Remote Access - Tools @ Haaga-Helia

At Haaga-Helia UAS there are a few remote access tools available to students that help us gain access to the computer systems on campus from the comfort and convenience - also safety - of our homes. VDI and WinSCP are two services I will focus on in this document.

VDI, which stands for Virtual Desktop Infrastructure, provides students with a way to connect to a desktop environment remotely through a network connection from their computer at home or somewhere else. VDI uses virtualisation to create an instance on the servers hosted on HH’s on-premise network and server hardware. From the students’ machine at home, a connect to the desktop instance is made through a browser-based application or the Citrix Workspace App. Once authenticated to the workstation through the network via this software application, the student(user) can do everything on their Windows instance just like they were physically sitting at a computer in the classroom or computer labs.

WinSCP, (1) is a file transfer software that allows users to send files from a Windows machine to another machine remotely and utilises the SSH protocol to encrypt the traffic while in transit. The name is derived from Windows (Win) and secure copy (SCP), as it is a program that runs on Windows operating systems. Secure Copy Protocol (2) is used for uploading and downloading files to and from a server with the Secure Shell (SSH) protocol (3). SSH uses public-key cryptography to secure data transmission over the network.

With VDI and WinSCP students can connect to virtual desktops on the Haaga Helia server infrastructure and send files between their home computer and the workstation at school. The two tools are very helpful and convenient for completing assignments from home when working late at night and over the weekends.

Resources:

1. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WinSCP> - accessed 1.9.2020
2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secure_copy_protocol> - accessed 1.9.2020
3. <https://winscp.net/eng/docs/protocols> - accessed 1.9.2020
4. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secure_Shell> - accessed 1.9.2020