Pre-Course Laptop Setup Guide

# Laptop Setup and Check

Before attending, it is essential that you check your laptop is suitable for the course and perform a few simple steps to get it ready for when we start the practical sessions. Please make sure it if functioning correctly and efficiently before coming to the course. You will be fully responsible for the safety and security of your own laptop at all times on the course.

1. Download and install the Firefox web browser. All our tutorials have been tested in this browser without issues. We have experienced issues with Chrome, Safari and some versions of Internet Explorer so we recommend you stick with Firefox. It is usually possible to install web browsers without providing Administrator credentials. Download link: <https://www.mozilla.org/en-GB/firefox/new/>
2. The rest of this guide is divided into sections by operating system so please follow the relevant section for your laptop.

# Windows

1. Download ‘Putty’, an application to enable you to use a remote login method called ‘SSH’ (Secure SHell). Putty can be downloaded from the following link and can be setup without providing Administrator credentials:
   1. <http://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/latest.html>
   2. You will need to check whether you have a 32-bit or 64-bit version of Windows and download the corresponding version of Putty. The following Microsoft support guide explains how to do this: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-gb/help/827218/how-to-determine-whether-a-computer-is-running-a-32-bit-version-or-64-bit-version-of-the-windows-operating-system>
2. Test your ability to connect to a remote server via an RDP (Remote Desktop) connection **Note: Please only do this once and quit as soon as you have successfully tested (also this process may vary slightly depending on your version of Windows)**
   1. Open the Remote Desktop Connection application (the simplest way is by searching for ‘remote desktop’)
   2. Click on the ‘Options’ button at the bottom of the ‘Remote Desktop Connection’ window and enter the following details:
      1. Computer: xx.xx.xx.xx
      2. User name: yyyyyy
   3. You will then be prompted to enter the password, which is as follows:zzzzzz
   4. Click on ‘Yes’ when prompted about security certificates
   5. Once you have confirmed that the Windows desktop has loaded and you can see the ‘Start’ button in the bottom-left corner of the screen, please close the connection by clicking on the ‘X’ symbol on the right of the blue task bar at the very top of your monitor; please do not use this for any other purpose
   6. If all of this has worked without issues then you have successfully confirmed you have RDP access, please right click on the connection named ‘rdptest’ and click on ‘Delete’

# Mac OSX

1. Download the Microsoft Remote Desktop Connection app for OSX, available from the link below:
   1. <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/microsoft-remote-desktop/id715768417?mt=12>
2. Test your ability to connect to a remote server via an RDP (Remote Desktop) connection **Note: Please only do this once and quit as soon as you have successfully tested.**
   1. Open the Remote Desktop Connection app
   2. Click on the ‘New’ button (with a plus symbol) and enter the following details:
      1. Connection Name:rdptest
      2. PC Name: xx.xx.xx.xx
      3. User name: yyyyyy
      4. Password:zzzzzz
   3. Close the ‘Edit Remote Desktops’ window by click on the red cross button in the top left corner
   4. Under ‘My Desktops’, double click on the connection named ‘rdptest’ and click continue if prompted about any security certificates etc.
   5. Once you have confirmed that the Windows desktop has loaded and you can see the ‘Start’ button in the bottom-left corner of the screen, please close the connection by moving the cursor to the very top of your monitor, clicking on ‘Window’ and then clicking on ‘Close Connection’; please do not use this for any other purpose
   6. If all of this has worked without issues then you have successfully confirmed you have RDP access, please right click on the connection named ‘rdptest’ and click on ‘Delete’