuntu 18.04 LTS. The only dependencies "may" be what version of Tomcat, mysql, nginx your Ubuntu has in its repositories.

In the scripts, "setup-guacamole.sh", "setup-nginx.sh" and "setup-ciab.sh" at the top of each script are defined Variables used to specify "versions" of software installed by each script.

2. A new "server" or VM is already installed, its running and you have access to it and sudo privileges on it.
3. You have NOT installed LXD on the server yet (don't the scripts will do that).
4. If using a cloud-server like AWS EC2 make sure you open ports 443 (https), 22 (ssh) & any other ports you may feel you want to open for other reasons.

NOTE: It is recommended for end users to utilize the Chromium (or Chrome) web browser and not Firefox. These seem to perform some what better in regards to remote viewing of video/audio over the HTML5 connection.

This CIAB Remote Desktop installation process takes approximately 30-60 minutes (more or less depending on how "fast" your "server/Host" is).

By fast, we mean is it using SSD drives, does it have lots of memory and multi-core cpu (for cloud servers vCPU's)!

The CIAB Remote Desktop installation scripts provide lots of output on what the scripts are doing.

At times the scripts will prompt you as the installer to answer an install question.

Examples:

When the script installs NGINX, if you are installing on a Cloud server you may get this prompt:

Command may disrupt existing ssh connections. Proceed with operation (y|n)?

Just respond with "y" for yes... in my testing it has no effect on your ssh session.

To begin installation unarchive (un-tar or unzip depending on how you downloaded the files from the CIAB Github repository) the CIAB Remote Desktop installation scripts/files.

The installation scripts assume they all reside in the directory:

`/opt/ciab`

Change to that directory & make sure all the .SH files are executable.

`$ sudo chmod +x /opt/ciab/*.sh`

Then start the installation

`$./setup-ciab.sh`

During installation, the SNAP version of LXD will first be installed in the Host/Server. LXD will be used to create the "system" containers that will run the CIAB User MATE Desktop system and the CIAB-GUAC Management system.

As part of this process the setup scripts will install the SNAP version of LXD in the Host/Server. When it does so you (the installer/Admin) will be prompted for the configuration of LXD in the Host/Server.

You must answer the following questions with these responses:

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Would you like to use LXD clustering? (yes/no) [default=no]: **`no`**

Do you want to configure a new storage pool? (yes/no) [default=yes]: **`yes`**

Name of the new storage pool [default=default]: **`default`**

Would you like to connect to a MAAS server? (yes/no) [default=no]: **`no`**

Would you like to create a new local network bridge? (yes/no) [default=yes]: **`yes`**

What should the new bridge be called? [default=lxdbr0]: **`lxdbr0`**

What IPv4 address should be used? (CIDR subnet notation, "auto" or "none")
[default=auto]: **`auto`**

What IPv6 address should be used? (CIDR subnet notation, "auto" or "none")
[default=auto]: **`none`**

Would you like LXD to be available over the network? (yes/no) [default=no]: **`no`**

Would you like stale cached images to be updated automatically? (yes/no)
[default=yes] **`yes`**

Would you like a YAML "lxd init" preseed to be printed? (yes/no) [default=no]: **no**

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Then two LXD containers will be created.

First, a container named **CN1** is configured as a RDP enabled Remote Ubuntu MATE Desktop.

CN1 is then used to clone/copy another LXD container named **CIAB-GUAC**.

Guacamole will be installed in the CIAB-GUAC Container and you, the CIAB Admin, will only have to login via a Browser to Guacamole and configure Users and Connections. Guacamole uses the term "connection" to describe what desktop servers or LXD container desktop servers) to be able to reach. Each UserID you configure in Guacamole as the Guacamole Admin will require a Guacamole LoginID & Password and also a LoginID and Password (re a linux userID and password) on each "connection" Desktop server any User is configured/allowed to access.

During the creation of the CIAB-GUAC container (via the copying of the CN1 container), the SNAP version of LXD will again be installed but this time inside CIAB-GUAC. However, this time the SNAP LXD will be configured using a "pre-seed" template configuration that the installation script provides so you do not have to re-enter and lxd config information.

After completing the previous configuration of LXD in the CIAB-GUAC container the rest of the installation will continue.

The LXD containers will appear & act like a separate servers even though they run on the same Server/Host. You could, as admin, install different applications software in each LXD container for users to access via CIAB's Guacamole.

As all of the CIAB scripts execute you, the installer, will be prompted at times for input or to do a "next" action.

I hope most prompts will be self-explanatory.

This process will install on the Server/Host:

- CIAB Remote Desktop HTML5 web proxy is based on the great Guacamole project

(see <http://guacamole.apache.org/>) to enable connections using an HTML5 compatible browser

- the Ubuntu-MATE desktop environment
- mysql
- nginx
- tomcat8
- xrdp & x11xrdp
- both CIAB-GUAC and CN1 containers will have the Ubuntu-MATE desktop environment installed
- in CN1 .. a User acct w/sudo privileges for you (the Installing CIAB Admin User) so you can later log in and do admin activities like add more users using either CIAB's Guacamole or login just using ssh.

Note: the only place the RDP protocol is utilized is from the CIAB Remote Desktop Web Proxy running in CIAB-GUAC LXD container and the Remote Desktop connection to the CIAB-GUAC or CN1 containers.

As part of the installation process all HTTPS traffic received by the Server/Host is proxy'd (forwarded) to the CIAB-GUAC LXD container.

Why RDP?

It is recognized that some use-case's may include not just Linux Desktop Servers but also Windows Servers. As RDP is the core protocol used in Windows Remote Desktop Connections (RDC) this allows greater flexibility in the overall CIAB Remote Desktop Architecture.

Again as a reminder, from the User to the Server/Host is HTTPS (TLS) encrypted communication capable because of our configuration of Nginx and a Self-Signed Certificate.

It is the responsibility of the CIAB installer to install/configure a LetsEncrypt Certificate if that is desired.!

CIAB Remote Desktop System Installation Steps

NOTE: the scripts have been written & configured to assume they are running from a directory named **/opt/ciab**. If you decide to do otherwise you will need to make modifications in most or all of the scripts to point to where you place all of the CIAB installation files

STEP 1

On the target Ubuntu 18.04 Host/Server create a new directory to hold all the installation files

```
$ sudo mkdir /opt/ciab
```

Make that directory "owned" by your UserID or the UserID of whatever acct you will login to on that "server"

```
$ sudo chown yourID:yourID /opt/ciab
```

STEP 2

Download the CIAB installation script files form Github:

<https://github.com/bmullan/ciab-remote-desktop>

Copy the provided archive to the target "server" and place it into /opt/ciab.

Example:

If you download the source using GitHub's ZIP file format the resulting archive will be called - "ciab-remote-desktop-master.zip"

So on your local PC/Laptop you would use SCP to copy that file to your target machine:

```
$ scp ./ciab-remote-desktop-master.zip yourID@ip-of-server:/opt/ciab/
```

If the unzip command isn't already installed on your system, then run:

```
$ sudo apt-get install unzip
```

After installing the unzip utility, if you want to extract to a particular destination folder, you can use:

```
unzip file.zip -d destination_folder
```

SSH - Log into that "server", and UnTar/Unzip the above file

```
$ ssh yourID@ip-of-server
$ cd /opt/ciab
$ unzip ./ciab-remote-desktop-master.zip (unzip if its a zip file)
    NOTE: if the unzip creates another sub-directory move all of the
    contents to /opt/ciab/ before proceeding!
# make the bash scripts executable
$ chmod +x ./*.sh
```

STEP 3

Start the installation:

```
$ cd /opt/ciab
$ sudo ./setup-ciab.sh
```

Note: you will be prompted several times during installation to either read a message then press enter or when installing Guacamole/MySQL/Tomcat/NGINX to input passwords for the MySQL root password and the Guacamole Database root password.

At the end of execution of setup-ciab.sh the script will prompt you what to do next!

Overall, installation can take from 30-60 minutes depending on how fast your "server" is (re does it have SSDs, multiple CPU cores, etc).

Note: We are using LXD/LXC "un-privileged" containers. You can later find the "rootfs" for those containers on the Server/Host located in the directory if you use our script as it installs LXD using the SNAP package manager. The SNAP installation of LXD puts the containers you create in: **/var/snap/lxd/common/lxd**

Time to Reboot the Server/Host!

Rock and Roll - Time to try out your new Remote Desktops

IMPORTANT NOTE: *After the Host system is rebooted it can take 3-5 minutes for the CIAB Remote Desktop system to fully boot. Why? Because the "Host" itself has to boot, then the CIAB-GUAC container with its Ubuntu-Mate desktop, Guacamole, Tomcat, NGINX, MySQL has to fully boot and finally the CN1 CIAB Remote Desktop container with its own Ubuntu-*

Mate Desktop has to complete booting.

- *So be patient and every 30 seconds or so hit refresh on your browser until you see the CIAB Remote Desktop login screen.*

Configuring CIAB's Guacamole

At this point everything is installed on the "server" (actually in the LXD container named CIAB-GUAC) but you still need to configure CIAB Remote Desktop by logging into the Guacamole Web Proxy "server":

Using: **guacadmin** for the login ID and login Password

Point your HTML5 capable web browser to your "server"/Host using the following:

https://ip-of-your-HOST/guacamole

NOTE: even though Guacamole is installed in an LXD container named "CIAB-GUAC" running in your HOST/Server, the CIAB System installation software used LXD's Proxy Device command to redirect any HTTPS traffic sent to the Host/Server to the LXD container CIAB-GUAC !

On first-time login to CIAB the installer/Admin needs to log-in as:

- **UserID: guacadmin**
- **Password: guacadmin**

which will present the Guacamole Configuration menu displayed in your browser.

In the upper right hand corner click on the ICON labeled guacadmin and then in the drop-down menu click "settings" then...

Step 1:

Change language preference for the admin account.

Click on PREFERENCES

- change the Display Language to what suits you

Step 2:

Define what Desktop Server “connections” you have setup for users to connect to. In our demo installation the minimum will be 1 connection for the Host/Server itself and “optionally” a “connection” for each LXD container ie CN1 etc.

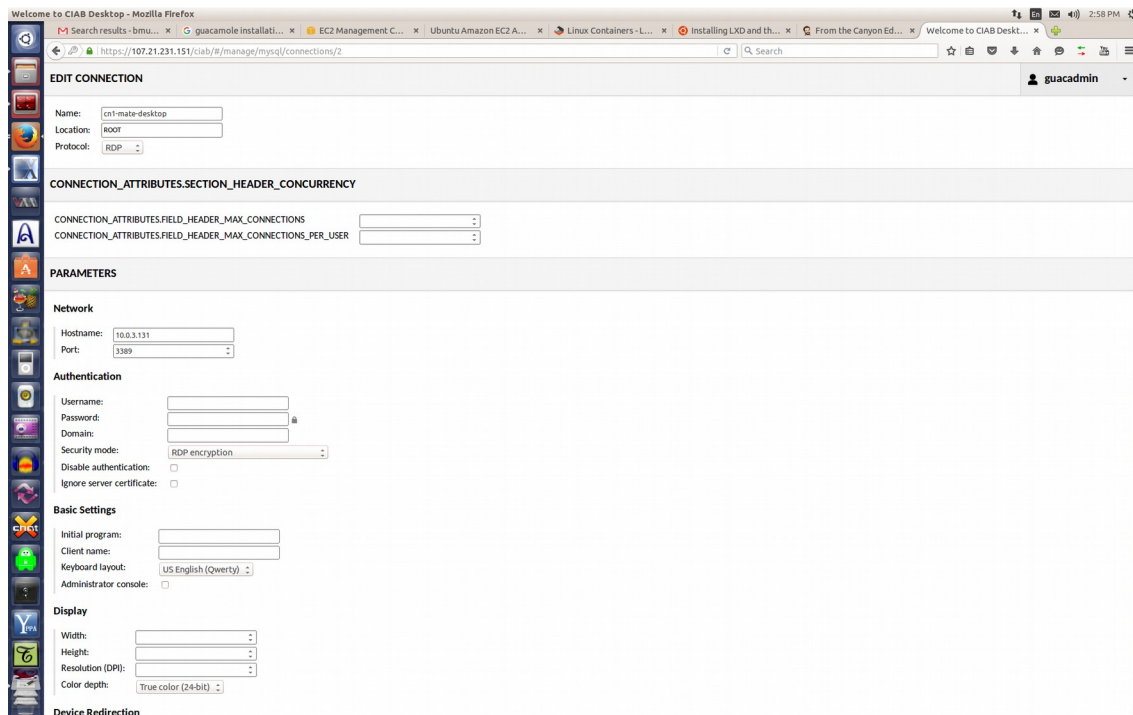
Click on CONNECTIONS

- add a new connection

The screenshot displays the 'EDIT CONNECTION' page in the CIAB Desktop web interface. The browser's address bar shows the URL `https://107.21.231.151/ciab/#/manage/mysql/connections/`. The user is logged in as 'guacadmin'. The page is divided into several sections:

- EDIT CONNECTION**: Contains fields for 'Name' (set to 'host'), 'Location' (set to 'root'), and 'Protocol' (set to 'RDP').
- CONNECTION_ATTRIBUTES.SECTION_HEADER_CONCURRENCY**: Contains two input fields for 'CONNECTION_ATTRIBUTES.FIELD_HEADER_MAX_CONNECTIONS' and 'CONNECTION_ATTRIBUTES.FIELD_HEADER_MAX_CONNECTIONS_PER_USER'.
- PARAMETERS**: A section containing several sub-sections:
 - Network**: Fields for 'Hostname' (set to 'localhost') and 'Port' (set to '3389').
 - Authentication**: Fields for 'Username', 'Password', and 'Domain'. A 'Security mode' dropdown is set to 'RDP encryption'. There are checkboxes for 'Disable authentication' and 'Ignore server certificate'.
 - Basic Settings**: Fields for 'Initial program', 'Client name', 'Keyboard layout' (set to 'US English (Qwerty)'), and an 'Administrator console' checkbox.
 - Display**: Fields for 'Width', 'Height', 'Resolution (DPI)', and 'Color depth' (set to 'True color (24-bit)').
 - Device Redirection**: This section is currently empty.

Picture #1: Example of HOST Connection configuration



Picture #2: Example of CN1 Connection configuration

For EACH connection you create:

In an initial CIAB installation you will create 2 "connections".

One for "CIAB-GUAC" and one for "CN1".

Enter a "name" for the connection you are creating!

Note: later as you (the CIAB Admin) become more familiar with the system, you might decide to have each Desktop to have different sets of applications installed later from a user functionality perspective.. like a "science", "general" and "history" or "sales", "marketing", "engineering". Whatever your use case might be.

Change **Protocol** from VNC to RDP

In the section labeled **CONCURRENCY LIMITS**

Change **Maximum number of connections** - to the maximum number of simultaneous Users that you will permit to connect to that Desktop (either CIAB-GUAC or CN1).

Change **Maximum number of connections per user** - to the maximum number of simultaneous times any one user can log into that Desktop.

Example for CIAB-GUAC:

If you only have 2 people designated to be CIAB Admins and you have configured Guacamole USER accounts for them to have those privileges as well as sudo/adm privileges in the LXD containers (CIAB-GUAC and CN1) then you would probably set:

Example only - **Maximum number of connections: 2**

Example only - **Maximum number of connections per user: 1**

So with the above, both Admins could be logged into CIAB simultaneously and each might have a single connection to CIAB-GUAC for Admin purposes such as adding or deleting CIAB Web Applications or managing the "nested" LXD containers that those web applications run in.

Example for CN1:

CN1 is intended to be a general User Desktop. As CIAB Admin, you need to decide based on your Server/VM/Cloud hardware (ie #core, RAM, Disk size/type) and types of applications they will use on CN1, how many maximum users make sense.

If you only have a big enough Server/VM/Cloud instance then maybe 20+ simultaneously logged in Users makes sense. So enter a number here that will cause CIAB/Guacamole to limit the maximum number of users at any one time.

Example only - **Maximum number of connections: 20**

Example only - **Maximum number of connections per user: 1**

So with the above, a maximum of 20 users will be permitted to log in simultaneously to CN1 and each can only have 1 CN1 Desktop connection.

In the section labeled PARAMETERS

Network

Hostname:

Enter the "CIAB-GUAC" or CN1 connection configuration enter the IP address of the CIAB-GUAC container that you wrote down during installation of the CIAB Remote Desktop system software.

Port:

Enter 3389

Authentication:

Username: \${GUAC_USERNAME}

Note: yes, you are entering the text \${GUAC_USERNAME} as shown

Password: \${GUAC_PASSWORD}

Note: when entering \${GUAC_PASSWORD} Guacamole will prevent you from seeing what you are typing so type carefully to make sure you enter that right

Security mode: select **RDP Encryption**

Basic Settings

Keyboard Layout: select what you use

Note: qwerty english is default

Display

Color Depth: select **24 bits** or 32 bit

Note: 32 bit gives best resolution but uses slightly more bandwidth

Device Redirection

Enable drive: <check this box>

Drive name: xdrp_client

Drive path: /tmp/\${GUAC_USERNAME}

Automatically create drive: <check this box>

Static channel name: rdpdr

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For now that's all you need so at ***scroll to the bottom & select SAVE..*** then repeat the above process for the next CIAB Desktop connection whether CIAB-GUAC or CN1!

Step 3

Next we need to Create/Delete/Manage CIAB Desktop System USERS.

Click on **Users button at the top of the screen.**

Add a new User ID for yourself (the CIAB Admin) and any other future Users.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The Guacamole Web Proxy User IDs you enter here are SEPARATE & DISTINCT from the Linux User Acct IDs in the "CIAB-GUAC" or CN1 LXD containers !!

These IDs are only used to allow access to the CIAB Remote Desktop web proxy system using an HTML5 compatible Browser.

Remember for EACH user you create in Guacamole to check the boxes at the bottom for each CIAB Desktop connection that you the CIAB Admin want them to have access to.

For an Admin you would probably choose both CIAB-GUAC and CN1. For a normal CIAB Remote Desktop user you should just select CN1!

As admin, you may give them access to one or many Connections as you may later have dozens of servers they could connect to.

TIP: DO NOTE select the box that lets them change their own password! As that password has in Guacamole has to match the password in the CN1 Ubuntu container so they can automatically be logged in to the CN1 CIAB Remote Desktop after entering the CIAB's Guacamole Login ID and Password.

After successful login/password, if a user only has 1 connection configured for them they will automatically be logged into the CN1 CIAB Mate Desktop.

A CIAB Admin with 2 Connections configured (CIAB-GUAC and CN1) will will get a ***"Connections"*** menu (configured by the admin) where they can click on any Connection, you as the Admin, have enabled for them.

Note: Do NOT make the Login ID and Password in the Guacamole Web Proxy different from the Linux User's ID and password you created on CIAB-GUAC or CN1.

First, create a Guacamole UserID and Password for yourself (the installer)!

If you are going to do Guacamole Web Proxy admin duties later you might want to **check all the boxes** under PERMISSIONS which makes that USER a CIAB Admin for purposes of accessing and changing the CIAB's Guacamole configuration form data entries.

NOTE: After saving your User information you can logoff Guacamole as the guacadmin user and log back in as you UserID and then delete the guacadmin UserID or change that UserID's password to something better than the Guacamole installation default of "guacadmin"! **If you keep the GuacAdmin UserID do NOT leave its password as "guacadmin"... change it.**

The screenshot shows the Guacamole Web Proxy user configuration interface in a Mozilla Firefox browser. The page title is "Welcome to CIAB Desktop - Mozilla Firefox". The browser address bar shows the URL "https://107.21.231.151/ciab/#/manage/mysql/users/bmullan". The user "bmullan" is logged in as "guacadmin". The page has a sidebar with various icons. The main content area is divided into sections: "USER_ATTRIBUTES_SECTION_HEADER_RESTRICTIONS", "PERMISSIONS", and "CONNECTIONS".

USER_ATTRIBUTES_SECTION_HEADER_RESTRICTIONS

USER_ATTRIBUTES.FIELD_HEADER_DISABLED	<input type="checkbox"/>
USER_ATTRIBUTES.FIELD_HEADER_EXPIRED	<input type="checkbox"/>
USER_ATTRIBUTES.FIELD_HEADER_ACCESS_WINDOW_START	HHMMSS
USER_ATTRIBUTES.FIELD_HEADER_ACCESS_WINDOW_END	HHMMSS
USER_ATTRIBUTES.FIELD_HEADER_VALID_FROM	YYYY-MM-DD
USER_ATTRIBUTES.FIELD_HEADER_VALID_UNTIL	YYYY-MM-DD
USER_ATTRIBUTES.FIELD_HEADER_TIMEZONE	America New York

PERMISSIONS

Administer system:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Create new users:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Create new connections:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Create new connection groups:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Change own password:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CONNECTIONS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cn1-mate-desktop
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cn2-xubuntu-xfce4-desktop
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> host

At the bottom right, there are "Save" and "Cancel" buttons.

Picture #4: Adding a new User configuration.

NOTE: for a User that should have ADMIN privileges in the Guacamole Web Proxy server check ALL the "privilege" boxes as shown in the above Picture #4. This User is being given full Admin Permissions for the Guacamole Web Proxy

Later while logged into either the CIAB-GUAC or CN1 Ubuntu MATE Desktops using your Client PC web browser, you can press the LEFT-side keyboard **<CTRL> <ALT> <SHIFT>** keys and a slide-out will pop up for you.

NOTE: the LEFT-side **<CTRL> <ALT> <SHIFT>** keys are also the Key combination used in Guacamole to support CUT & PASTE by ALL users.

Slide-out menu

At the top of the if you click on your **UserID name** you will see:

Disconnect

terminates the current connection Session

Home

will take you back to CIAB's Guacamole where you can start another connection/Session without terminating the one you already have

Settings

if you are a CIAB Admin, will take you back to the CIAB's Guacamole configuration management console where you can add new connections, users etc

Logout

log out of the CIAB Remote Desktop System and terminate all active sessions.

Clipboard (now optional to use)

Use of this is now optional. With Guacamole v1.0.0, normal cut & paste to/from clipboard directly to/from a CIAB Desktop application and an application on your Local PC/laptop should just work. Previously, you would have had to cut & paste into this "clipboard" area.

Devices - Clicking on Devices will present 2 buttons

Upload Files

if you click on this your local PC/Laptop file browser will pop up and allow you to select one or more files to be uploaded to your CIAB Remote Desktop. Those uploaded files will be placed into the folder labeled xdrp_client on your CIAB Mate Desktop.

Actually, the the Uploaded files will be placed in a folder in your HOME directory labeled: **xdrp_client/GUACFS/**

If you want to "download" file(s) from your CIAB Remote Desktop to your local PC/Laptop you only need to cut or copy and then paste the file(s) into the folder:

xrdp_client/GUACFS/Download

which again you will find on your CIAB Mate Desktop127.0.0.1

< Back - this just takes you back to the initial Slide-Out window.

TO CLOSE the Slide-Out Window

Press the Left side keyboard - <ctrl> <alt> <shift> again.

After Configuration of CIAB's Guacamole Connections & Users

You the CIAB Admin must create User Accounts on the target LXD container Ubuntu Mate Desktop systems.

The installation scripts will have already created a User Acct for yourself (as the Installer/Admin) both CIAB-GUAC and CN1.

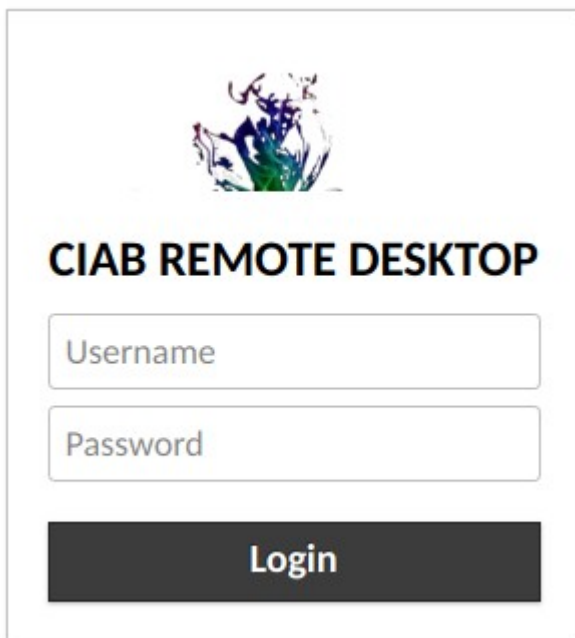
But if you need other User Accts in those containers you can do that later when you login to those containers after setup of the CIAB Remote Desktop. You will have already been give SUDO access IN those containers by the CIAB System installation scripts when you installed CIAB.

When you are your local PC/Laptop web browser to access CIAB you just need to point your Browser to:

https:<ip address of Host server>/guacamole

Because the installation scripts only install a "self-signed" Certificate for HTTPS, with Firefox or Chrome/Chromium you will see a warning message about an unsafe connection. In the future when you/Admin installs a valid Cert, like from Lets-Encrypt you will no longer see that warning.

So accept the connection and you will see the CIAB Remote Desktop Login menu:

The image shows a login interface for CIAB Remote Desktop. At the top is a colorful logo of a globe with abstract shapes. Below the logo, the text "CIAB REMOTE DESKTOP" is displayed in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Underneath the title are two input fields: the first is labeled "Username" and the second is labeled "Password". Both labels are in a light gray font. Below the password field is a dark gray button with the word "Login" in white, bold, sans-serif font. The entire login form is enclosed in a thin gray border.

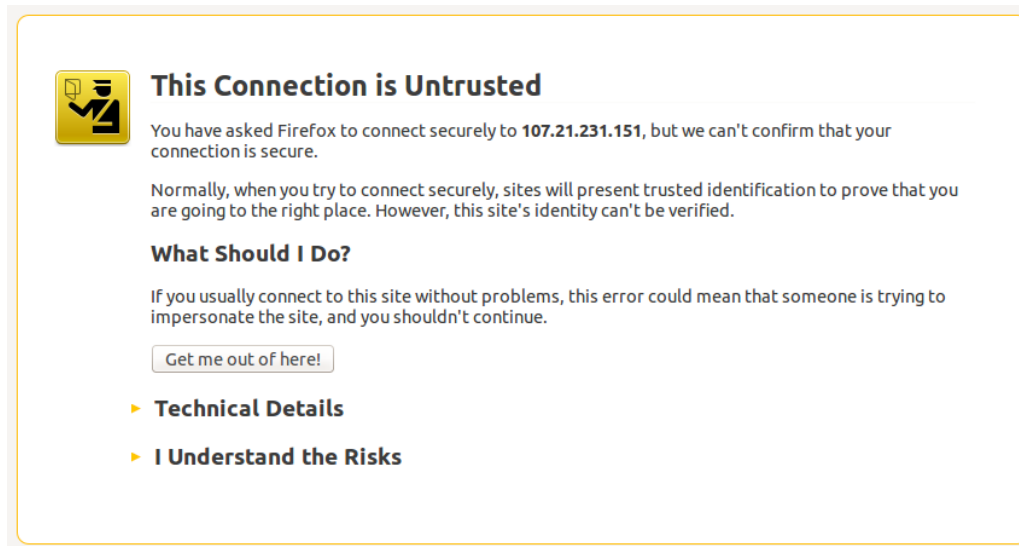
Picture: CIAB Remote Desktop Login menu

Enter a valid CIAB login ID and password and that User will be connected to their CIAB Remote Mate Desktop.

If you login as an Admin and have connections configured for both CIAB-GUAC and CN1 then you will see another display where you can select with of those you want to connect to. Also, on this 2nd display if you click on your Name in the upper right corner you will get a drop-down menu where you can click on Settings so you can configure (add, change, delete) more CIAB Guacamole's Users or Connections.

POST INSTALLATION - ERRATA

When accessing CIAB Remote Desktop with your Web Browser you will be presented with a screen something like the following (depends on what Browser you are using)... telling you that the Certificate presented is UNSIGNED.



Picture: Example Web Browser warning about Unsigned Security Certificate

That self-signed Security Certificate is created by the "setup-nginx.sh" script and although unsigned is safe for you to accept. If you are nervous examine the setup-setup-nginx.sh script & modify the NGINX section to suit yourself if you have obtained a valid "cert" & then reinstall nginx.

NOTE: even with the Self-Signed Certificate your HTTPS traffic from your local browser to the CIAB Remote Desktop will be fully encrypted.

Next Click on "**I Understand the Risks**" to continue. You will again be asked to confirm that you understand this is an unsigned certificate and again just accept it.

Printing

The CIAB Installation scripts **DO NOT** configure/enable Printing in the Host or the LXD containers as that is left up to the CIAB Installer to configure later.

However, there are several options I am aware of that you can choose from. Both the Google CloudPrint Service or the IPP Everywhere technology cost nothing but some configuration time and in my opinion are best from a user experience point of view.

1. Guacamole's own print capability which downloads your printout as a PDF to your local machine which you then have to print the PDF to obtain the final printed output.
2. **Google's CloudPrint** service which most modern printers support! This allows remote Desktop systems to find & print ***directly*** to local CloudPrint enabled printers as you would on your local PC/Laptop.
3. Utilize the **IPP Everywhere** technology. This too prints directly to IPP Everywhere printers with no intervening PDF involved.

Using Guacamole Print Capability

Guacamole supports remote printing and you, the CIAB installer) can read more about it on their Wiki page:

<http://guacamole.incubator.apache.org/doc/gug/users-guide.html>

Using Google's CloudPrint Service

Google provides a free service called CloudPrint.

Normally, to connect to a CloudPrint enabled Printer (most modern printers support Google CloudPrint) you have to have Google's Chrome (or the open-source Chromium-Browser) installed on the CIAB Remote Desktop container.

However, in the Ubuntu 18.04 repositories is a CloudPrint package you can install. This is a Python implementation of the Google Cloud Print Connector ***which does not require*** the installation of the Chrome Browser on the CIAB Remote Desktop

container. Refer to both the following. On the GitHub be sure to read through the “issues” for several tips on usage.

<https://pypi.org/project/cloudprint/>

and

<https://github.com/armooo/cloudprint>

Using IPP Everywhere technology for Printing

As Ubuntu is based off of Debian *you can read about how to configure & use IPP Everywhere from:*

<https://wiki.debian.org/IPPEverywhere>

and

<https://wiki.debian.org/DriverlessPrinting>

Adding more Container Remote Desktop servers

If you would like to add more Container based Remote Desktop servers it is easy to do and a lot faster than when creating the first LXD container.

You may want to do this in order to install a different Desktop Environment (Ubuntu-Budgie or Xubuntu or Lubuntu) than Ubuntu-Mate. Or you may want to specialize the applications installed on one CIAB Desktop versus another!

To add more you need to “clone/copy” an existing LXD container to create more of them you can use the LXC “copy” command.

This will create an exact copy of the CN1 container & name it CN2:

First, stop the existing LXD container so you can clone/copy it (do this when no one is using it!):

```
$ lxc stop CN1
```

next clone/copy that container to a new container:

```
$ lxc copy c1 cn2
```

The above command would clone our CN1 container to a new container named CN2! Remember, you can do this copy/cloning as many times as you need and will run well in your Cloud Server or DataCenter Host.

Restart the containers with the command:

```
$ lxc start cn2 (or CN1)
```

Verify they are restarted & note their IP addresses so you can add the new container as a new Guacamole Remote Desktop "connection". Use the following command:

```
$ lxc list
```

You will also need to go back and add a new "connection" in the Guacamole Web Proxy configuration manager for the new Container CN2.

You can also use the LXD Copy command to "copy" an existing LXD container to a totally new Server/Host.

Copy/Cloning an LXD container locally takes perhaps a minute or two to complete.

You could repeat the above to create any number of new containers based off of an original "base" CN1 configured container.

Using the powerful capabilities of LXD/LXC you can also "migrate" (re move) an existing container such as CN1 to a totally different Server/host.

Refer to the [LXD Documentation \(ReadTheDocs\)](#) to learn more!

The installation scripts should set things up so that any future new users added to receive Audio (via PulseAudio).

Chromium (or Chrome) Browser

In both Chrome & the Chromium Browser's there is 1 setting that is recommended to be changed to eliminate the possibility of a problem with remote video/audio. If you have any problems with remote desktop video/audio then try the following

In your browser, click on its customize & control "button" (3 vertical Dots usually

on the upper right hand corner of the browser.

Click on **"Settings"**

Click on **"Show Advanced Settings"**

UNCHECK the **"Use Hardware acceleration when available"** option.

Restart the browser.

NOTE: You should do this in the Container CN1!

My Own Example Demo Installation Info

To test the CIAB Remote Desktop Installation process out I tested it on both AWS EC2 and on Digital Ocean as well as on Hetzner Clouds.

Note: to understand the following assumes some knowledge of AWS EC2 is required

For AWS EC2 you can use [Canonical's AWS AMI finder](#) to pick an Ubuntu 18.04 appropriate size Server instance (re memory, SSD or spinning disk, #vCPU's etc) for your needs and your AWS "region".

I ssh'd into that instance, created a user acct for myself, gave myself sudo privileges, created the /opt/ciab directory & made my UserID the "owner" of /opt/ciab.

Then I logged out of the AWS server, used SCP to copy the **"ciab-remote-desktop-master.zip"** file to that server and into the /opt/ciab directory.

When that was complete I ssh'd back into the AWS server using my own UserID now and changed (\$ cd /opt/ciab) to the /opt/ciab directory.

Then following this document I began the installation process.

So... how long does Installation of everything take...??

From beginning to completion the entire process took 20-30 minutes (depending on which AWS Server instance - vCPU, Memory & whether it has SSD or spinning disks) to install everything on the above AWS Server/Host including the reboot!

But remember that included installing the full Ubuntu-Mate desktop environment in

both the Host/Server and also in the initial CN1 LXD container (from which we later just made a copy/clone of CN1 to create further LXD containers).

After the AWS Server came back online I used Chromium (or Chrome) & HTTPS to access the CIAB Remote Desktop Web Proxy on the AWS Server, logged in as "guacadmin" and used the password "guacadmin" which are installed as defaults during Guacamole installation.

I then created connections, user accts for myself etc per this guide.

After that was complete I logged out of the Admin menu and logged back in as my own User ID and from there I could then access the Host itself and the CN1 container Desktop all through a Chromium browser.

CIAB Web Applications Installation and Use

After the CIAB Remote Desktop system has been installed and the Admin has configured the required connections in CIAB's Guacamole for the CIAB-GUAC and CN1 containers, the Admin can log into their account on the **CIAB-GUAC** container.

When they log in to the MATE desktop on CIAB-GUAC the Admin will find an Icon labeled "**CIAB Web Applications Installer**". To install one or more CIAB Web Applications the Admin just needs to double click on that Icon and a menu will be presented where they can check the boxes for one or more applications to install.

After selecting those applications and clicking on "Install" the CIAB system will create a "nested" LXD container inside the CIAB-GUAC container for each selected Application. In each "nested" LXD container the matching Application will be installed. Note, that installation can take up to 5 minutes for each application so be patient and answer any questions you are prompted for.

If you screw up anything, you the Admin can open a terminal and delete the associated LXD container for that Application and then just go through the process of re-installing it again. Nothing will be reconfigured or changed in the CIAB-GUAC container itself.

To see a list of installed CIAB Web applications & their containers open a terminal and execute;

```
$ lxc list
```

To delete any of the Application containers:

```
$ lxc stop <container-name>  
$ lxc delete <container-name>
```

Then you can reinstall it as the previous process described.

That's all there is to it !

From there you might want to log into any/all the Connections and create more User Accounts for other Users.

NOTE:

➔ For each new User you create in Host or an LXD container you will need to subsequently create a new UserID in CIAB's Guacamole for that User user as well. For each CIAB Guacamole User account created remember to check the box in the Guacamole configuration screen for each "Connection" you want each Guacamole User to have access to (can be one or more of the available Connections)!

FINAL NOTE:

Remember this is an attempt to demonstrate Guacamole HTML5 Remote Desktop capabilities to an Ubuntu Linux system using only a Browser from the Client PC, Laptop, Tablet (or phone).

With the availability of CIAB Remote Desktop v2.x everything is installed & run from LXD containers.

This will be very useful because you can create your own LXD Image Repository and publish your CIAB-GUAC and CN1 containers to that Repository. Then for future new installations all you'd have to do is install a server somewhere, install LXD on it and then use the LXD CLI to copy and create a new CIAB-GUAC and a new CN1 container. That should only take 3-5 minutes as you already have those containers working and they are now just a "based" for launching more.

Please feel free to contribute fixes/enhancements to the Github files if you are able!

This is just a beginning. But my hopes are that the use of LXD containers could eventually enable Guacamole to support a large number of LXD container desktop targets running off a single (or cluster) of powerful Cloud or In-House servers.

Thanks for checking this out...

Brian Mullan (bmullan.mail@gmail.com)