

piRover Builds with K2

Creating a Remote Connection(TigerVNC) Rev 4.0

Overview:

In this activity, you will connect to your Raspberry Pi and complete configuration steps so that you will have remote access to your piRover. You'll download and install the required software on your computer system and make your first remote connection into the system.

Prerequisites:

Prior to beginning the instruction provided in this lesson you must have completed the following:

1. piRover build and test

Performance Outcomes:

1. Connect to a Wi-Fi access point.
2. Edit a configuration.
3. Modify the Wi-Fi access point name and authentication.

Resources:

1. 2024 piRover kit with K2 microSD card image
2. NMC Wi-Fi Access Point (AP)
 - a. SSID: **NMC-PSK**
 - b. PSK/password: **Baffle-Amused-Stencil4**

Materials:

1. Wi-Fi access point
2. Laptop or Workstation with Ethernet network connection
3. Ethernet cable (provided in kit)
4. Ethernet cable adapter (requirement discussed in week 1)
5. [TigerVNC](#)
6. [Bonjour Print Services for Windows](#)

Directions:

1. A typical setup for a Raspberry Pi single-board computer is shown in Figure 1. Note the USB-C power connection in addition to the USB Dongle providing keyboard and mouse connectivity. A small HDMI monitor is displaying the Pi desktop and requires the Micro-HDMI cable included in your kit.

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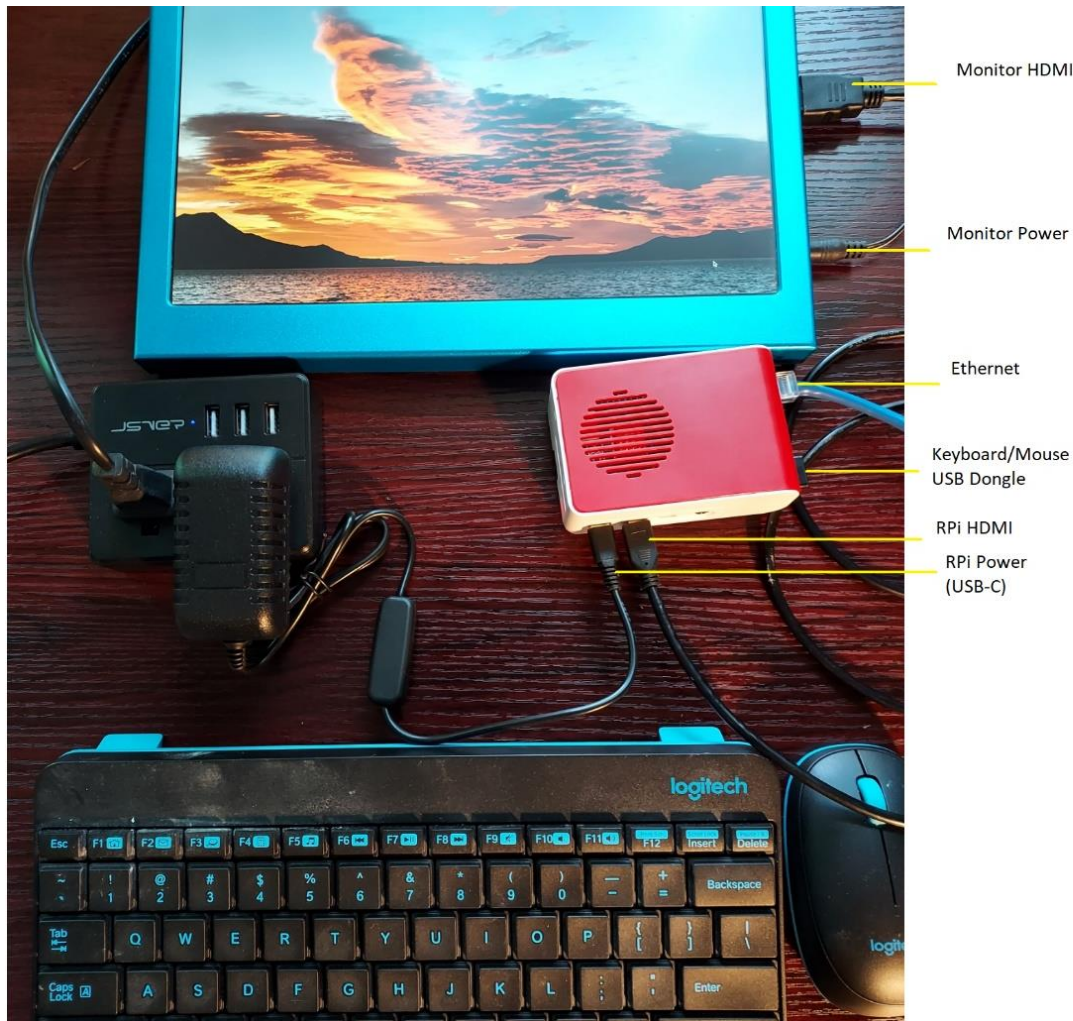
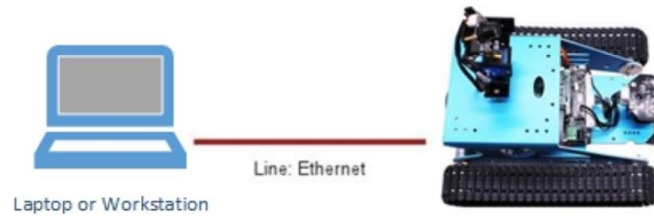


Figure 1 - RPi Single Board Computer Setup

2. In this class, you are connecting to the Raspberry Pi integrated into your piRover system. Typically, you will not have a monitor, keyboard, or mouse directly connected to the Pi, but these components may be required if you are having issues connecting. Normally you will connect using a remote desktop service (VNC) running on the Pi. This is often referred to as “headless mode.”
3. In this activity, you make your first connection to the RPi using the Ethernet cable provided. Eventually you may be able to connect using Wi-Fi connectivity and the Ethernet connection is not required.
4. The first step in making the remote connection is to connect the piRover to your computer using the Ethernet cable provided.

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5. Recall that if your computer does not have an Ethernet port, a USB to Ethernet adapter is required like the one shown below. This requirement was discussed during the first week of class.



Figure 2 Ethernet to USB adapter

6. You'll be creating a peer-to-peer network connection between your workstation and the Raspberry Pi. If you are using a Windows PC an additional software driver is required to make this type of connection. If you are on a PC, navigate to this [Bonjour Print Services for Windows](https://support.apple.com/en-us/106380) link. Download and install the driver. This step is not required if you are using an NMC workstation in a PS lab.

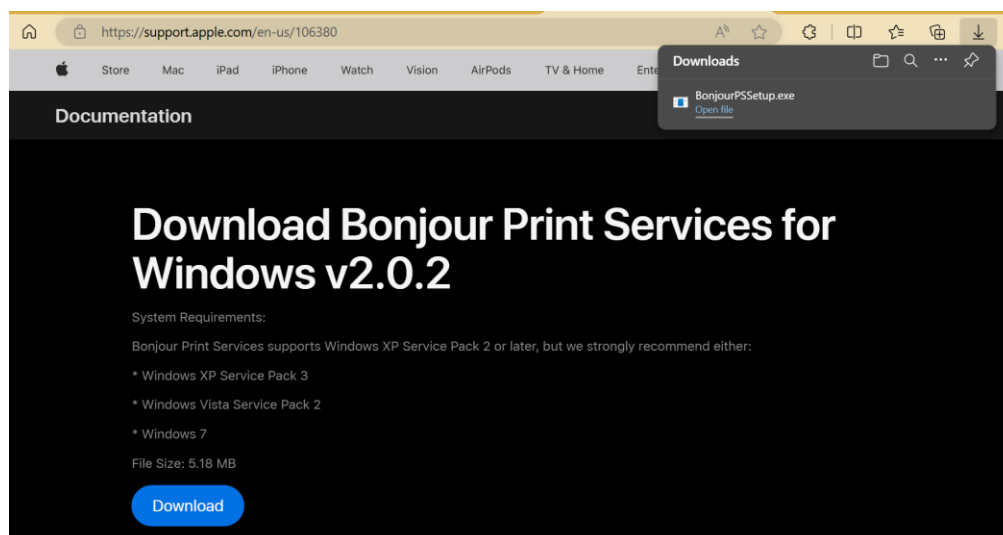


Figure 3 Bonjour Print Services for Windows

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7. You'll use VNC remote desktop software to provide the remote connection. The RPi system provided for you has the VNC server feature enabled as shown below, but you must install the TigerVNC client on your workstation. Again, this step is not required if you are using an NMC workstation in a PS lab.

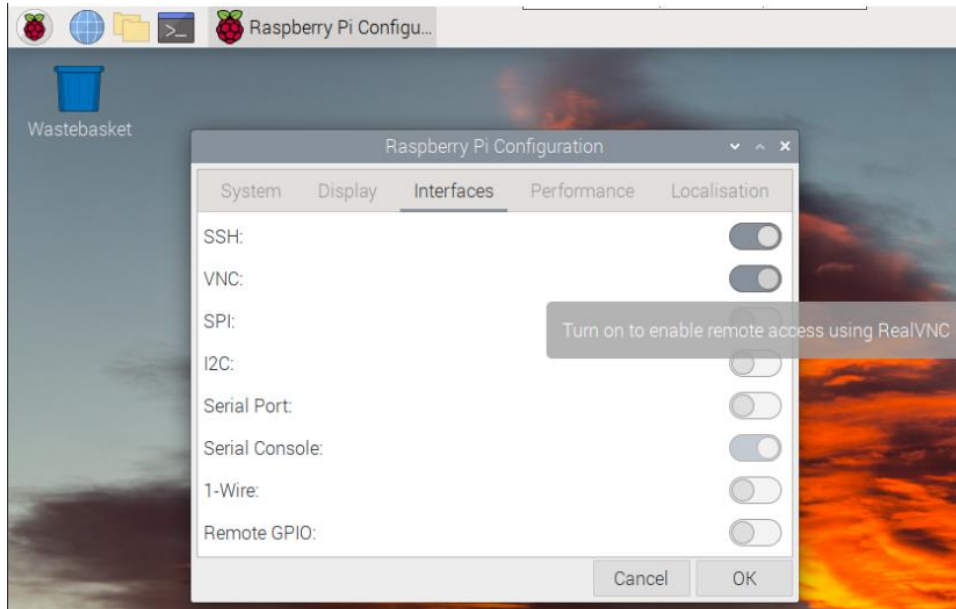
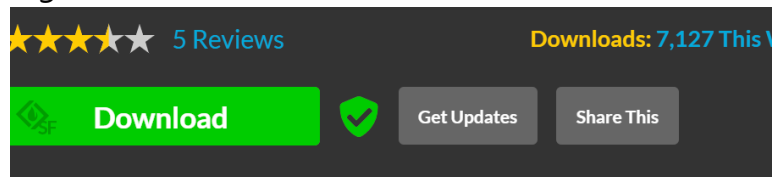


Figure 4 Remote Desktop showing VNC Server Enabled

8. If you are on a Windows workstation...
 - a. Open the [TigerVNC](#) link on your workstation. Download the TigerVNC client. See the .exe link below for an example.



Summary	Files	f
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Here you can find the binary release downloads for the TigerVNC project. Everything el

Project Activity

Released /stable/1.14.1/tigervnc-debuginfo-1.14.1.x86_64.tar.gz

Released /stable/1.14.1/tigervnc-1.14.1.x86_64.tar.gz

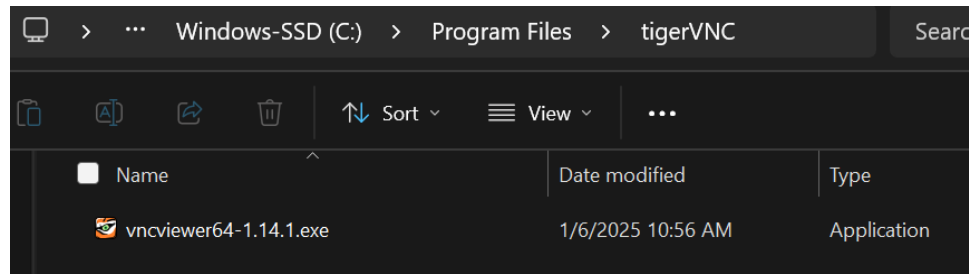
Released </stable/1.14.1/vncviewer64-1.14.1.exe>

Released /stable/1.14.1/ubuntu-24.04LTS/source/tigervnc_1.14.1.orig.tar.gz

Released </stable/1.14.1/vncviewer-1.14.1.exe>

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- b. Create a tigerVNC folder in your programs folder. Open the folder and copy the tigerVNC executable into this folder.



- c. Right click on the file and select Pin to Start. You will now be able to access the program using the search tool on the Taskbar. The instructor will demonstrate.
 - d. Alternatively, this file can be placed on your desktop and run from there.
9. To install TigerVNC on macOS, you can follow these steps:

- a. **Install MacPorts:** If you don't have MacPorts installed, you can download and install it from MacPorts.

<https://ports.macports.org/>

- b. **Open Terminal:** Launch the Terminal application on your Mac.
- c. **Install TigerVNC:** Run the following command in Terminal:

```
sudo port install tigervnc
```

- d. **Verify Installation:** Once the installation is complete, you can verify it by running:

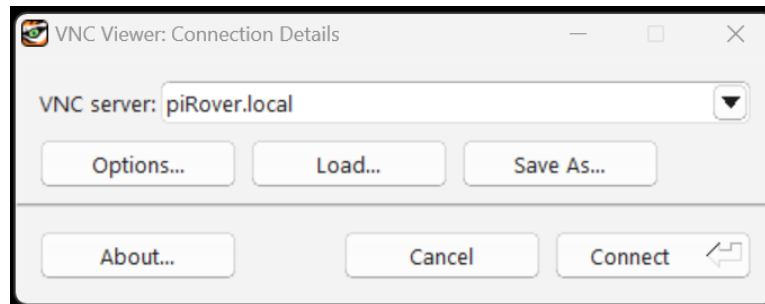
```
vncviewer
```

10. You are now ready to connect.

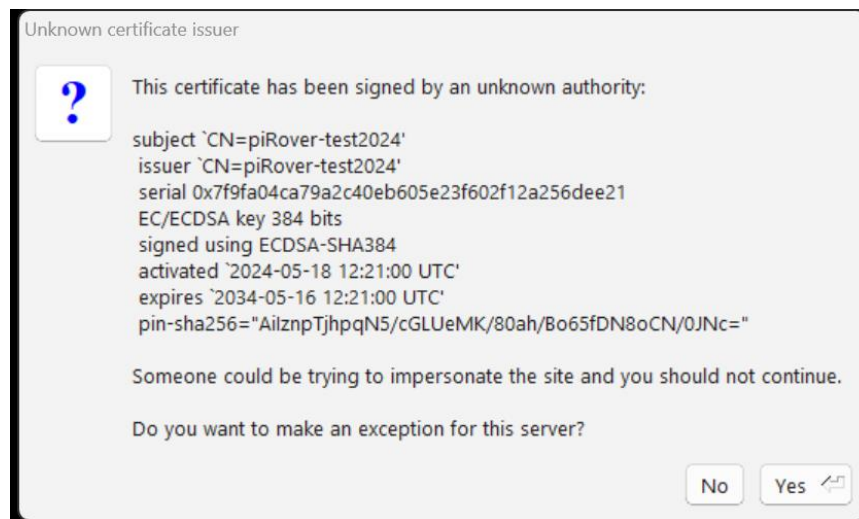
- a. Turn the power on to the piRover. Note the red LED indicating that power is applied and the flashing green LED light indicating activity.
- b. Allow time for the piRover to complete its boot process. The Yahboom software loads by default and you will hear four beeps indicating the Yahboom service on the piRover is ready.
- a. Open TigerVNC Viewer on your workstation. A typical connection window for **piRover.local** is shown on the following

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page. **piRover** is the host name and **.local** is appended due to the Ethernet peer-to-peer connection.



- b. The first time you connect, you will see the following security warning. This is due to the custom SD card being built and copied many times for each student. Click “Yes” to connect.



- c. Additionally, the host name may not match the initial. Click “Yes” to make the exception and connect. You will not see these warnings in the future.



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11. Enter the VNC Server address below when using the Ethernet connection. The server name (or hostname) is **piRover**. The **.local** is appended to the end due to the peer-to-peer network connection that is created over the Ethernet. Eventually you will connect via Wi-Fi and the .local specification is removed.

piRover.local

12. You must provide credentials to create the remote connection. Enter **pi** as the user and **nmc_ram** as the default password. You will continue to use pi as the user throughout the course. You will change the default password once you are connected.

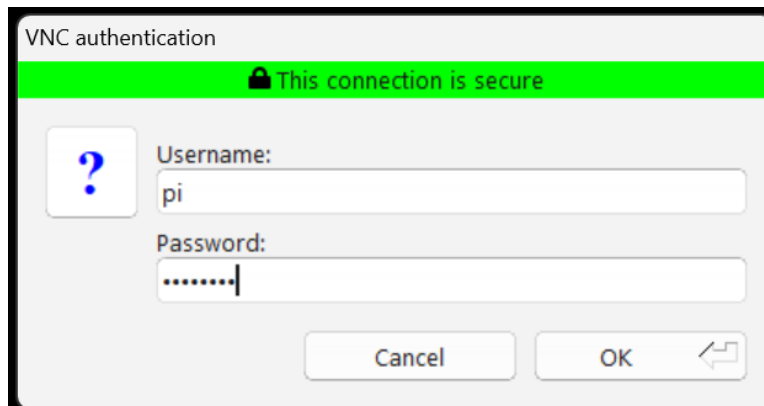


Figure 5 VNC Authentication

13. Click OK. A remote desktop is displayed.

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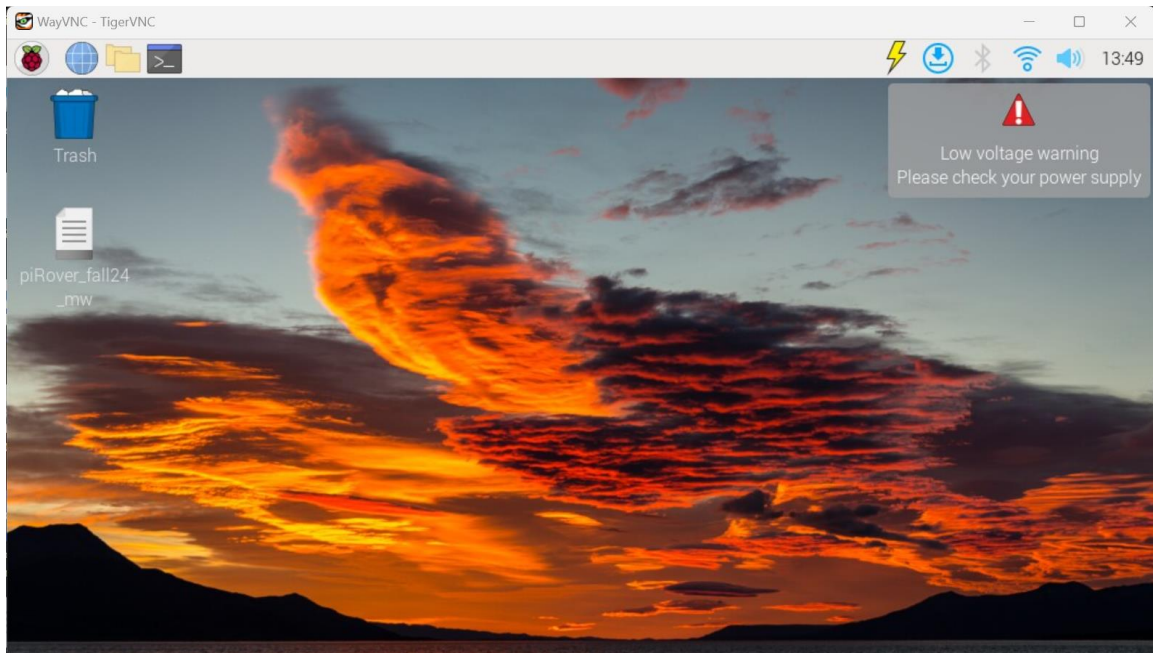


Figure 6 RPi Remote Desktop using VNC Viewer

14. Change the initial **nmc_ram** password to secure your system. Click the Raspberry in the top left corner and then click Preferences and then Raspberry Pi Configuration as shown below.

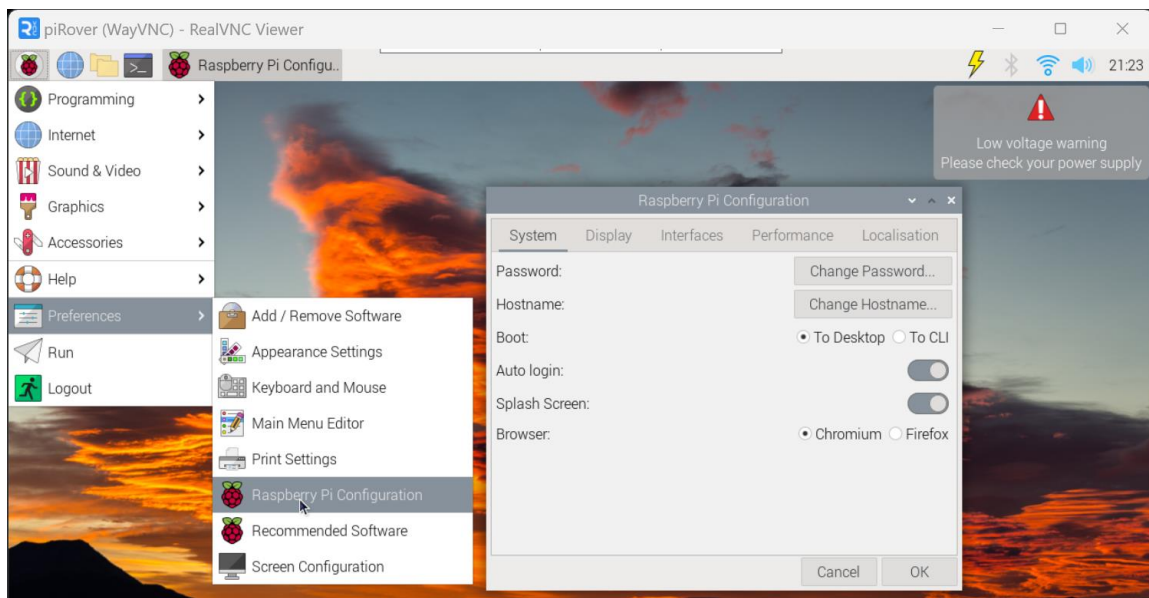


Figure 7 RPi Menu and Configuration

15. Click the Change Password button and enter your new password. Confirming the password will activate the OK button. Click OK and then close the configuration window. **NOTE:** You must remember your password! There is no administrative override or ability to reset.

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16. If you forget your password, you'll need to start with a new image of the operating system, reconfigure, and then restore any project work from your cloud storage.
17. Now that the password is updated. Restart the piRover using the menu as shown below.

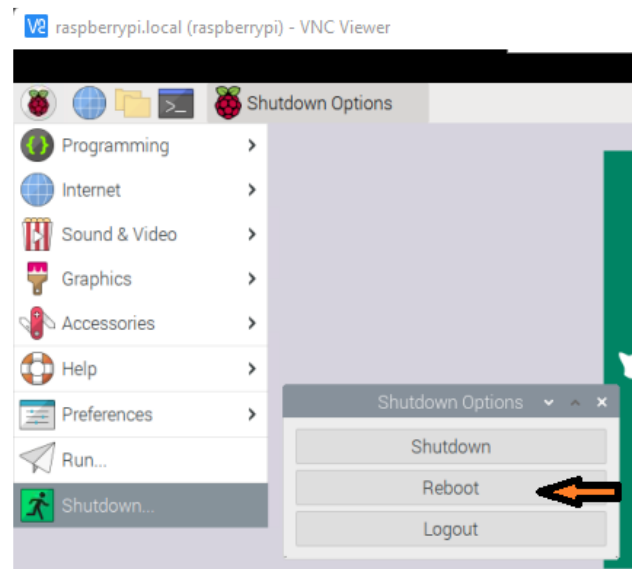


Figure 8 Reboot using the RPi Menu

18. The VNC view will lose the connection and attempt to reconnect.
19. Once the piRover boots, the Authentication screen will be displayed again. Enter **pi** as the username along with your new password. Click OK and the remote desktop will display.
20. The next step is to configure the piRover's Wi-Fi connection. Open the remote desktop and locate the Wi-Fi icon in the upper righthand location on the desktop.
21. Note this double-arrow icon shown on the right side of the taskbar. This symbol indicates that there is not a current Wi-Fi connection.



Figure 9 Taskbar showing no Wi-Fi connectivity

22. Click on this icon to select the Wi-Fi access point from the available list as shown in the image below.
 - c. The instructor will review access options if you are on NMC's campus.

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- i. Guest Wi-Fi – You must open the browser on your Pi and navigate to nmc.edu. A “terms and conditions” page is shown. Click to accept using the button at the bottom of the page.
- ii. NMC Wi-Fi Access Point (AP) for RAM devices. You’ll only need to set this connection once. This is new and its availability around campus is unknown at this point.
 1. SSID: **NMC-PSK**
 2. PSK/password: **Baffle-Amused-Stencil4**
- d. If you are connecting to your home access point or smartphone hotspot, you will need the required password or pass phrase.



Figure 10 Taskbar showing sample AP connections

23. Connecting to a secure Wi-Fi access point (AP) will cause the following password prompt to be displayed. Enter the required password and click the Connect button.

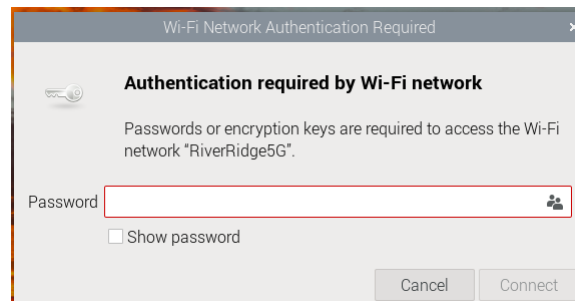


Figure 11 Wi-Fi authentication prompt

24. The icon on the taskbar will update to a typical Wi-Fi icon as shown below. Hovering over this icon will display details of your connection.

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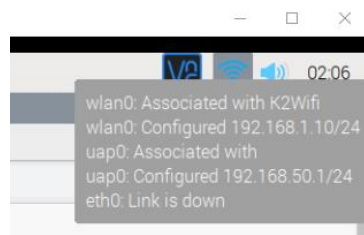


Figure 12 Wi-Fi connected with IP details shown

25. Verify that you have an Internet connection on the piRover by launching the browser using the icon on the taskbar and navigating to Google.com. The Google search page should load.

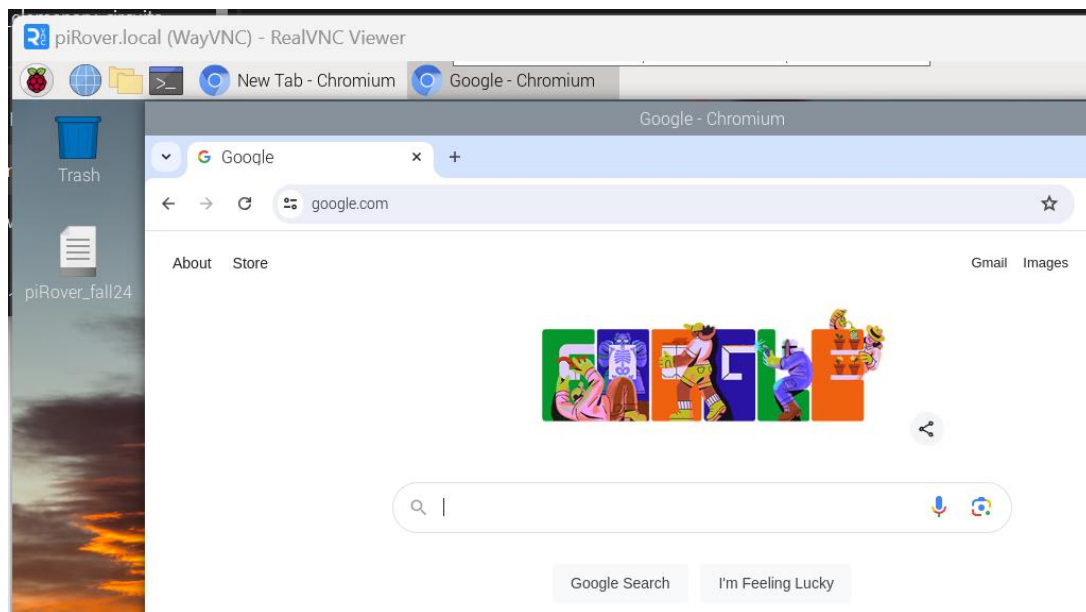
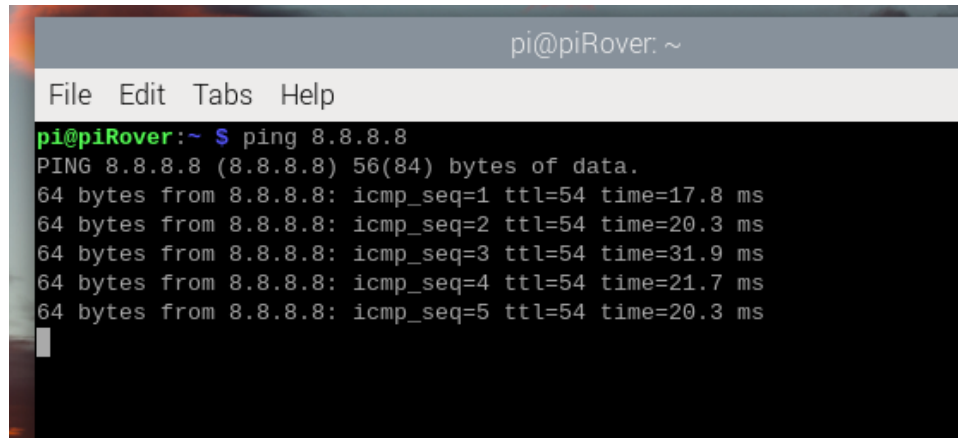


Figure 13 Browser with Google page loaded

26. A more common way for a developer to check for an Internet connection is to “ping” a server. Open a terminal window and enter the following command. This “pings” the Google name space server at 8.8.8.8. If your connection is good, you will see replies as shown below. Close the window or use Ctrl+C to stop.

ping 8.8.8.8

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```
pi@piRover: ~  
File Edit Tabs Help  
pi@piRover:~ $ ping 8.8.8.8  
PING 8.8.8.8 (8.8.8.8) 56(84) bytes of data.  
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=1 ttl=54 time=17.8 ms  
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=2 ttl=54 time=20.3 ms  
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=3 ttl=54 time=31.9 ms  
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=4 ttl=54 time=21.7 ms  
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=5 ttl=54 time=20.3 ms
```

Figure 14 Ping command showing replies

Assessment:

Your instructor will discuss any assessment action due at this time. You must be able to remotely connect to the piRover. All future piRover class activities are dependent on this remote connection.