

## **How to setup VNC on Mac OS X (Instructions given here are tested for Mac OS X 10.6.8)**

VNC stands for Virtual Network Computing. It is a technology for remote desktop sharing and enables the desktop display of one computer to be remotely viewed and controlled over a network connection.

### **Setup:**

**On the remote machine (the machine you want to connect to from your mac), do the following:**

#### **step1**

create a VNC server password using 'vncpasswd'

```
[sowjanya@uboonedaq-evb ~]$ vncpasswd
```

Password:

Verify:

This step is required only the first time and the remote users must supply this password when prompted in order to authenticate. So, make sure you remember this password.

#### **step2**

start VNC server using the following command:

```
vncserver :xx -geometry screen_resolution -localhost
```

here, 'xx' is the display number on the VNC server (you can choose any number b/n 00 and 99); replace 'screen\_resolution' with your Mac's screen resolution. eg.,

```
[sowjanya@uboonedaq-evb ~]$ vncserver :65 -geometry 1440x900 -localhost
```

**On your Mac, do the following:**

#### **step3**

setup a tunnel to your VNC session over ssh using the following command:

```
sowjanyagollapinni$ ssh -C -N -q -K -L 5900:localhost:59xx username@uboonedaq-evb.fnal.gov &
```

In the above, replace 'xx' in 59xx with the display number you chose in step 2; replace 'username' with your username. It would be useful to note here that the port number that appears before the ':localhost:' in the above command is for the local machine (your Mac) and the port number that appears after it is for the remote machine you are trying to connect.

#### **step4**

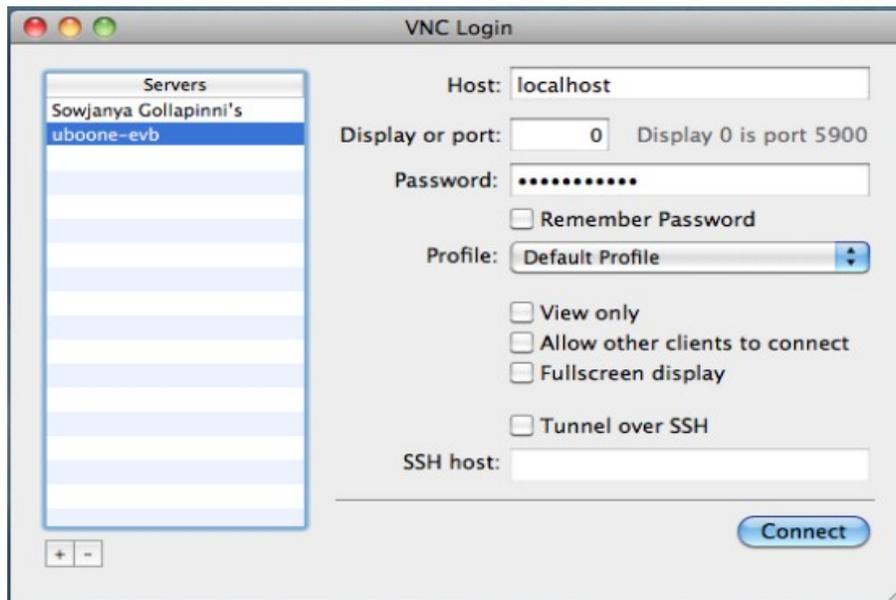
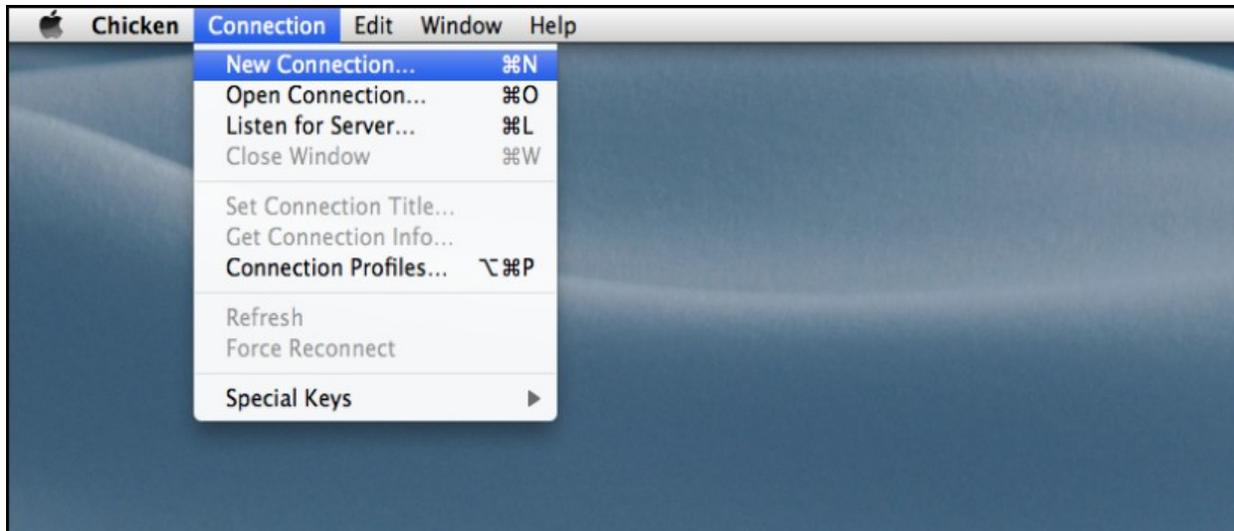
download a VNC client for Mac from internet (or use Mac's built-in VNC client (see page 3))

eg., 'chicken vnc' (<http://sourceforge.net/projects/chicken/>)

or

'chicken of the vnc' (<http://sourceforge.net/projects/cotvnc/>).

Once installed, connect your VNC client to the local host you specified in step3. To do this, open a new connection from the connection menu of the VNC client, and configure the connection by giving 'localhost' under the Host and the VNC password you created earlier in step1. Also remember that if you use a port number other than 5900 for your local machine, then make sure you specify the correct port number in the VNC client.



**Note:**

1. Once you connect to the VNC server from your Mac, if you like you can switch to the full screen mode. To get out of the full screen mode, remember to do `ctrl+option+command+`` on your Mac, otherwise you will be stuck in the full screen mode!
2. To kill a VNC server on the remote machine, do `vncserver -kill :xx` (where xx is the display number you chose in step 2)
3. You can always see if a VNC server is running by doing, `sowjanya@gollapinni$ps -u $USER | grep vnc`

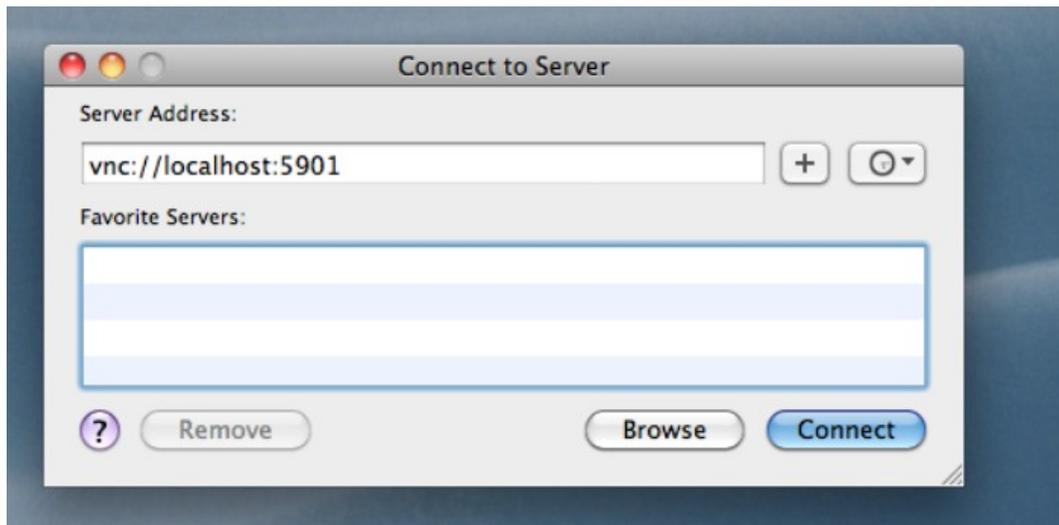
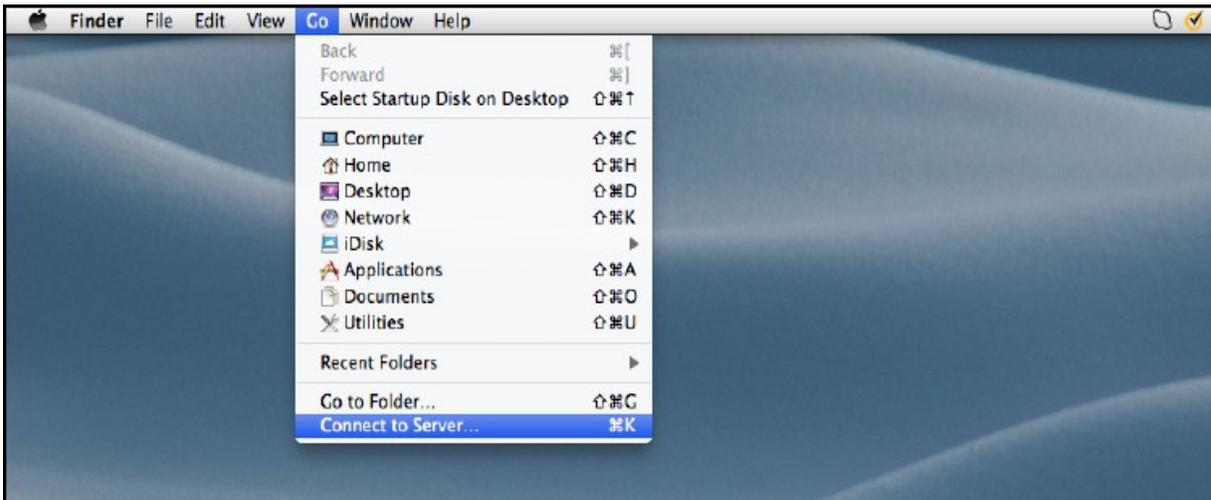
## Using Mac's built-in VNC client

### Opening Mac's VNC client:

click on Finder and press command+k

or

click on empty space on your Mac's desktop and from the top menubar click on the 'Go' menu, then select 'connect to server', this opens a new window.



In the window, under server address, give

vnc://localhost      or      vnc://127.0.0.1      (if 5900 is the port number used for the local machine)

or

vnc://localhost:x      or      vnc://127.0.0.1:x      (if a port number other than 5900 is used)

for eg.,

if port 5901 is used on your Mac, give

vnc://127.0.0.1:5901      or      vnc://localhost:5901

and click 'connect'.

**Important Note:**

For some reason when you use 5900 as the port number for your local machine (Mac), Mac's VNC client doesn't like to connect to it and comes back with an error similar to: 'cannot connect to itself, cannot connect to your own box.'

So, when using Mac's built-in VNC client, a simple work around the problem is to use a port number other than 5900 for your local machine when doing SSH, i.e.,

```
sowjanya@laptop:~$ ssh -C -N -q -K -L 5901:localhost:59xx username@ubooneDAQ-evb.fnal.gov
```

(This problem doesn't seem to exist if you use 'chicken VNC' or 'chicken of the VNC' !)