

Using Oracle at CIMS

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1 General Instructions

In your home directory at CIMS, a file called `oracle_pass.txt` has been placed. It contains your password for accessing Oracle.

If say, your user name is `abc123` and the string in `oracle_pass.txt` is `qA3c89` these are your credentials for logging into Oracle server: we will call them your *Oracle credentials*.

Do not communicate with the CIMS helpdesk concerning any issues dealing with Oracle or your credentials.

You need to know about two CIMS machines:

- `access.cims.nyu.edu`
- `odb1.cims.nyu.edu`

These two machines share your file system. So what you put in your directory on one, appears on the other.

More details about the two machines:

- `odb1.cims.nyu.edu` can be accessed by `ssh` from anywhere within CIMS computer network.
- If you want to connect from outside of CIMS (which is extremely likely), you will need first to connect securely to `access.cims.nyu.edu` and then to `odb1.cims.nyu.edu`. More details below.

2 Set-up Steps and an Example

You were alerted in `2433.pdf` that you will need to know how to perform the tasks listed in [item 1](#) and [item 2](#) of this section.

We will assume that you work from your own machine. Therefore you will need to connect to the gateway machine `access.cims.nyu.edu`.

1. Secure Remote Access

It is your choice which file transfer program to use with some suggestions below.

You first need a secure shell client to access the gateway.

- For windows, you can use putty, which you can find it at <https://www.putty.org/>. (We cannot guarantee that it is not infected, but we have used it for years and never heard of any problems. If you like, you can download a version from Microsoft store <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/p/putty-unofficial/9n8pdn6ks0f8?activetab=pivot:overviewtab>; we have not tested that.)

Download it and install it. In the configuration panel, enter `access.cims.nyu.edu` and choose connection type as SSH. Click open and then enter your CIMS account and password. After connecting to the gateway, you can use essentially use the same commands as in UNIX. If you are not familiar with UNIX commands, you can find useful and basic commands at following link <http://www.ee.surrey.ac.uk/Teaching/Unix/>, but possibly you will not need to know practically anything other than how to connect to the Oracle server `odb1.cims.nyu.edu`.

- For Mac OS, you can open the Terminal application through Applications, then Utilities, Terminal. From here you can use the `ssh` commands. You can execute `ssh name@access.cims.nyu.edu` to log in.
- For Linux/Unix, similarly to Mac.

2. Secure File Transfer

File transfer programs are used to transfer files securely between local machines and remote servers (and can be used for transfers between remote machines). It is your choice which file transfer program to use with some suggestions below.

- For windows, you can use winscp, which you can find it at <https://winscp.net/eng/index.php>. (We cannot guarantee that it is not infected, but we have used it for years and never heard of any problems.)

Download and install it. Enter the Host Name, User Name and Password, then click login. Then you can transfer files between your machine and the CIMS machine.

- For Mac OS, you can use `scp` in Terminal. The syntax for the `scp` command is `scp [options] user@sourcehost:dir1/file1 user@destinationhost:dir2/file2`

For example, if you want to copy a file called `demo.txt` from your home directory to the home directory in your account on the `access.cims.nyu.edu`, enter `scp ~/demo.txt username@access.cims.nyu.edu:~/`

- For Linux/Unix, similar to Mac.

3. Copy the example file to the CIMS network.

Enclosed is a file `ExamplePCI.sql`, which deals with database defined in Unit 5. Move it to your home directory on `access.cims.nyu.edu`

You may want to look at the file. It defines the database, populates it, and runs a simple query.

4. Log into Oracle

From `access.cims.nyu.edu` securely log into `odb1.cims.nyu.edu` using command

```
ssh odb1.cims.nyu.edu
```

using your *standard CIMS credentials*, those that you got when you were issued a CIMS account. Once on `odb1.cims.nyu.edu`, log into Oracle using your *Oracle credentials*. Make sure that you input them correctly.

```
sqlplus abc123/qA3c89
```

as in our example credentials listed in [section 1](#), but putting in yours, of course.

5. Record and execute SQL script

Execute

```
spool Name.txt
```

and you can replace `Name` with anything you like. This will start recording. Then execute

```
@ExamplePCI
```

to execute the script `ExamplePCI.sql`.

6. Stop Recording and Quit

Execute

```
spool off
```

and

```
quit
```

to stop recording and to log off from Oracle.

7. Save the Recording/Spool File

Copy file `Name.txt` from `access.cims.nyu.edu` to your personal machine. Recall that `access.cims.nyu.edu` and `odb1.cims.nyu.edu` share your file system.

You may want to look at the recording/spool file.