

# VNC: Connecting to the Rutgers Astrolab Server Remotely

To connect to the Rutgers Astrolab server remotely from your own PC (or laptop), follow the steps below. If you have a Mac that runs OS X, simply download and install *Chicken of the VNC*. Your username on this system is your last name (removing spaces and punctuation, if any). Each of you has a unique 2-digit session number; this will be the same number throughout the semester.

## I. Download VNC

1. <http://www.tightvnc.com>
2. Download the latest version of TightVNC.
3. Follow the steps for installing the program. When you're done, you should have a *TightVNC* icon on your desktop.

## II. Connecting to *astrolab* using VNC Viewer (or *Chicken of the VNC*)

1. Click on the *TightVNC* desktop icon.
2. Enter your VNC Server: **astrolab:##** if you are on the Rutgers network  
or **astrolab.rutgers.edu:##** if you are coming in from the outside  
**##** refers to the session number that you've been assigned.  
Then click the "Connect" button.
3. *Password:* Your password is the last six digits of your student ID number (with leading zeros if appropriate).  
A second password request will probably come up – this is normal – don't panic!

You should now be connected to the **astrolab** server at Rutgers.

By clicking on the *Terminal* icon, a window will open. It is in this "environment" that you'll start with your command prompts. A prompt will appear in the form of **[user@astrolab ~]\$**

When you are finished with your session, *don't log out!* Just click on the "x" in the box at the upper right corner of the screen.

## III. A Browser-based Alternative

If you don't want to (or are not allowed to) install *TightVNC* on your computer, you can accomplish the same thing using your web browser. Go to the URL:

<http://astrolab.rutgers.edu:58XX>

where you substitute your session number for the XX. This must be 2 digits, so if you are session 3, you would use :5803. Use your password as discussed above.

## IV. Download SSH and FTP

These programs are used to connect to Astrolab from your Windows PC and to transfer files. Go to <https://software.rutgers.edu/> and login using your RUID and password. Scroll to the bottom of the window and click on "Remote Access Client" under the Utilities group.

