

XRDP

Debian Host

- Step 1: Install Xfce4 and xRDPFirst, open your terminal and install the desktop environment and xRDP packages (these examples use Debian/Ubuntu-based distributions):

```
sudo apt update
sudo apt install xfce4 xfce4-goodies xrdp -y
```

- Step 2: Configure the Desktop Session. You need to tell the xRDP server to load the Xfce desktop environment instead of the default Linux desktop. Set Xfce4 as the default for your active user, then make the file executable:

```
echo "xfce4-session" > ~/.xsession
chmod +x ~/.xsession
```

- Step 3: Edit the xRDP Startup ScriptTo prevent session dropouts, update the global xRDP configuration file:Open the file with your preferred text editor, comment out the last 2 lines and add as follows:

```
sudo nano /etc/xrdp/startwm.sh
# test -x /etc/X11/Xsession && exec /etc/X11/Xsession
# exec /bin/sh /etc/X11/Xsession
startxfce4
exit 0
```

- Step 4: Add the xRDP User to the SSL Cert Group. On some systems (like newer Debian versions), the xrdp user needs permission to read the SSL certificates, otherwise, you might experience black screen issues:

```
sudo adduser xrdp ssl-cert
```

- Step 5: Enable the Service:

```
sudo systemctl enable xrdp
sudo ufw allow 3389
```

- Step 6: Restart the Service and open the Firewall. Restart the xRDP service to apply all configuration changes:

```
sudo systemctl restart xrdp
sudo ufw allow 3389
```

- Step 7: You can now open the Remote Desktop Connection app on Windows or the Microsoft Remote Desktop app on Linux. Enter your Linux computer's IP address and log in using your standard Linux username and password.

Windows 11 Client

- Open the built-in *Remote Desktop Connection*
- Disable Persistent Bitmap Caching?
 - Click *Show Options* at the bottom
 - Switch to the *Experience* tab
 - Uncheck the box for *Persistent bitmap caching* and try logging in
- Log Out of the Local Machine. If you are logged into the physical Debian machine (or a local VM console) with the same user account, the remote RDP session will fail instantly. Go to the physical monitor/console of your Debian host and completely Log Out of the desktop session.

Self-signed certificates

- If you get a *xrdp certificate mismatch*

Trust the Existing Self-Signed Certificate

- Launch your *Remote Desktop Connection* and enter the server's hostname.
- Click *View Certificate* on the security warning prompt.
- Go to the Details tab and click *Copy to File*.
- Save the .cer file to your local computer.
- Double-click the saved .cer file, click *Install Certificate*, choose *Local Machine*, and select *Place all certificates in the following store*. Browse and pick the **Trusted Root Certification Authorities** store, then finish the import.

Hostname changed

- If the hostname has changed you need to re-issue the self-signed certificate:

```
sudo make-ssl-cert generate-default-snakeoil --force-overwrite
```

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