Using the Virtual Computer

Also known as "VDI" (Virtual Desktop Interface) or VMWare (publisher of virtual software)

Digital Learning Center

Ed Cunningham, Digital Learning Center Manager

Objectives

After viewing this presentation, you will be able to:

Define VIRTUAL COMPUTER

Download and install the appropriate VMware Horizon client for your computer (recommended)

Log in and access the virtual computer using the VMWare client OR using a browser

□ Save, upload, or share your files for future access.

□ Properly log off the virtual computer.

Get support, if needed, from the Digital Learning Center

Note:

The acronym "VDI" is synonymous with "Virtual Computer" You may also hear it referred to as "Virtual Machine" (VM)
 The words "VMware Horizon Client" and "Client" refer to the software interface used to access the virtual computer.
 Images in this presentation were taken on a PC running Windows 10 and Chrome browser.



What is the "virtual computer"

A virtual computer is "a computer that runs inside another computer"

Using the virtual computer

Your Windows 7 system



Becomes....

A Windows 10 system





What is the "virtual computer"

A virtual computer is "a computer that runs inside another computer"

Using the virtual computer

Your Mac system



Becomes....

A Windows 10 system



Using the virtual computer you can:



If you don't have Windows 10 on your computer, you can experience and learn Windows 10



Using your own computer, you can use the <u>software</u> that is installed on the Montgomery College virtual computer: Office 2019, Matlab, etc.

Microsoft Office 2019

- Access
- Excel
- PowerPoint
- Project
- Publisher
- Visio
- Word

Math Software

- Matlab R2020b
- Maple 2020
- Minitab 19
- R Studio
- Graph
- MathType
- Putty
- Geogebra
- TI 83/84 emulation
- Worlfram player

- A.D.A.M. Interactive
- Chemistry of Life
- Chem Draw
- Scientific Viwer
- Tracker
- Vlab

- Microsoft Visual Studio
- Microsoft SQL Server
- Oracle SQL Developer

In this presentation, we will cover:

Two ways to access the Virtual Computer

Install the VMware Horizon Client (recommended) and then launch the virtual computer.

Or

Use the link (URL) to the virtual computer using your computer's web browser.

Whether you are installing the VMWare Horizon Client, or you want to use the virtual computer using your web browser...



Navigate to:

desktop.montgomerycollege.edu

Do not enter "http" "https" or "www" before the link

desktop.montgomerycollege.edu opening page





× +



VMware Horizon

You can connect to your desktop and applications by using the VMware Horizon Client or through the browser.

The VMware Horizon Client offers better performance and features.

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Install VMware Horizon Client

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VMware Horizon HTML Access

O Check here to skip this screen and always use HTML Access.



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Click on the access options you wish to use.



Install VMWare Horizon Client



VMware Horizon

You can connect to your desktop and applications by using the VMware Horizon Client or through the browser.

The VMware Horizon Client offers better performance and features.

Install VMware Horizon Client VMware Horizon HTML Access

O Check here to skip this screen and always use HTML Access.

After you click on "Install VMWare Horizon Client" the following screen appears.

Note – this shows the top third of the screen. You can scroll down to see the available clients.

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	Horizon Community	
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This is the middle of the VMWare client install page. As you can see, there are clients for Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS

Select the VMWare client that is compatible with **your** computer.

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If you need help for mobile devices, please contact us at the Digital Learning Center.

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lf you have a Chromebook

It is important that you select the client that is compatible with your computer!

Here, the user has a Windows computer. Select download "Vmware Horizon Client for Windows"

It does not matter if your computer is Windows 10, 8, 7 or even Windows XP – just as long as it's "Windows"

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It is important that you select the client that is compatible with your computer!

Here, the user has a Mac computer. Selected download "Vmware Horizon Client for macOS

It does not matter if your computer is mac version Big Sur, Catalina, Mojave, High Sierra, Sierra, SnowLeopard, etc. As long at it's a Mac!

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After download is complete, double-click on the downloaded file.

If you don't know where the file downloaded to, you can search for the file name Vmware Horizon Client.

We can help you with file search at the Digital Learning Center



(Chrome browser was used for this illustration) 1

The client download will run very fast! What is being downloaded is a type of software called a "client." In this case, the "Vmware client"

A client software allows a networked computer to access a service made available by a remote computer called a "server".

See <u>www.computerhope.com/jargon/c/client.htm</u>



If your computer is connected to the internet, then it is "networked"



The service that Vmware provides are "virtual computers"

The client has been installed.

After the install, the client is one of the items on the START menu



(this illustration is from a Windows 10 computer)

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First time that the user clicks on "VMWare Horizon Client" Nothing to look at!

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That's because you have to specify a server to connect to. Click on "New Server"

User double clicked on New Server. The prompt asks the user to enter a server name.

The server name is **desktop.montgomerycollege.edu**



You won't have to enter the server name each time you start Vmware client. Once you have specified the server name, the client screen will open with our MC server specified as shown.



Double-click on the icon desktop.montgomerycollege.edu

Once the connection to **desktop.montgomerycollege.edu** is established, the user has to login.

The login user name and password is your MyMC login and password. Enter your login information, then click the login button.

The "Domain" is always MC – it's set already, but should you need to know it!



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Remember, once the client is installed on your computer, and it has been set to open desktop.montgomerycollege.edu. All you have to do is double click on the client.

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After you have logged in correctly, the screen will change.

Double-click on "Standard Desktop" and the virtual computer will launch!



The virtual computer has launched! In this view, the virtual computer shows as a window on top of your own computer.

But you can maximize the virtual computer and it will cover your entire desktop



In this view, the virtual computer has been maximized to fill the whole desktop of the client computer.

The virtual computer is Windows 10. This view shows some of the software tiles that are available.



The virtual computer features a toolbar, which allows you to apply settings to your virtual computer.

The slides that follow show the toolbar controls.



Simple toolbar settings A single left click toggles the setting:

Ð \$ \equiv Options \checkmark \clubsuit Connect USB Device \checkmark \clubsuit Send Ctrl-Alt-Delete \times Ģ Standard Desktop This PC Google Chrome Clicking on the pushpin icon allows Clicking on the dash will Clicking on the windows you to hide the toolbar when you minimize your virtual will display your virtual don't need it, or keep computer so you can computer as a window the toolbar "docked" on top at all use your own computer. on top of your own times. computer. Databases Math Firefox



Clicking on the X will disconnect your

virtual computer

Clicking on **Options** displays a drop down box, where you can apply specific settings to the virtual computer that you are using.

Note: Get familiar with the settings first. You will find that default settings are fine. Digital Learning Center can help you apply settings.





What's so special about "Send Ctrl-Alt-Delete" (?) It's on the options menu and on the toolbar....



On a Windows computer, pressing the **Ctrl-Alt-Del** keys together switches the desktop to a menu that allows you to:

- Lock the computer
- Switch users
- Start the task manager (helps to stop software that has locked up)
- Log out



When you are running the virtual computer, if you press **Ctrl-Alt-Del** keys, <u>your own computer</u> will respond.

But if you want to send Ctrl-Alt-Del to the virtual computer, you need to use the command on the menu bar or on the options menu.

Ending your virtual computer session is as simple as logging out or just disconnecting!



Or click on the START Icon and select "log out" If you select **disconnect and logout**, the following prompt appears. Click on OK. If you just select **disconnect**, the virtual computer will just shut off.

Either way, you will return back to your own computer.

Important! Save your files!

When using the virtual computer, the most important feature to know is **saving your file**....

How do you save your files on the virtual computer?

When you launch **This PC** or **File Explorer** on the virtual computer, the folders and "C" drive are contained on the virtual computer. Any files you save in the virtual computer will be gone once you disconnect.

These locations are all on the virtual computer! The virtual computer does access areas where you can save copies of any files you create with the virtual computer.

File saving containers you can access with the virtual computer:

The College's Academic Network
 Anywhere on the internet such as

OneDrive

Google Drive

Email systems

- **You can upload to Blackboard**
- **Your USB key**
- **Your own computer's drive**

The last two above (in red) you must setup first on your virtual computer. It's not difficult, and we can show you how at the Digital Learning Center!

This image shows Academic Network Containers, the USB drive, and two locations on the user's own computer.

In this illustration, the virtual computer's "This PC" shows several containers that are located <u>on my own computer</u>. These containers were set up using the VMWare client

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To share folders between the virtual computer and your own computer.

Open "Options" on the toolbar and select "Share Folders"

Dialog box opens, select "Drive Sharing"

Two folders have been set to share between the virtual computer and my own computer.

In the "This PC" view of the virtual computer, the two shared folders are shown. They are assigned drive letters F: and W:

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To share your USB stick, select "Connect USB Device" on the toolbar

USB has been inserted. The virtual computer's "This PC" view shows the USB stick is assigned drive letter E:

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As long as you are using the same computer to access the virtual machine, the drive shares you establish will stay defined. You don't have to recreate them again each time you use the virtual computer. Let's take a look at access option 2, using your browser

Connect to the virtual computer without using the VMware client, just the browser on your computer.

What about the virtual computer that I can access just with my web browser?

Yes! You can access the virtual computer using your computer's web browser.

- Start your web browser Chrome is preferred, but any browser will work.
- Navigate to <u>https://desktop.montgomerycollege.edu</u>

Let's take a look!

Chrome browser entered https://desktop.montgomerycollege.edu

This is the opening screen.

You will be prompted to login. Your login is your MyMC login name and your MyMC password.

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Once you have logged in, this screen appears. Click on "Standard Desktop" to launch the virtual computer.

The virtual computer is now running on my browser.

In this illustration, the Windows 10 virtual computer is running on Chrome browser of a Windows 7 laptop.

My own computer's controls

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Running the virtual computer on your browser is quick and easy, <u>but you have a limitation</u>. The virtual computer does not have any way to save files to your own computer's drive or USB stick.

The virtual computer does connect to the College's academic network (K drive) which you can use to save files created with the virtual computer. (Faculty & staff can access their "home" network drive "U")

If you are using your own computer's browser to log into the virtual computer, you can upload files from your computer to the virtual computer.

To upload, you need to open the virtual computer's tooltab that you see on the left side of the desktop

Tool tab is open.

Click to send CTRL-ALT-DEL to the virtual computer.

Use the toolbar to upload files from your computer to the virtual machine.

Transfer files dialog box opens.

Locate the file you want to transfer from your computer to the virtual computer.

In this example, the file is in "Documents" folder

File has been transferred to the virtual computer.

Note: transferred files are located on the virtual computer's "Downloads" folder.

If I'm using my computer's **browser** to log into the virtual computer but I can't save my files to my hard drive or to my USB stick...where can I save my work?

There are some options:

□ You can connect to your "cloud" OneDrive or Google Drive from the virtual computer and save your files there .

You can connect to your email from the virtual computer and attach your file.

□ You can connect to Blackboard to submit your file.

□ You can access the MC Academic network and save your file to K:\USERS\Students

If you need help, please contact us at the Digital Learning Center.

You can login to your Blackboard account from the virtual computer and submit your files

Here, a student using the virtual computer has started Chrome browser installed on the virtual computer, navigated to MyMC, and has logged into Blackboard

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Just remember....

Whether you log into the virtual computer using the VMWare client, or your browser; **the virtual computer does not keep copies of your files.**

When you disconnect, <u>any files saved on the virtual</u> <u>computer are gone.</u>

Remember to save a copy of your work on your own:

- Cloud drive (OneDrive, Google Drive)
- Network drive ("K" drive)
- Use email
- (If you use the client) set up a shared folder area on your own computer to save your files.
- (If you use the client) save your files to your USB stick.

Now that you know about the virtual computer---try it out!

- Try out Windows 10 if your own computer doesn't have it.
- Try out Office 2019 and other software installed on the virtual computer
- Safe web browsing

The Digital Learning Center

