

Remote Desktop Connection to a windowing SAS server

The Stat department maintains a server that allows remote desktop connections (RDC). This machine is sas.stat.iastate.edu. This allows you to use windowing SAS without having it installed on your local PC. This will be very useful for off campus students that want to use SAS and don't have local access. You do need a fast (non-dialup) internet connection. RDC is part of the Windows (XP, Vista) operating system. I believe it is also included in recent Mac OS versions. The only thing you need for access to the server is a ISU netid (i.e. an e-mail account name).

Change from material in the lab manual: a VPN connection is not needed. This means you don't need to install any software before using a remote desktop connection.

Accessing SAS through a RDC:

Start up a RDC to sas.stat.iastate.edu. On a PC: Go to the Start Menu and select Accessories/Remote Desktop Connection. The computer id is sas.stat.iastate.edu. Click connect. On the next window, your user name is filled in for you, but it's wrong.

The second change from the printed notes: (actually more of a simplification). Delete "sas.stat.iastate.edu/" from the text in the user name field. You only want your netid there. For example, my ISU e-mail address is pdixon@iastate.edu, so I put pdixon in the username field.

Provide your password and click ok. If this works, you get a screen that looks like another windows desktop, except for a tab that says 'sas.stat.iastate.edu' in the top center. You now are working on the remote machine. Click on the SAS icon and you are running SAS on the remote machine, but all its windows are displayed on your local machine. You have file space on the remote machine. You can download files (e.g. using a browser) onto the remote machine. You can save results on the remote machine. You can cut and paste information from the remote machine to windows on the local machine.

The tab on the top center of the RDC window has a minimize button. If you click that, you are returned to windows on your local machine. You can restore the RDC window by clicking on the toolbar at the bottom of the screen. If you click the close button in the RDC tab, you shut down your connection.

Using a local printer or local files with an RDC connection:

You can use resources (printers, zip drives, files) on your local machine from the remote machine, but you have to think ahead. You need to do the appropriate setup **before** you connect.

After starting RDC, but before connecting, click on the options button. Select LocalResources/Check DiskDrives to access files or a zip drive. Select LocalResources/Printers to share your printer. You will have to provide the IP address for your local machine. You can get this by (on your local machine) going to the start menu and selecting run. Type cmd into the box labelled open. This opens a small window with a command prompt. In very old days, this used to be called a MS-DOS window. Type ipconfig and hit the enter key. You are looking for the string of digits and decimal points labelled IP address. If you've got multiple IP addresses, ignore the AFS related stuff. Copy the IP number and close the cmd window.

The Stat Dept IT folks have put together a video demonstrating remote desktop connections. The video was created when the SAS server was called `statcac2.iastate.edu`. That's changed (it's now `sas.stat.iastate.edu`), but the video might not yet be updated. The video is at:

<https://sws.stat.iastate.edu//protected/UniversityAccess/videos/TerminalServer/win-XP-RDP.swf.html>

This video will walk you through the process of starting a RDC connection and starting SAS.

These notes assume you will be using Windows SAS on a PC. This is available in the Snedecor computer rooms, Durham 139, Food Science 1432, Mackay 108/113, Agronomy G528, Lago W 207A, Pearson 0113, and many departmental computing rooms.