5.3.1 Remote Desktop

Click one of the buttons to take you to that part of the video.

Intro 0:00-0:08

In this lesson, we're going to look at remote desktop, which lets you use one computer to control another.

Animation 0:09-0:27

To use remote desktop, both computers need to have a desktop sharing system installed. The remote computer runs the server version of the system, and the local computer runs the client version. The two computers use SSH tunneling to create a secure connection. Once the connection is made, the client user can operate the server computer as though they were in the same room.

Uses 0:28-0:50

Remote desktop is useful for many things. In enterprise situations, administrators can access servers directly without having to walk all the way to the networking closet. Helpdesk staff can troubleshoot and fix computer problems from their own workspace instead of having to oust their coworkers from their desk. Travelers can pack a lightweight laptop, but still have access to their powerful desktop resources as though they'd never left.

Features 0:50-1:04

Most remote desktop applications provide several important features. In addition to accessing remote computers, they can send print jobs to local printers, listen to audio from the remote system, and copy and paste data between the local and remote systems.

Considerations 1:05-1:47

There are several considerations to keep in mind when using remote desktop. While the remote session is active, the desktop on the target computer is locked. Interactive logons are blocked for the duration of the remote session. While the session is active, nobody else can log in without disconnecting the remote session first. Conversely, if another user is already logged on to the remote system, you can't establish a remote desktop connection without first logging out the existing authenticated user.

The quality of the remote desktop experience is heavily dependent on your network connection. For the best experience, the server needs a fast upload speed, and the client needs a fast download speed.

Finally, let's look at a few remote desktop systems and protocols for Linux.

Remote Desktop Technologies 1:44-2:07

The most common is VNC, which stands for Virtual Network Computing. Another one you'll run into is xrdp, which is an open-source implementation of Microsoft's Remote Desktop Protocol. NX is owned by NoMachine, a company in Luxembourg. SPICE, or Simple Protocol for Independent Computing Environments, is owned by Red Hat.

Summary 2:08-2:12

In this lesson, we talked about remote desktop connections. We discussed a few common use cases, went over common features, and listed some common remote desktop technologies.
