Linux Virtual Machines on the RGU Network

You can use RDP (Remote Desktop) to get to the Linux Virtual Machines. The name of your assigned machine will be given in a separate document on Moodle.
If you're on campus, RDP is available on the lab computers and you can use it directly. If you're off campus, use MyApps to access RDP (ask the module co-ordinator if this is not available and you need it).

If you have access to a Linux machine (Azure, AWS, IBM, Digital Ocean all offer Linux boxes, many of them in their free tier), then you won't need this. But be aware that the RGU Linux machines will be similar to that which you will find on the cloud.

You can use the Linux box for:
- Web Server stuff!!!
- Scripts for setting up web server stuff!
- Docker
- Streamlit
- Running Python scripts
- Jupyter notebooks (if you really, truly have to)

But you are the administrator for each of these things, so they'll need installed. Usually on Linux, it's just a matter of figuring out the correct packages to install using *sudo apt install*. Sometimes it's a little more complicated.

Getting at the things!
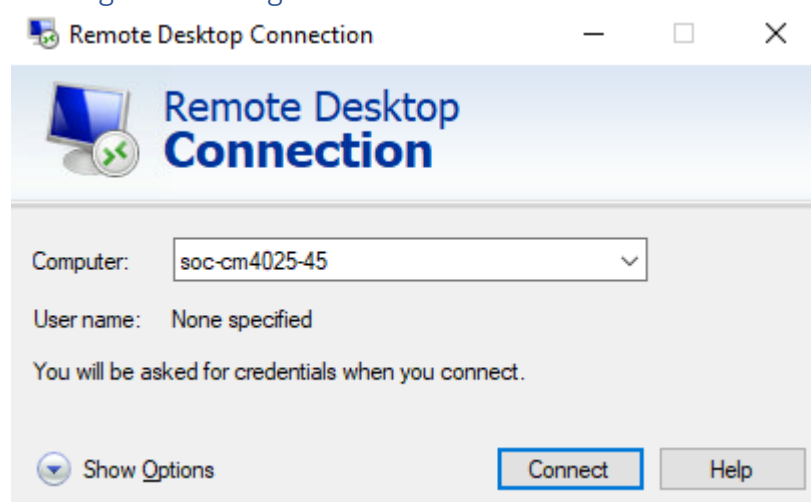
On the RGU network, open up Microsoft Remote Desktop app, and find your allocated computer (allocations list on Moodle). It will be called something like:
soc-cm4025-01
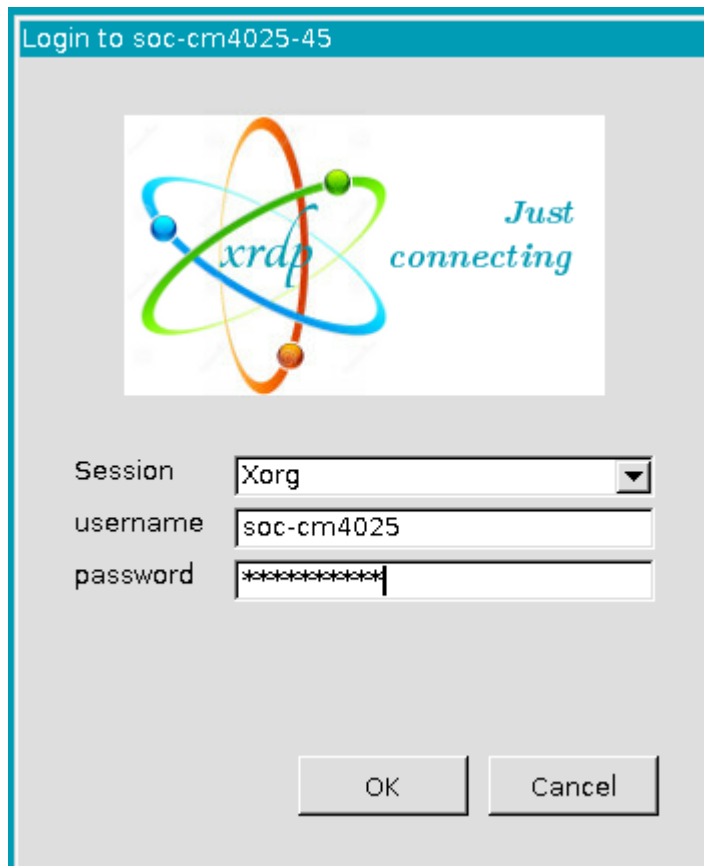
Logging on to a remote terminal: RDP over Citrix

Connect to the computer using the username **soc-cm4025** and the password **s0c_cm4025**.
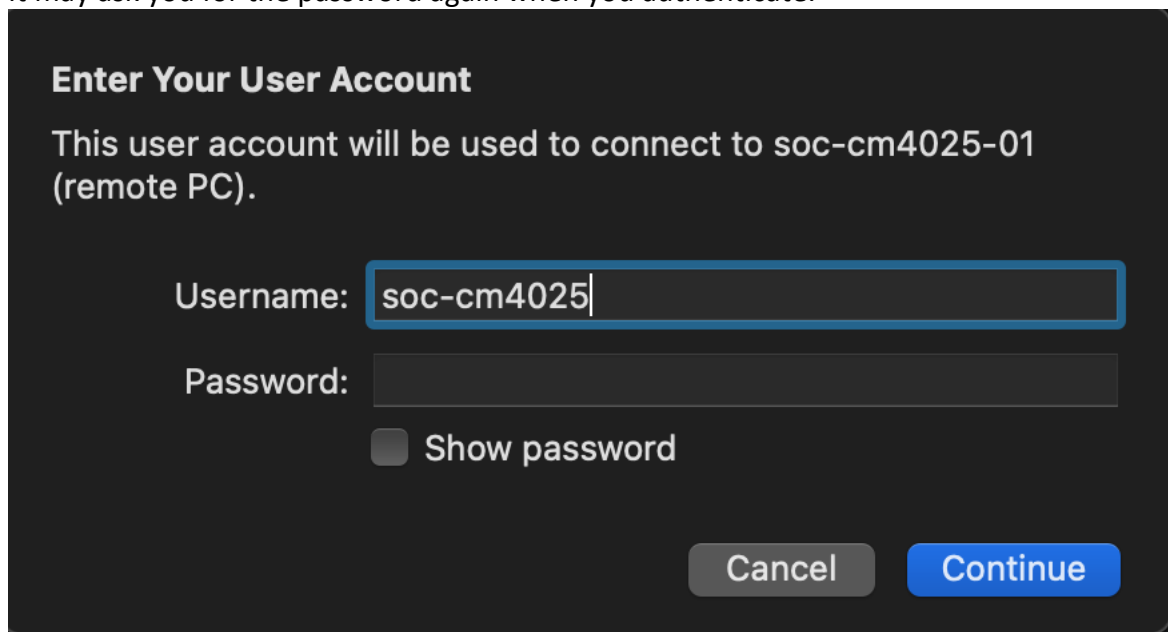It may ask you for the password again when you authenticate.

Figure 1 The Remote Desktop for one of the virtual machines. Your one will have a different name (i.e. the 01 will be different).
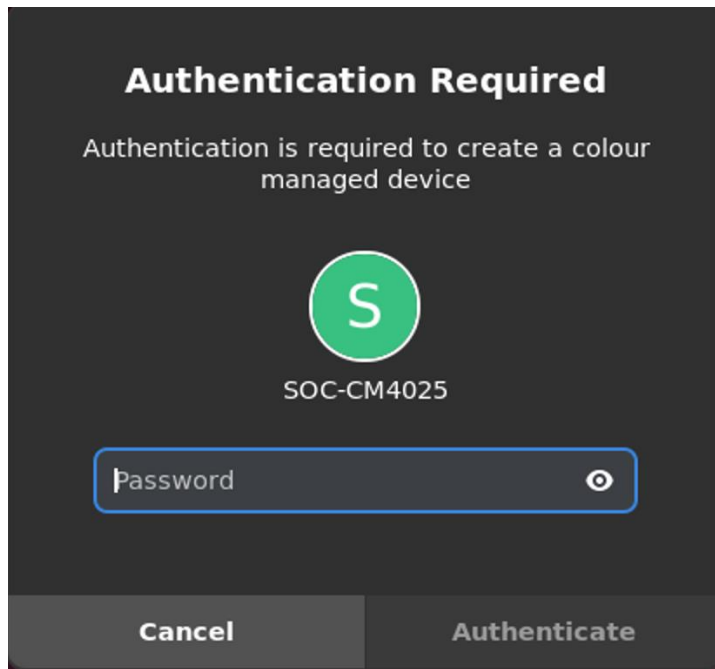
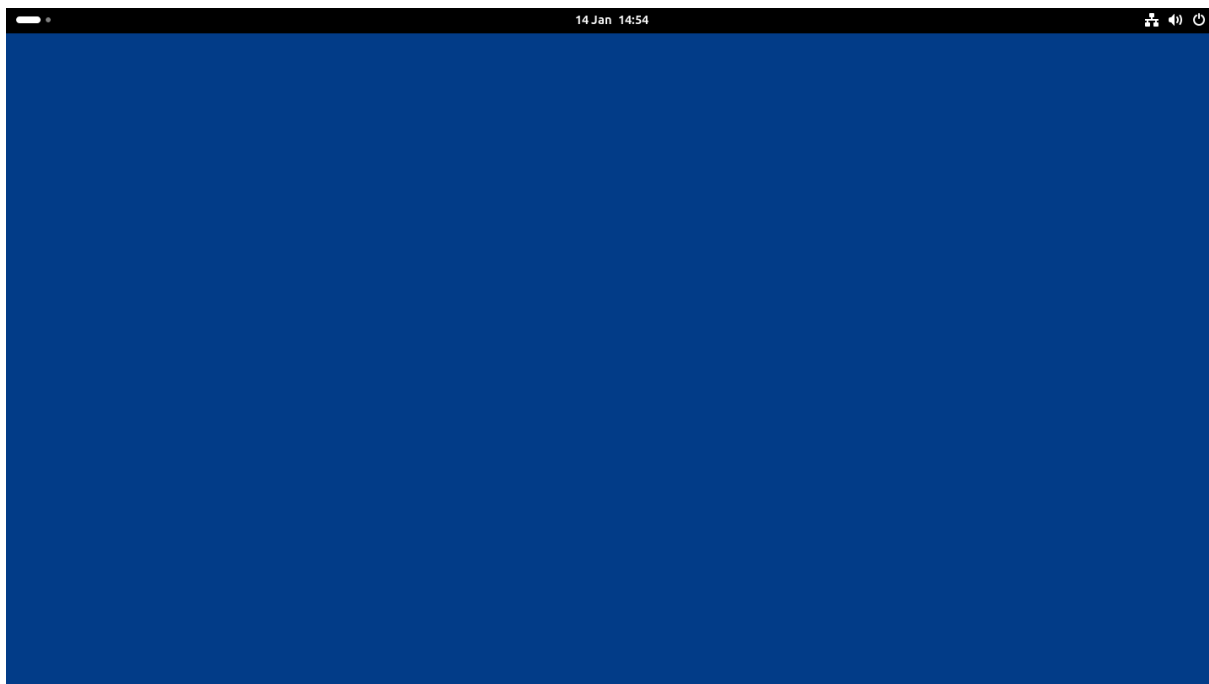*Figure 2: Authenticating again on the virtual machine.*

Figure 3: The Linux home screen. Older versions showed background pictures related to the version. This is 24.04.

Etiquette

You will have been allocated your server. Please change your password to something you will remember to keep it safe. Whenever you are finished with your virtual machine, please log off. Please **do not shut it down**. If you do shut it down, you will need to contact IT to get it restarted again. If it all goes horribly wrong, you will simply be supplied with a fresh, plain Ubuntu virtual machine.

Changing the password

I'm sorry, you have to use the GUI to do this or it won't "take".

In the "Activities" search box, look for "Settings". Click on the Settings Cog to get this:
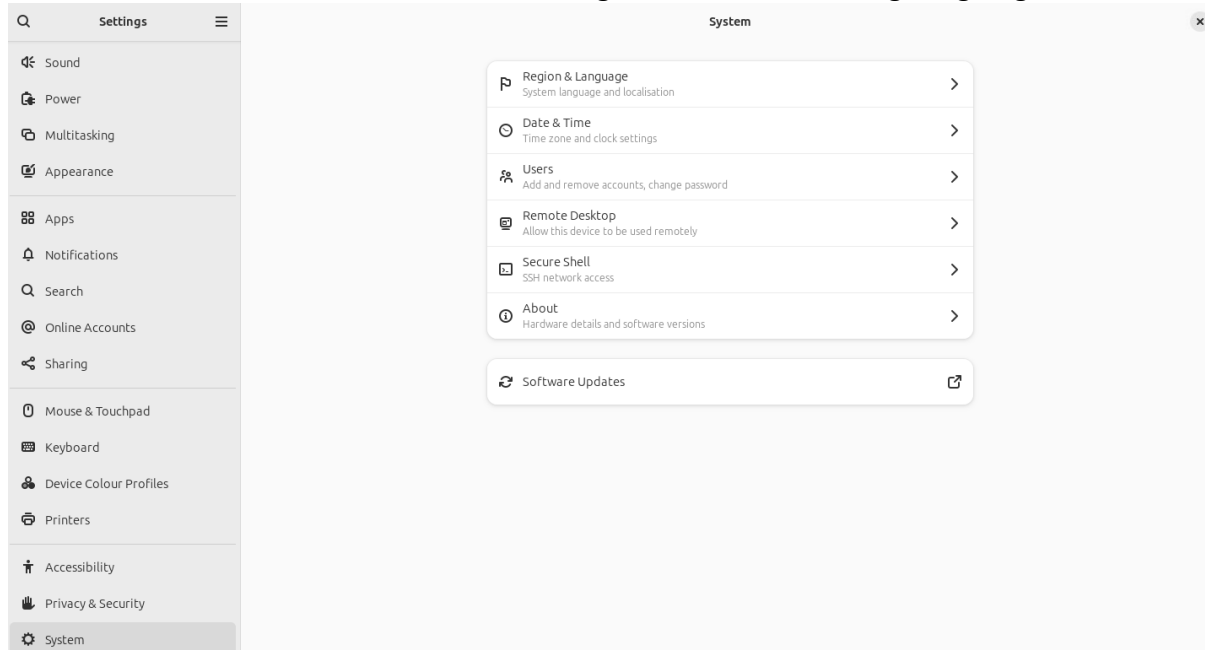

Figure 4: The first settings window

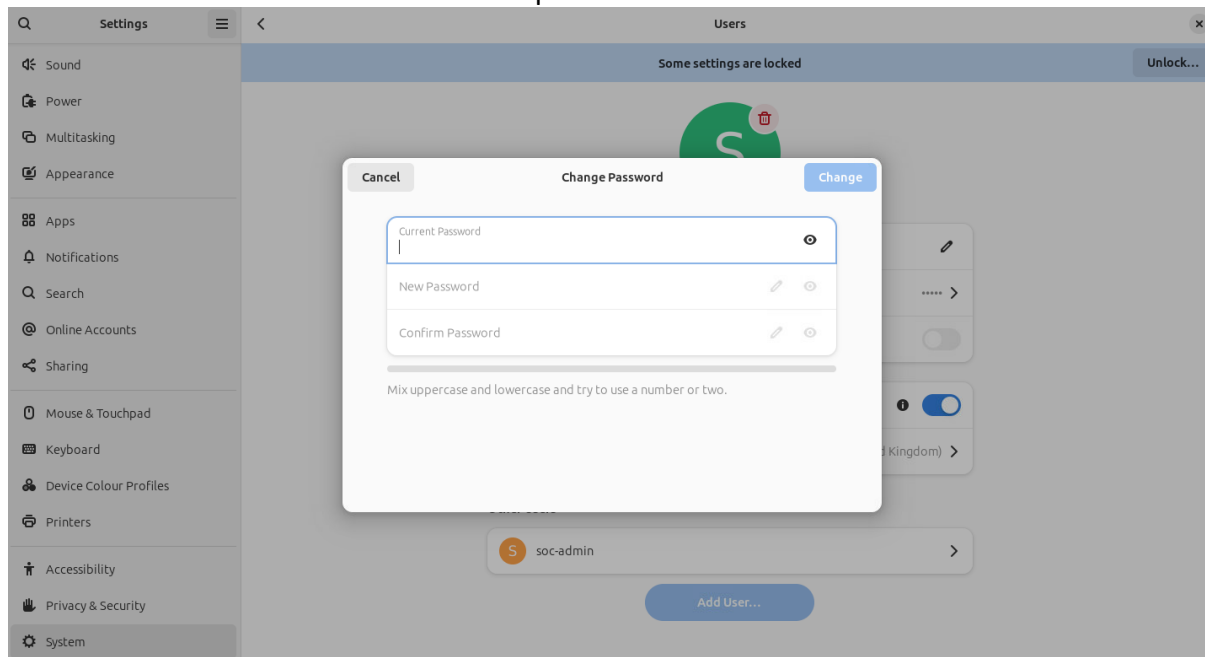Click on Users and select the Password option:

Figure 5: The settings window where you change your password.

Select and **remember** your new password. If you forget it, then you'll have to go to IT (or you might just be allocated a new machine).

Help! It wants updates?!

Your decision to do them or not. I recommend doing minor ones but don't upgrade the whole operating system unless you are willing to start again with a fresh machine (spoiler:

you should be willing to start with a fresh machine anyway!). The virtual machines should "restart" ok within a couple of minutes but you will lose connectivity while they do so.

Network Practicalities

This computer might be your only web server. It is on the RGU network and lives behind the RGU firewall. That means that you can access it only if you (and your browser) are also on the RGU network.