

# Virtual Desktop Manager Client Administration Guide

Linux 2.1

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The VMware® Virtual Desktop Manager (VDM) Client allows end users to access their virtual desktops. You can configure the VDM client using command line options. You can also configure server information to prevent users from tampering with the server. If you have many configuration options, you can put them in a text file and reference the file using the `--file` command option. Using a text file also allows you to quickly update the configuration. This document explains the various options and provides several scenarios illustrating how you can combine options to produce certain behaviors.

## Command Line Options

### Using a Configuration File

Uses the specified configuration file to launch VDM. Using a text file for configuration options simplifies launching VDM and maintaining updates to the configuration.

`-f, --file=<file path>`

Where `<file path>` is the path to a file containing command line arguments.

**Example** `vmware-vdm --file=./file/config`

### Using a Connection Broker

Establishes connection with the VDM server when the VDM client is launched.

`-s, --serverURL=<broker URL>`

Where `<broker URL>` is the URL to the VDM connection server.

**Example** `vmware-vdm --serverURL=https://vdm.yourcompany.com`

### Specifying User Name

Specifies the user name to use when launching the VDM client.

`-u, --username=<user name>`

**Example** `vmware-vdm --username=jdoe`

## Specifying a Password

Specifies the password to use when launching the VDM client. Passing "-" as the password argument will prompt the user for the password from the console.

-p, --password=<password>

**Example** `vmware-vdm --password=secret001`

## Specifying a Domain Name

Use this when you want to have a domain specified when the VDM client is launched.

-d, --domain=<domain name>

**Example** `vmware-vdm --domain=companydomain`

## Specifying a Desktop

Specify a specific remote desktop to use for the VDM client.

-n, --desktopName=<desktop name>

**Example** `vmware-vdm --desktopName=WindowsXPDesktop`

## Using Noninteractive Mode

Noninteractive mode skips screens that are specified in the command line. For example, if the server, user name, password, and desktop are specified on the command line, the VDM client connects directly to the specified desktop when it launches. Use this option to hide unnecessary steps from end users.

-q, --nonInteractive

**Example** `vmware-vdm --nonInteractive`

## Using Full Screen Mode

Full screen mode hides the host operating system and shows the VDM client with a full screen background. Use this option to show only the VDM client on the thin client.

--fullscreen

**Example** `vmware-vdm --fullscreen`

## Specifying a Background Image in Full Screen Mode

Sets a background image when the VDM client is in full screen mode. The image is stretched to fit the monitor. The supported file types are system dependent.

-b, --background=<image>

Where <image> is the path to the background image file.

**Example** `vmware-vdm --background=./vdm/background.png`

## Forwarding a Device to a Remote Desktop

Redirects the local device to the remote desktop. Whatever you pass to --redirect will be passed directly to the -r option of rdesktop. This feature is limited to devices supported by rdesktop. See the rdesktop documentation for details.

-r, --redirect=<device info>

Where <device info> is the device information you want to pass to the -r option of rdesktop.

**Example** `vmware-vdm --redirect=lspci`

## Typical Configurations

If no options are set, the VDM client prompts users for all connection-related information. Some options can be automated to match some typical use cases as described in the following sections.

### Full Screen Thin Client

In this case, you want to preconfigure the broker for a thin client, hide the thin client's host operating system, and display a background with your company logo. You also want the client to skip unnecessary login screens.

Options to use:

- `--serverURL=<broker URL>`
- `--fullscreen`
- `--background=<image>`
- `--nonInteractive`

**Example** `vmware-vdm --serverURL=https://vdm.yourcompany.com --fullscreen --background=./vdm/background.png --nonInteractive`

### Full Screen Kiosk

In this case, you have a thin client that automatically logs in to a specified desktop with a specified user name, password, and domain. When launched, the client logs in to the connection server with the specified credentials and connects to the specified desktop.

Options to use:

- `--serverURL=<broker URL>`
- `--desktopName=<desktop name>`
- `--username=<user name>`
- `--password=<password>`
- `--domainName=<domain name>`
- `--nonInteractive`

**Example** `vmware-vdm --serverURL=https://vdm.yourcompany.com --username=kiosk --password=thepassword --domain=companydomain --desktopName=kioskXPdesktop --nonInteractive`

### Window Mode with Server Information Only

In this case, the thin client is used for several applications, including the VDM client. You want to specify only the server, without skipping any screens.

Options to use:

- `--serverURL=<broker URL>`

**Example** `vmware-vdm --serverURL=https://vdm.yourcompany.com`

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If you have comments about this documentation, submit your feedback to: [docfeedback@vmware.com](mailto:docfeedback@vmware.com)

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