Connecting to a Virtual Desktop

In an effort to provide students and faculty with off-campus access to our computer systems, the School of Engineering provides access to a virtual desktop environment. Accessing a virtual desktop allows you to use a virtual copy of one of our lab computers – this means that users will have access to any software and network storage that would normally be available in our computer labs.

In order to access a virtual desktop, you’ll need **VMware Horizon Client**. This software will allow you to connect to our school network and open a virtual desktop. Please follow the steps below:

1) Download VMware Horizon Client here:  
   https://my.vmware.com/web/vmware/info?slug=desktop_end_user_computing/vmware_horizon_clients/4_0

   Choose the software version that matches your operating system.

2) Choose the **Typical** settings when installing. Once the installation is complete, you will have to restart your computer. Launch the VMware Horizon Client once you have rebooted.

3) The VMware Horizon Client will launch to the window pictured below- Double-Click **Add Server**.

![Add Server](image)

4) Enter: **vdi.soc.uoguelph.ca** into the dialogue box that appears and hit enter.

5) VMware Horizon Client will prompt you to enter your UoG credentials – please log-in with your username and password, similar to how you might log into your UoG email.

6) Once logged in, you will find the F2016 Main Pool icon. Double-click it to launch a Virtual Desktop.

The virtual desktop will launch and you can use it to access any of the software you would normally find on the School of Engineering Computer Labs. **N.B.** It is not recommended that you do any computationally intensive work using the virtual desktop, such as work in Solidworks or AutoCAD, as the performance will be much slower compared to working directly in the lab.