

STRW/LION Remote Desktop Services

To make working from home or from a Flexdesk as easy as possible we have build a Remote Desktop Facility that provides you with a full graphical desktop, which is running inside the University Campus, available from you private device such as a personal desktop or laptop. Many of you have already been using your institute Windows desktop as a graphical desktop server, but this requires you to leave that system power on during your absence. In fact for those that do not have an institute desktop (flexdesk users) there was only limited access to the Texel server possible.

With the implementation of a Remote Desktop Service (RDS), you have access to a farm of servers providing you the same experience as your institute desktop as graphical sever. In fact accessing the RDS farm is even much simpler and the way to access it does not depend on your location, on or off premises.

Below we describe in some detail how to access the RDS farm from the three major operating systems.

For all systems, you need to download a .rdp file from the RDS server. To do this go to its WEB interface at <https://rds.physics.leidenuniv.nl> and login with your PHYSICS or STERREWACHT domain credentials.

The screenshot shows the login interface for STRW/LION Remote Desktop Services. At the top, there are logos for Sterrewacht Leiden and LION (Leiden Institute of Physics), followed by the title "STRW/LION Remote Desktop Services" and the subtitle "RemoteApp and Desktop Connection". A "Help" link is in the top right corner. The main login area contains two input fields: "Domain/user name:" with the text "STERREWACHT\ydeul" and "Password:" with masked characters. Below these is a "Security" section with a red warning message: "Warning: By logging in to this web page, you confirm that this computer complies with your organization's security policy." A "Sign in" button is positioned below the warning. At the bottom, a note states: "To protect against unauthorized access, your RD Web Access session will automatically time out after a period of inactivity. If your session ends, refresh your browser and sign in again."

Now confirm your 2FA:



Leiden Institute of Physics

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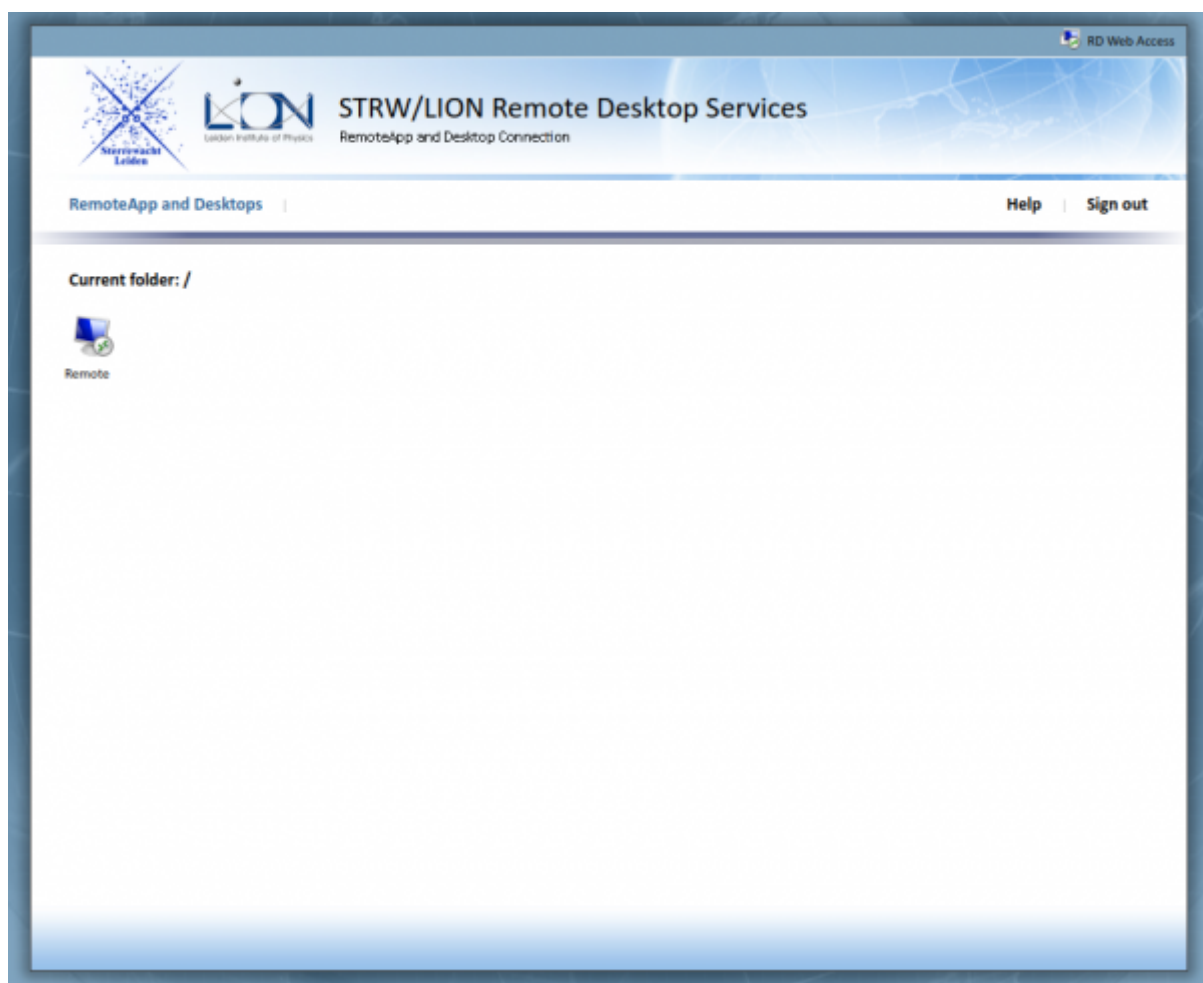
Secured by Duo

Device:

Choose an authentication method

Enter a passcode from Duo Mobile.

After you have logged in you see a page with a remote computer icon. Click on the icon and a file will be downloaded. The file has a funny name, but has the extension `.rdp`

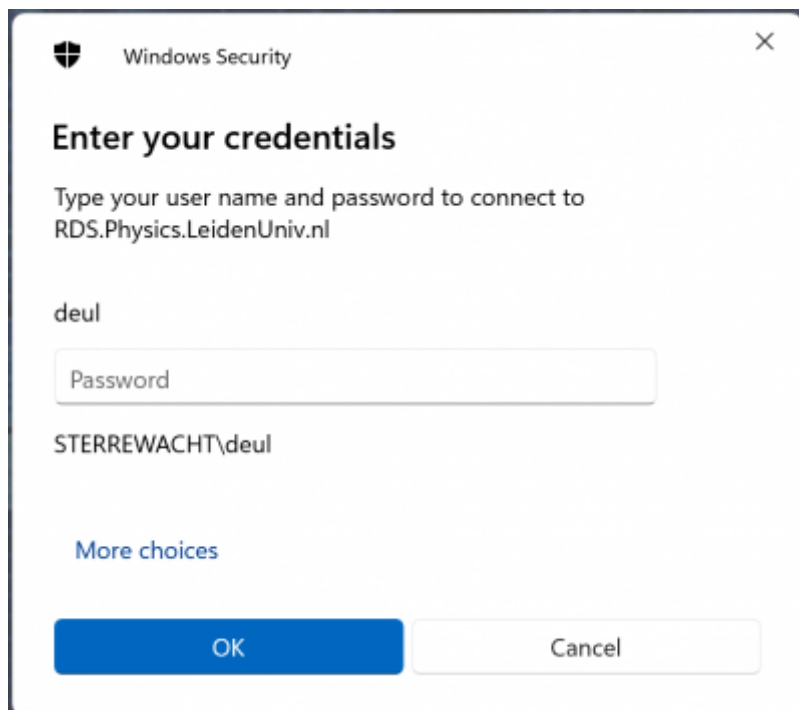


The next steps are OS dependent.

From Windows

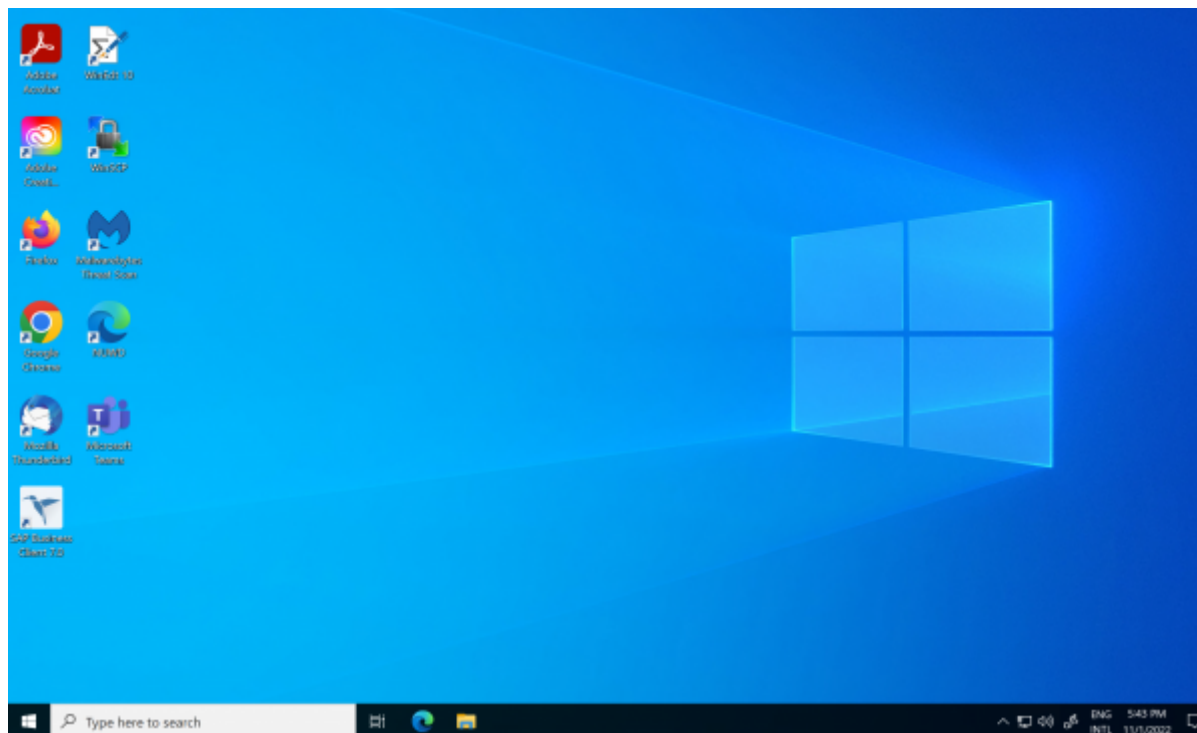
Copy the just download file to your desktop and rename it to a name which you associate with remote access to the institute servers. Do not change the extension.

Once the rdp file is on your desktop it is visible as the same icon you saw on the WEB page of the RDS server. Now double click the icon and your remote desktop client will start asking for your credentials:



Enter your PHYSICS or STERREWACHT domain credentials. and click OK.

Now on your phone you will get a request to confirm your 2FA factor. Once you have done that you will be provided a windows in which the Remote Desktop is started.



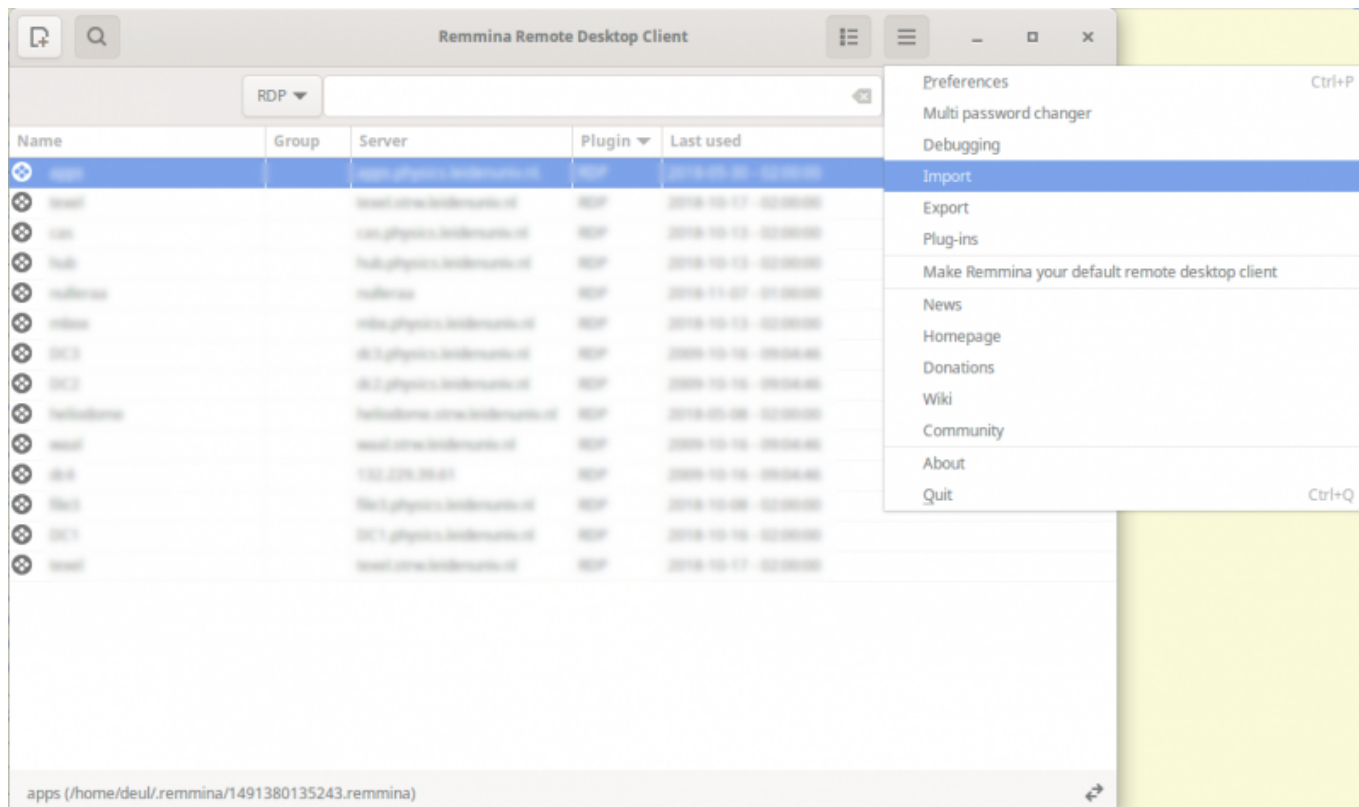
From MacOS

From Linux

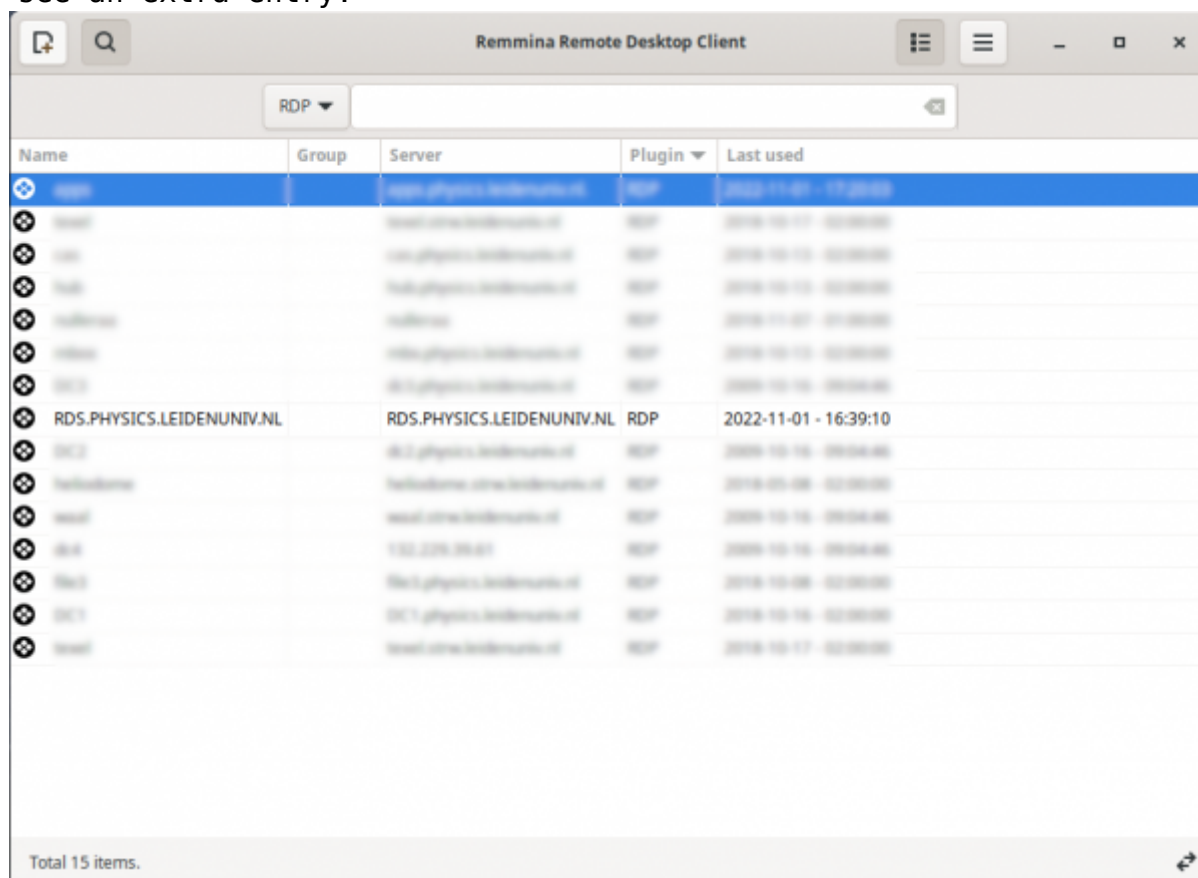
For Linux we use the package remmina to setup the remote desktop connection. So open your remmina program by typing on a terminal commandline:

```
remmina
```

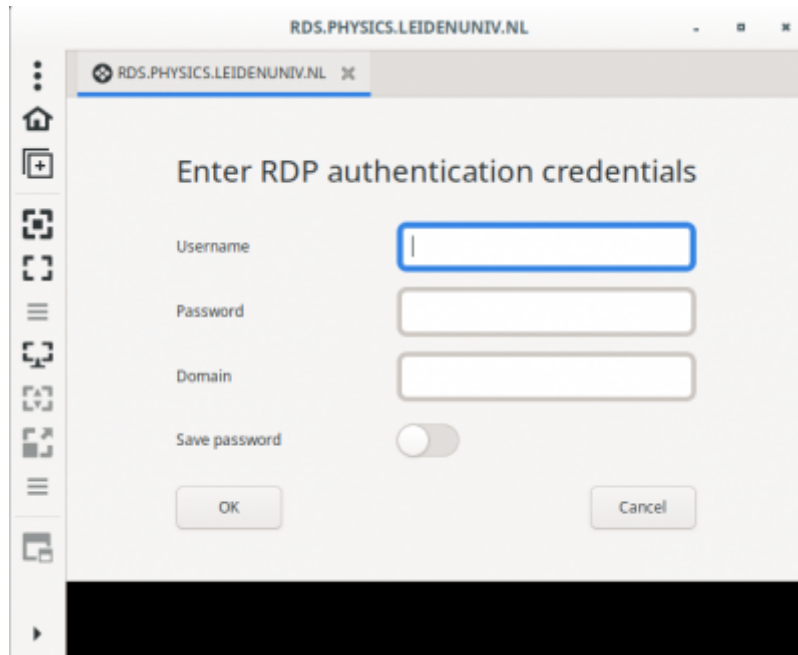
Now your 'remmina' window is open and select from the Hamburger icon on the right the Import option:



With the file browser select the just downloaded .rdp file. After the file is imported you will see an extra entry:

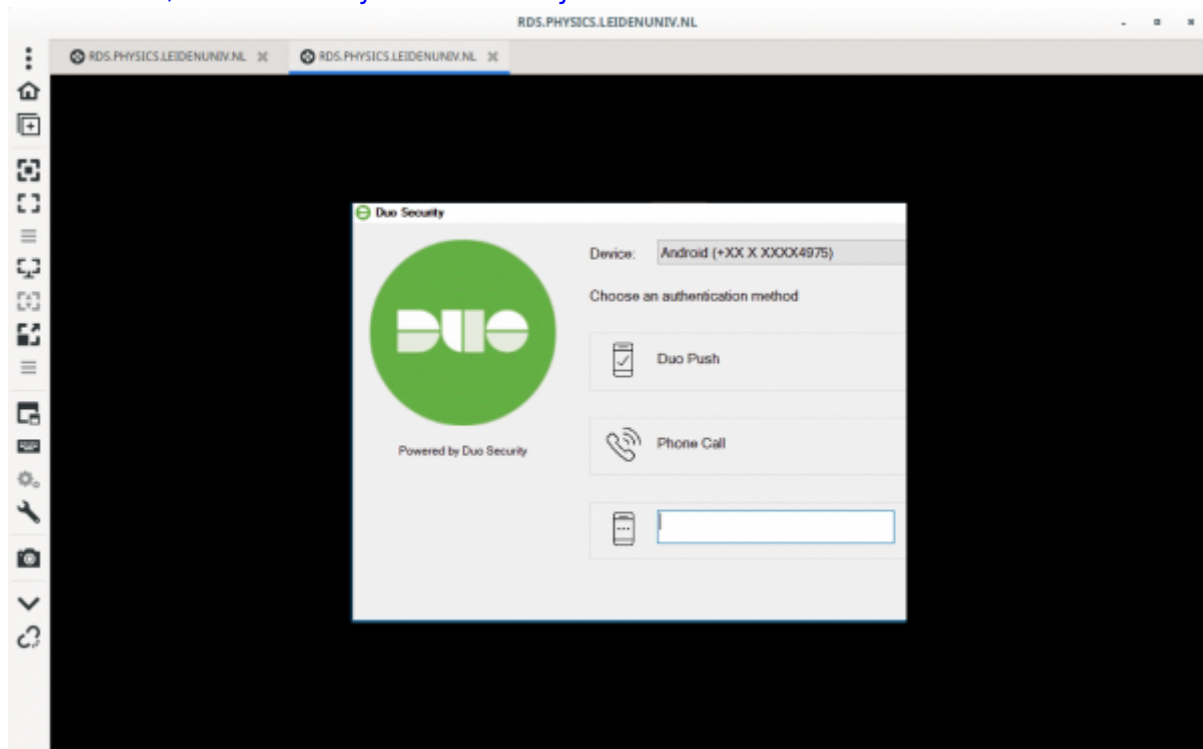


Now double click that new entry and you will be presented a login window:

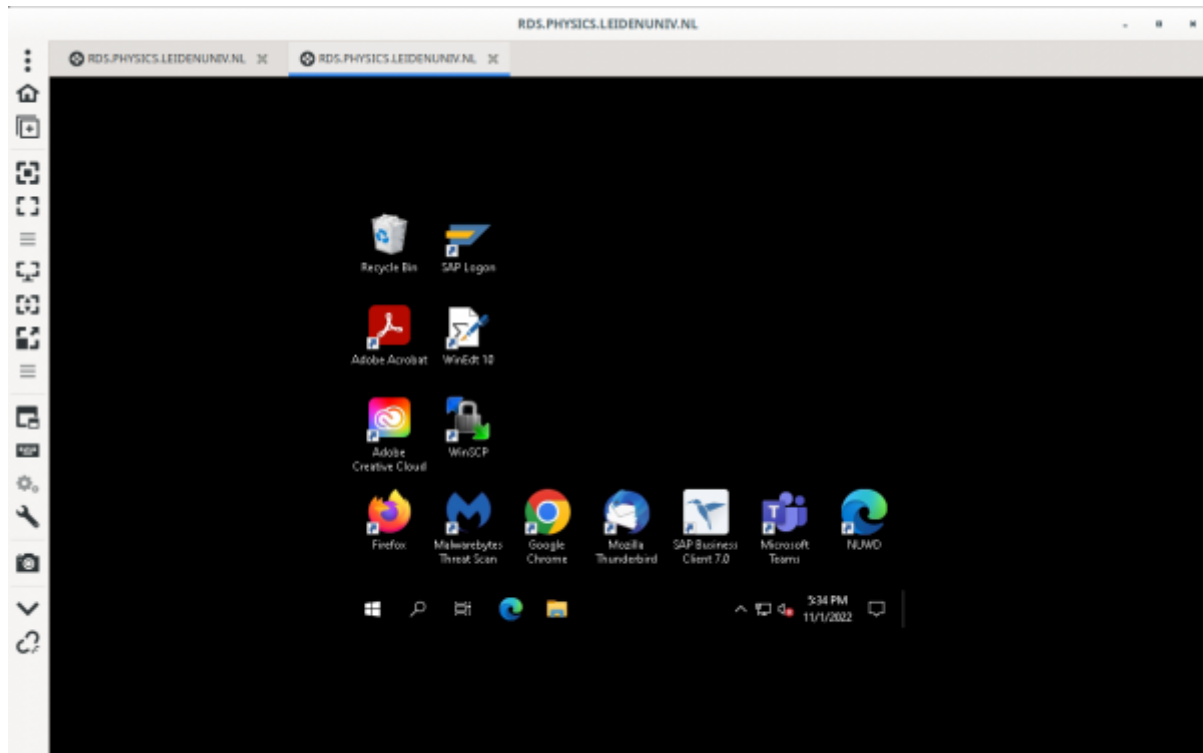


The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title "RDS.PHYSICS.LEIDENUNIV.NL". The main content area is titled "Enter RDP authentication credentials". It contains four input fields: "Username", "Password", and "Domain", each with a corresponding label. Below these fields is a "Save password" toggle switch, which is currently turned off. At the bottom of the form are two buttons: "OK" and "Cancel". The browser's address bar shows the URL "RDS.PHYSICS.LEIDENUNIV.NL".

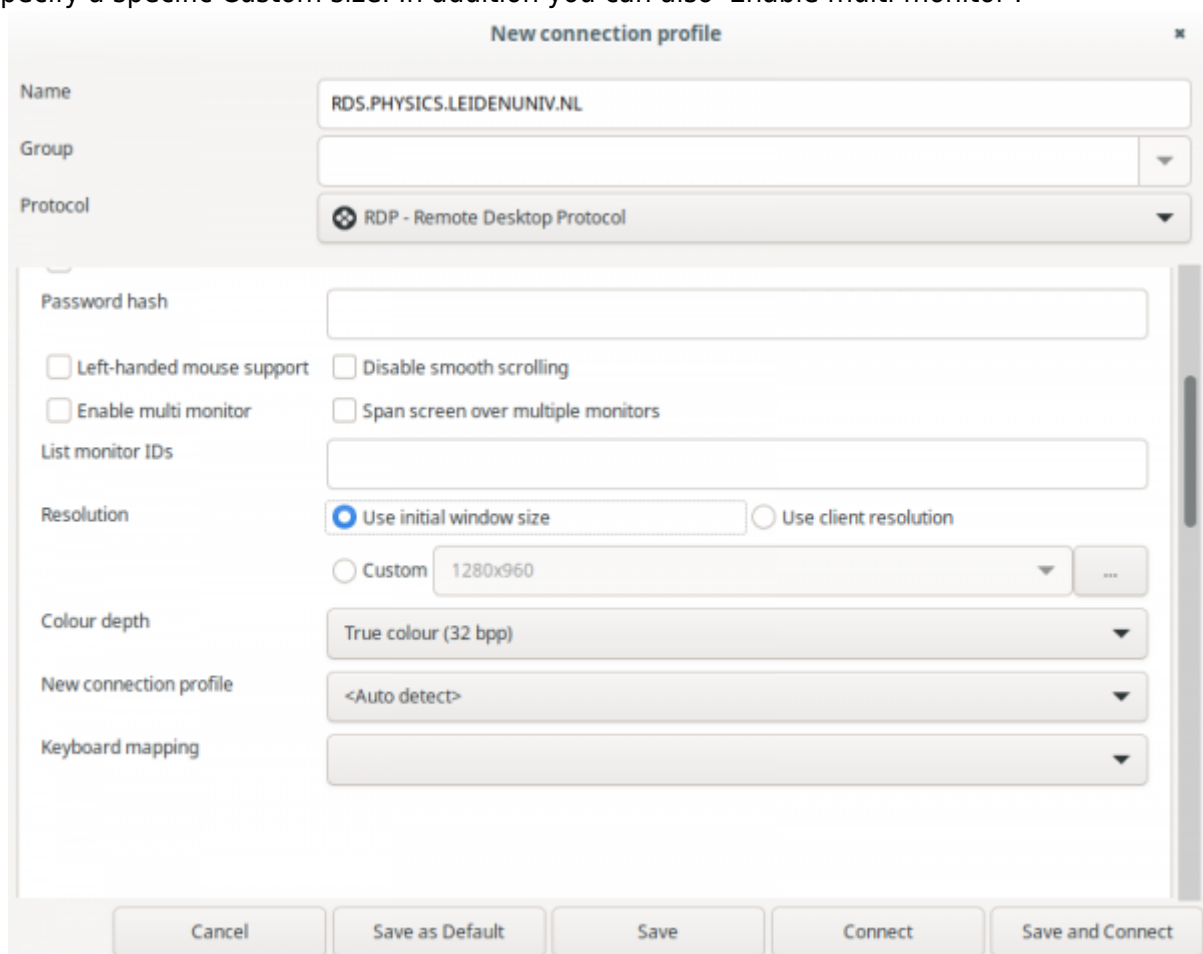
Enter your PHYSICS or STERREWACHT credentials and click on OK. And now you are logging in onto a server in the farm, but not after you confirmed your 2FA.



The problem with the vanilla configuration is that it does not do a good job on the scaling. It starts out with displaying a very small desktop:



To correct that you have to edit the configuration of the RDS entry in the main window of remmina" and specify a specific Custom size. In addition you can also 'Enable multi monitor':



From:

<https://helpdesk.physics.leidenuniv.nl/wiki/> - **Computer Documentation Wiki**

Permanent link:

<https://helpdesk.physics.leidenuniv.nl/wiki/doku.php?id=manuals:rds&rev=1667321125>

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