

Virtual Computing Lab (VCL)

What is VCL? Virtual Computing Lab or VCL is a service that allows Duke users to reserve a computer with specialized software and access it remotely from anywhere that you have Internet access.

What software is available? Virtual machines are available for current versions of Matlab (Windows XP & Linux) as well as Microsoft Office (Windows XP). Course specific images are also available for Nicholas School of the Environment.

Making a reservation. Reservations can be made for up to 8 consecutive hours total through a web interface. At the scheduled time, the image is loaded onto a virtual machine, which is accessible from the user's desktop via Remote Desktop client.

Before You Get Started: Installing Remote Desktop Software

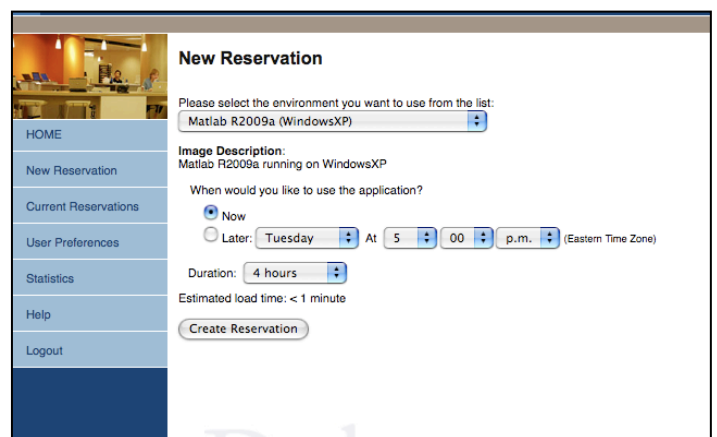
Before you get started, make sure you have Remote Desktop software installed on your computer. If you are using a Windows computer, you will automatically have a remote desktop client. It is located in All Programs > Accessories > Remote Desktop Connect. If you are using Mac or Linux and do not have a Remote Desktop client, you will need to download one before making a reservation to use the VCL.

Mac	http://www.microsoft.com/mac/products/remote-desktop
Linux	http://www.rdesktop.org

Getting Started

Step 1: Making a Reservation

1. Go to: <http://vcl.oit.duke.edu>. If you are not already in an authenticated browser session, you will be prompted for your Duke NetID and password. The main VCL page will display any current reservations that you have made.
2. To create a new reservation, select **New Reservation** from the left hand menu. You will then be able to select the environment

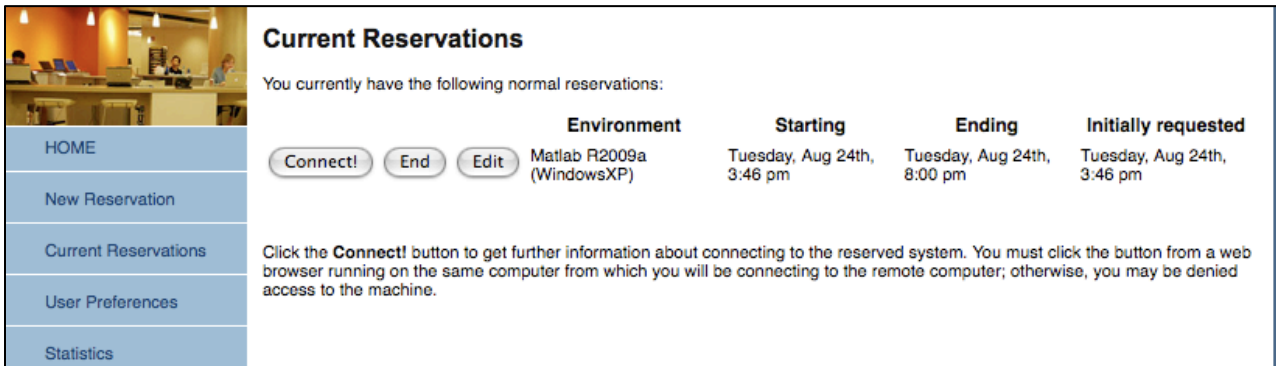


from the drop down menu, select the date and time for your reservation (now or later) and the duration for your reservation (up to 4 hours at a time.)

3. Click Create **Reservation**.

Step 2: Connecting your computer

1. After you have created the reservation it will automatically display in your list of current reservations. The reservation will typically be ready in just a few minutes. When it is ready the page will automatically refresh and allow you to connect. Click **Connect**.



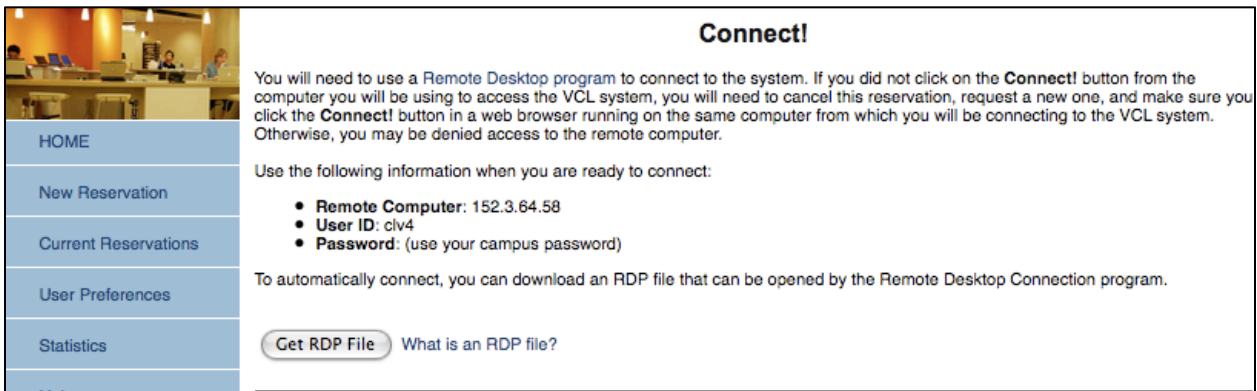
Current Reservations

You currently have the following normal reservations:

Environment	Starting	Ending	Initially requested
Matlab R2009a (WindowsXP)	Tuesday, Aug 24th, 3:46 pm	Tuesday, Aug 24th, 8:00 pm	Tuesday, Aug 24th, 3:46 pm

Click the **Connect!** button to get further information about connecting to the reserved system. You must click the button from a web browser running on the same computer from which you will be connecting to the remote computer; otherwise, you may be denied access to the machine.

2. You will then be prompted to get the Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) file. Click **Get RDP File**.



Connect!

You will need to use a Remote Desktop program to connect to the system. If you did not click on the **Connect!** button from the computer you will be using to access the VCL system, you will need to cancel this reservation, request a new one, and make sure you click the **Connect!** button in a web browser running on the same computer from which you will be connecting to the VCL system. Otherwise, you may be denied access to the remote computer.

Use the following information when you are ready to connect:

- **Remote Computer:** 152.3.64.58
- **User ID:** clv4
- **Password:** (use your campus password)

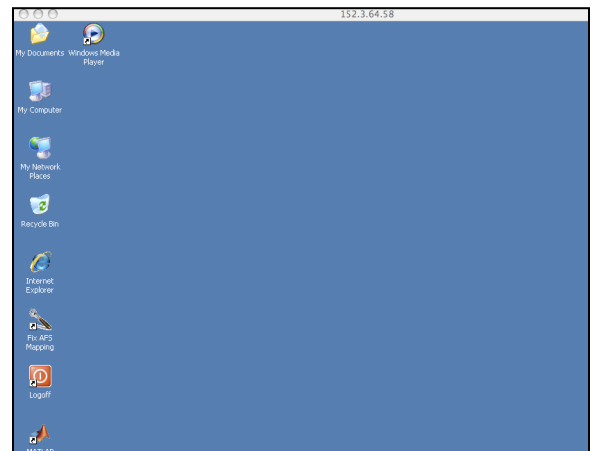
To automatically connect, you can download an RDP file that can be opened by the Remote Desktop Connection program.

[Get RDP File](#) [What is an RDP file?](#)

3. Open the RDP file using the Remote Desktop connection that is available on your computer.

4. When you are prompted, login with your Duke NetID and password.

You are then connected to a virtual computer.



TIPS:

- Watch the time. When your reservation expires, you will automatically be disconnected.
- Files left on the remote machine will be deleted at the end of the reservation. It is recommended that while working, you use and save files on the virtual machine and then COPY them to your local computer or your AFS Space (webfiles.duke.edu) before your reservation time expires.
- To extend your reservation, return to the VCL web interface (<http://vcl.oit.duke.edu>) and select Current Reservations > Edit. (NOTE: You are able to extend for up to 8 consecutive hours before requesting a new connection.)

Resources

- For more information, visit: <http://oit.duke.edu/comp-print/labs/vcl/>
- For help connecting to VCL, contact the OIT Service Desk at (919) 684-2200 or help@oit.duke.edu