

The VINCI Workspace for Beginners

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VA Informatics &
Computing
Infrastructure



VINCI Workspace User Guide

On VINCI Central under User Guides

Home About VINCI Skip to Content

VINCI Central

Welcome to the VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure

Keyword Search Search

Timothy Trautman
VINCI Email: VINCI@VA.gov
Concierge Desk: 1-801-872-3324
Request Help Online

- Launch Workspace
- New To VINCI
- My VINCI Dashboard
- VINCI University
- VINCI Tube
- VINCIPedia/FAQ
- User Guides**
- VINCI Services
- Computing Cloud
- Data Sources
- Applications
- Events
- Policies and Forms
- Quick Links

User Guides

VINCI User Guides

Showing 1 to 3 of 3 entries Filter:

Type	Guide Name	Description	Last Updated
	VINCI Database User Guide	This guide provides users with step-by-step instructions on how to access and query their study's SQL database in the VINCI Workspace, getting started with using SAS, and using CDW Project Specific databases.	2017-02-01
	VINCI File Transfer Guide	This guide explains how to upload and download files to the secure VINCI Workspace.	2017-02-01
	VINCI Workspace User Guide	This guide is intended to provide users with pre-requisites and instructions on accessing the VINCI Workspace for the first time as well as instructions on using the VINCI Workspace.	2017-03-27

Previous 1 Next

Additional Resources

- VINCI SAS Grid Guides
- SharePoint site
- Veterans Administration
- SAS® Users Group
- (VASUG) SharePoint site
- Acceptable Use Policy for SAS/Grid
- Grid - Where to begin?

About the VINCI Workspace

- The VINCI Workspace is a FREE high-performance computing environment that serves research and operations business intelligence communities
- Firewall provides enhanced data security
- Access to computing power, software tools, databases, SAS/Grid, file and data storage
- Can be accessed from outside the VA through VA VPN solutions of Rescue and CAG
- The VINCI Workspace and shared project folders allow for national collaboration in a research group

About the VINCI Workspace

■ Comes in two variations

■ Standard Workspace

- Standardized environment
- Shared resources
- Fixed software package

■ Development Workspace

- Special purpose usage
- Custom coding
- Use of non-standard TRM approved software



VINCI Standard Workspace

- Windows Server 2012 Enterprise R2 x64 SP2 Operating System on 3 load balanced servers
- No elevated (administrative) permissions
- Fixed software package
- 4 shared CPUs totaling 32 cores
- Shared 128 GB RAM
- No Internet access



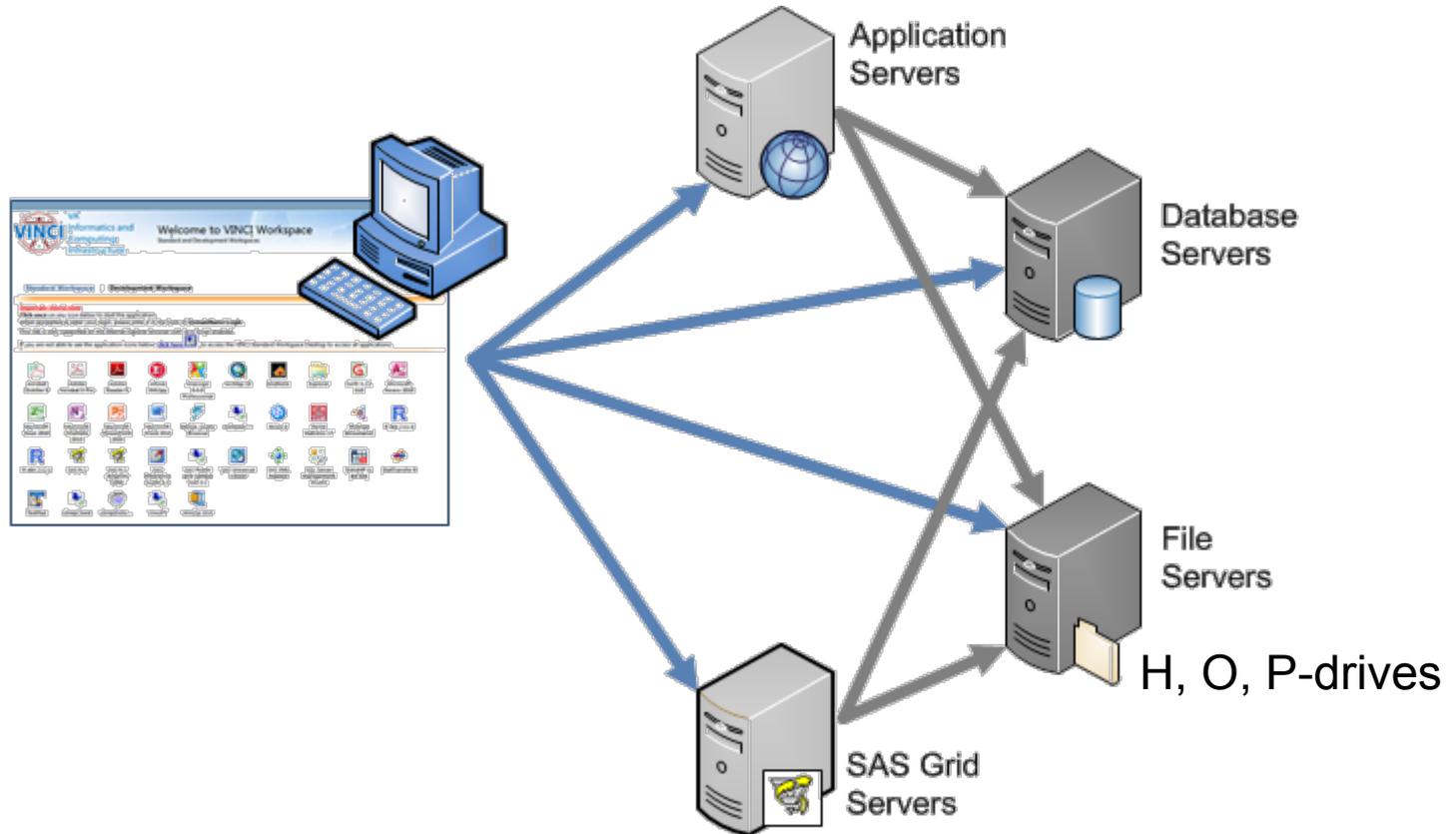
VINCI Development Workspace

- Windows Server 2012 Enterprise R2 x64 SP1 or Linux Operating System
- Elevated permissions allowed*
- Install additional software yourself
- 1 processor core
- 4 GB RAM
- No Internet access



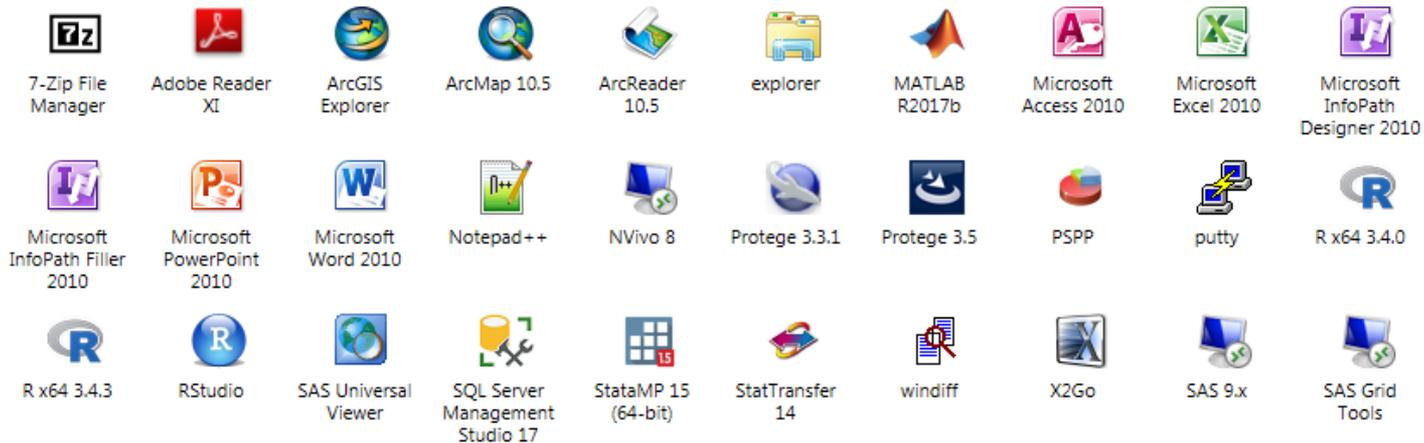
* VINCI does not provide elevated access approvals - see your ISSO.

VINCI Workspace Architecture



VINCI Workspace Software

- VINCI provides ArcMap, STATA, R, SAS, PSPP, MATLAB, NVivo, SSMS, and other software for FREE
- Additional and updated software added when funded



Poll Question #1

What is your level of experience with the VINCI Workspace? (select all that apply)

- I have not used it
- I would like to use it
- I am a beginning user
- I am an intermediate user
- I am an advanced user

VINCI SAS/Grid Environment

- Maintain and Support two SAS grids: Operations and Research
- Over 2 million compute minutes per month
- Leading VA in authentication using AD on Linux Platform
- PIV Card Support



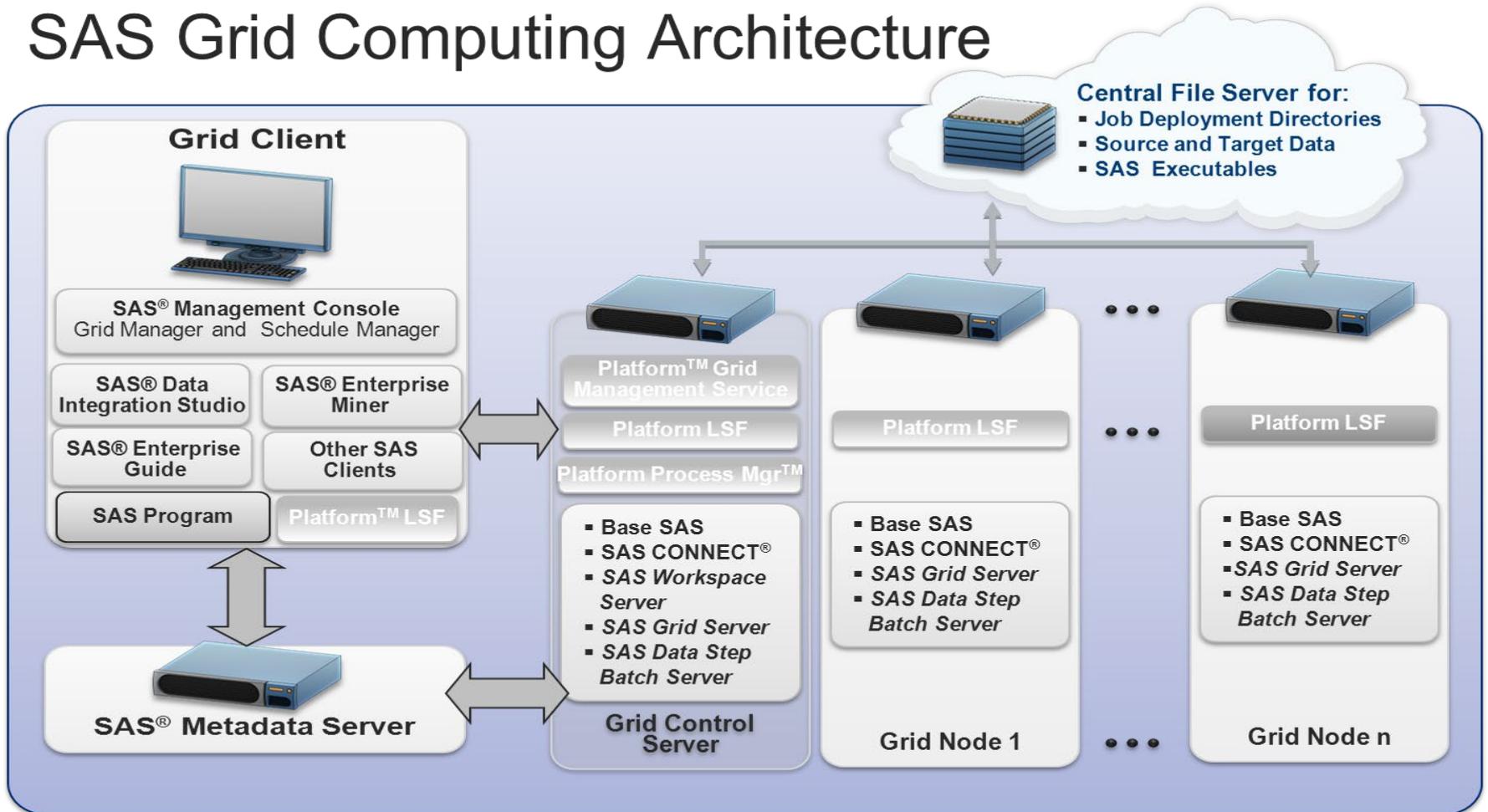
VINCI SAS/Grid Environment

- Distributed management of SAS jobs
- 3 clustered Linux servers (RHEL 7 as O.S.)
- Hybrid server solution of physical blades and smaller Virtual Machines
 - 2 physical blade servers each having 1024GB of RAM, 16 CPUs and 150 job slots per server
 - 1 VM server with 256GB of RAM, 8 CPUs and 50 job slots
- 40GB Ethernet connection to CDW/VINCI data servers
- Latest SAS9.4 release (T94M5)



VINCI SAS/Grid Environment

SAS Grid Computing Architecture



VINCI SAS/Grid Environment

- SAS Enterprise Miner is very robust and easy to use. It also allows rapid, efficient data mining and modeling with a minimal amount of programming (parameter inclusions). Proc IML (Interactive Matrix Language) also allows the inclusion of R into the SAS world.
- SAS Enterprise Guide is a point-and-click, menu and wizard-driven tool that empowers users to analyze data and publish results.



VINCI SAS/Grid Environment

- Why use SAS/Grid over regular SAS?
 - Load-balanced, parallel-processing in a very robust venue
 - Greater NetApp storage arrays
 - All statistical procs reside on the Grid, not the Desktop
 - More efficient OS venue
 - Greater security
 - SAS Display Manager (desktop) no longer updated



Poll Question #2

What is your level of experience with the VINCI SAS/Grid? (select all that apply)

- I have not used it
- I do not need to use it
- I would like to use it
- I am a beginning user
- I am an intermediate user
- I am an advanced user

Accessing the VINCI Workspace

- On VINCI Central, click **Launch Workspace**

Home About VINCI Skip to Content

VINCI Central

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Launch Workspace

New To VINCI

My VINCI Dashboard

VINCI University

VINCI Tube

VINCIpedia/FAQ

User Guides

VINCI Services

Computing Cloud

Data Sources

Applications

Events

Policies and Forms

Let's Collaborate VAI

Quick Links

Voogle Notes

New To VINCI
Learn more about VINCI, VINCI Studies and the virtual

My VINCI Dashboard
All your VINCI resources in one place!

VINCI University
Here you learn more

VINCI Tube
Videos on all things VINCI

VINCIpedia/FAQ
VINCI's forum for research &

User Guides
Let us guide you through

VINCI Services
Support and concierge

Computing Cloud
Computers, software, and

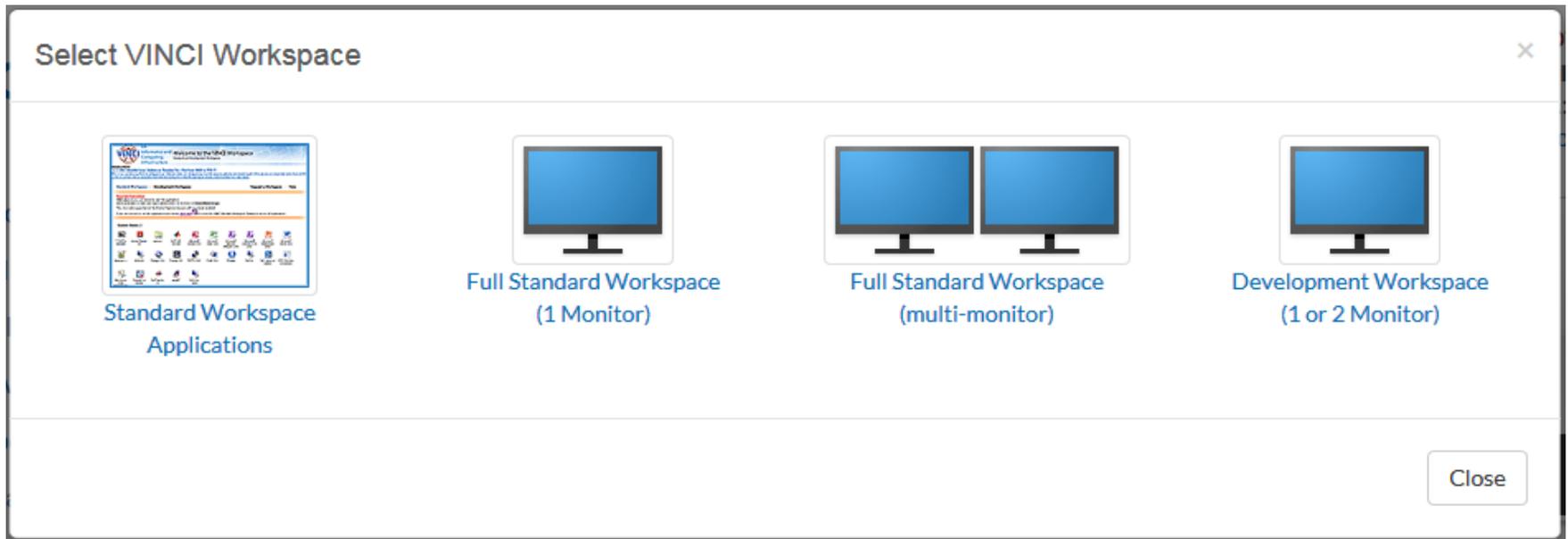
Data Sources
Learn about our available data

Applications
Applications available in VINCI

VINCI Cyberseminar:
VINCI SAS/GRID –
Tricks of the Trade and
Open-Source Inclusion
Thu, Jul 12, 2018 2:00PM

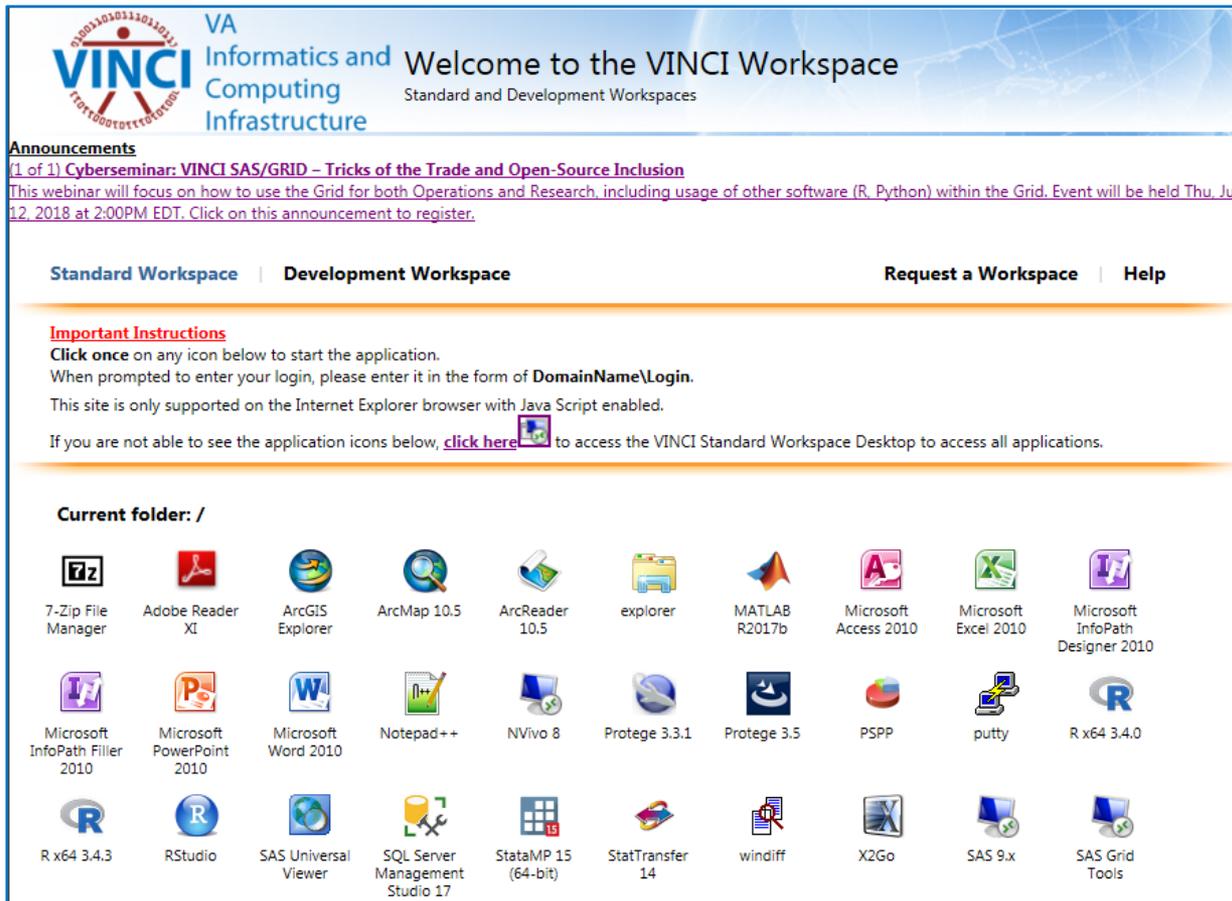
Accessing the VINCI Workspace

- This gives you 4 options:
 - Standard Workspace Applications (launch one at a time)
 - Full Standard Workspace (1 monitor)
 - Full Standard Workspace (multi-monitor)
 - Development Workspace (1 or 2 monitor)



VINCI Workspace Web Interface

To launch one application at a time

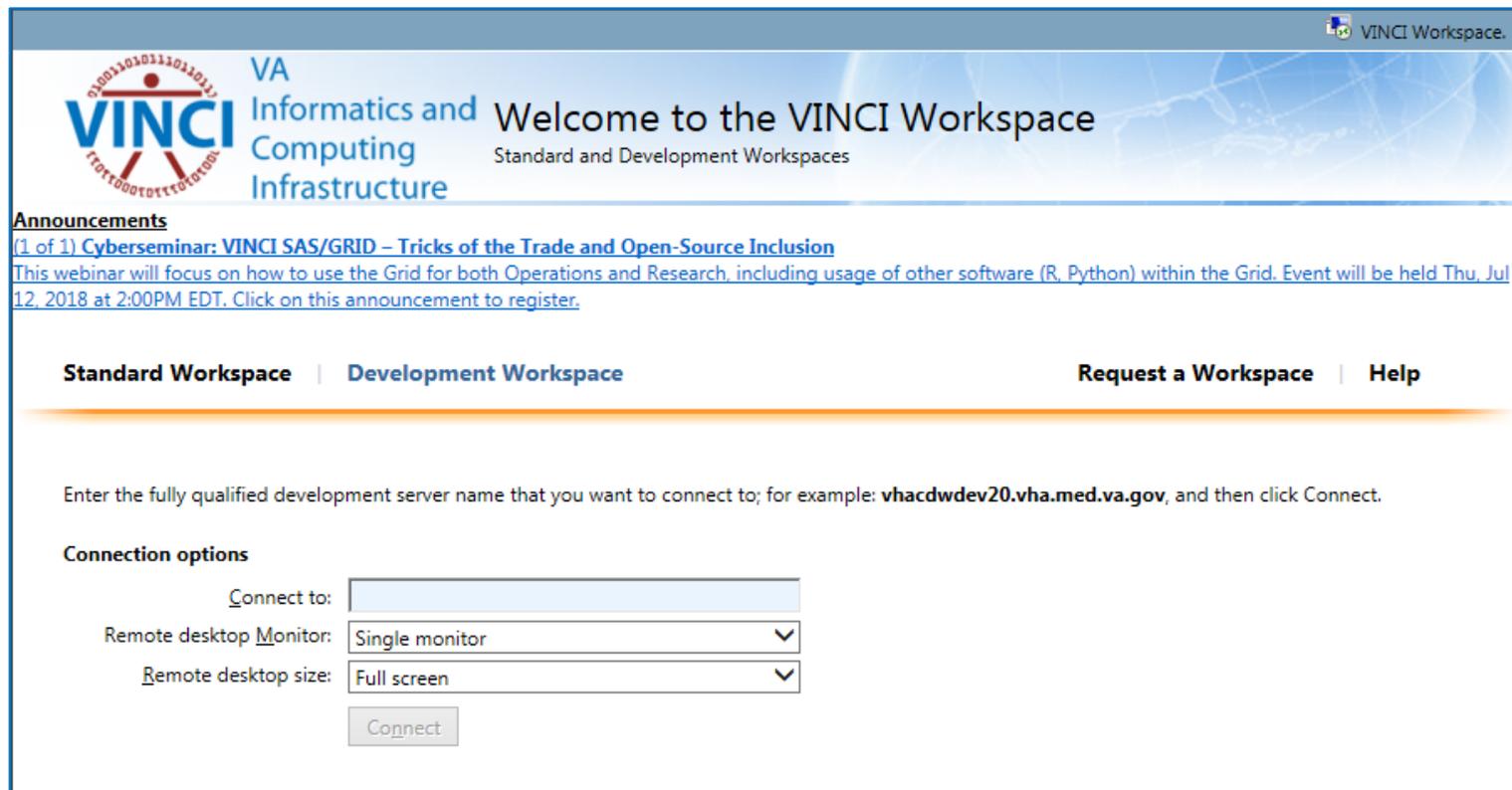


The screenshot displays the VINCI Workspace web interface. At the top left is the VINCI logo with the text "VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure". To the right, it says "Welcome to the VINCI Workspace" and "Standard and Development Workspaces". Below this is an "Announcements" section with a link to a webinar. A navigation bar includes "Standard Workspace", "Development Workspace", "Request a Workspace", and "Help". An "Important Instructions" section provides login details and browser requirements. The main area shows a "Current folder: /" with a grid of application icons, including 7-Zip File Manager, Adobe Reader XI, ArcGIS Explorer, ArcMap 10.5, ArcReader 10.5, explorer, MATLAB R2017b, Microsoft Access 2010, Microsoft Excel 2010, Microsoft InfoPath Designer 2010, Microsoft InfoPath Filler 2010, Microsoft PowerPoint 2010, Microsoft Word 2010, Notepad++, NVivo 8, Protege 3.3.1, Protege 3.5, PSPP, putty, R x64 3.4.0, R x64 3.4.3, RStudio, SAS Universal Viewer, SQL Server Management Studio 17, StataMP 15 (64-bit), StatTransfer 14, windiff, X2Go, SAS 9.x, and SAS Grid Tools.



VINCI Workspace Web Interface

- Development Workspace Login
- Connect to `vhacdwdwhdevXX.vha.med.va.gov`



The screenshot shows the VINCI Workspace web interface. At the top right, it says "VINCI Workspace." The main header features the VINCI logo (a stylized figure with arms raised, surrounded by binary code) and the text "VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure". To the right of the logo, it says "Welcome to the VINCI Workspace" and "Standard and Development Workspaces". Below the header, there is an "Announcements" section with a link to a webinar: "(1 of 1) Cyberseminar: VINCI SAS/GRID – Tricks of the Trade and Open-Source Inclusion". The main content area has a navigation bar with "Standard Workspace" and "Development Workspace" (the latter is highlighted), and "Request a Workspace" and "Help" links. Below the navigation bar, there is a text input field for the development server name, with a "Connect" button. The "Connection options" section includes a "Connect to:" field, a "Remote desktop Monitor:" dropdown menu (set to "Single monitor"), and a "Remote desktop size:" dropdown menu (set to "Full screen"). A "Connect" button is located below these options.

Logging into the VINCI Workspace

CANNED DEMONSTRATION

VINCI Videos

[Logging into a VINCI Workspace Application](#)

[Logging into the VINCI Standard Workspace](#)

[Logging into the Development VINCI Workspace](#)



Logging into the VINCI Workspace

The screenshot shows the VINCI Central website home page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About VINCI, and Skip to Content. The main header includes the VINCI Central logo, a welcome message, a search bar, and contact information for Timothy Trautman. A red arrow points to the 'Launch Workspace' link in the left sidebar. A red box highlights the URL 'vaww.VINCI.med.va.gov' in the center. The page features a grid of service tiles for VINCI University, VINCI Tube, VINCIpedia/FAQ, User Guides, VINCI Services, Computing Cloud, Data Sources, and Applications. A 'Feedback' button is located on the right side. At the bottom left, there is a notice about VINCI Monthly Server Updates on Sunday, July 22nd.

Home About VINCI Skip to Content

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Let's Collaborate VAI

Quick Links

Voogle Notes

VINCI Monthly Server Updates on Sunday July 22nd from 10AM to 4PM ET
Servers will be available intermittently during this time.

vaww.VINCI.med.va.gov

VINCI University Here you learn more

VINCI Tube Videos on all things VINCI

VINCIPedia/FAQ VINCI's forum for research &

User Guides Let us guide you through VINCI

VINCI Services

Computing Cloud

Data Sources Learn about our available data

Applications Applications available in VINCI

Feedback

Logging into the VINCI Workspace

The screenshot displays the VINCI Workspace user interface. At the top, there are navigation links for Home, About VINCI, and Skip to Content. A central dialog box titled "Select VINCI Workspace" is open, offering four options:

- Standard Workspace Applications (represented by a screenshot of the workspace)
- Full Standard Workspace (1 Monitor) (represented by a single monitor icon)
- Full Standard Workspace (multi-monitor) (represented by two monitor icons)
- Development Workspace (1 or 2 Monitor) (represented by a single monitor icon)

A "Close" button is located at the bottom right of the dialog box. The background interface includes a left sidebar with navigation items such as "Launch Workspace", "New To VINCI", "My VINCI Dashboard", "VINCI University", "VINCI Tube", "VINCIpedia/FAQ", "User Guides", "VINCI Services", "Computing Cloud", "Data Sources", "Applications", "Events", "Policies and Forms", "Let's Collaborate VAI", "Quick Links", and "Voogle Notes". The main content area features a grid of service tiles for VINCI University, VINCI Tube, VINCIpedia, User Guides, VINCI Services, Computing Cloud, Data Sources, and Applications. A "Feedback" button is visible on the right side. In the top right corner, contact information for Timothy Trautman is provided: Email: VINCI@VA.gov, Desk: 1-801-872-3324, and a link to Request Help Online.

Logging into the VINCI Workspace

The screenshot displays the VINCI Workspace login page. At the top, there are navigation links for Home, About VINCI, and Skip to Content. The main content area features a 'Select VINCI Workspace' dialog box with three options: 'Standard Workspace Applications', 'Full Standard Workspace (1 Monitor)', and 'Development Workspace (1 or 2 Monitor)'. A large red arrow points to the 'Full Standard Workspace' option. Below the dialog box, there is a grid of service tiles including VINCI University, VINCI Tube, VINCIpedia, User Guides, VINCI Services, Computing Cloud, Data Sources, and Applications. A sidebar on the left contains a navigation menu with items like 'Launch Workspace', 'New To VINCI', 'My VINCI Dashboard', 'VINCI University', 'VINCI Tube', 'VINCIpedia/FAQ', 'User Guides', 'VINCI Services', 'Computing Cloud', 'Data Sources', 'Applications', 'Events', 'Policies and Forms', 'Let's Collaborate VAI', 'Quick Links', and 'Voogle Notes'. At the bottom left, there is a notice about 'VINCI Monthly Server Updates on Sunday July 22nd from 10AM to 4PM ET'. The top right corner shows the user's name 'Timothy Trautman' and contact information.

Logging into the VINCI Workspace

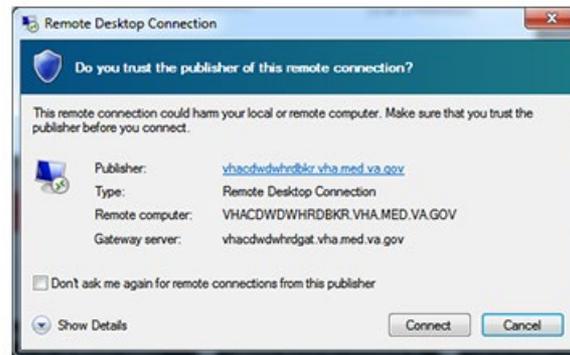
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A central dialog box titled "Select VINCI Workspace" is open, offering four options:

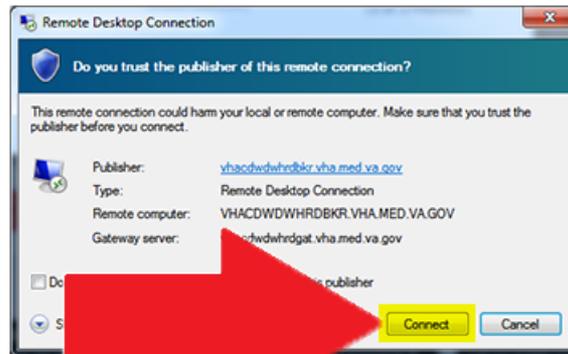
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A red arrow points from the dialog box down to a yellow status bar at the bottom of the screen. The status bar contains the text: "Do you want to open or save VINCI Workspace.rdp (6.28 KB) from vhaacdwdwhrdgat.vha.med.va.gov?". Below this text are buttons for Open, Save, and Cancel.

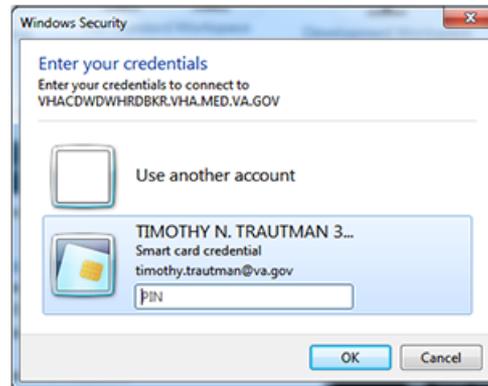
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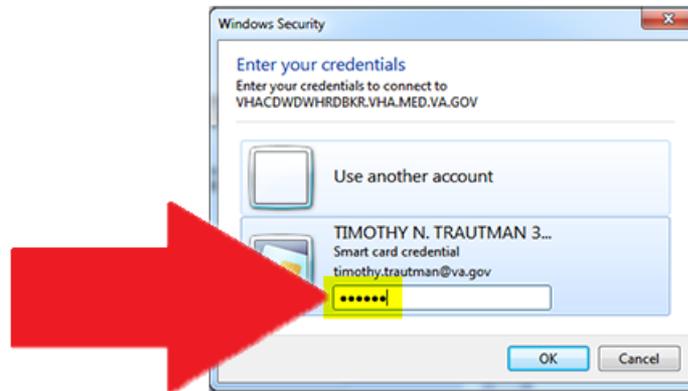
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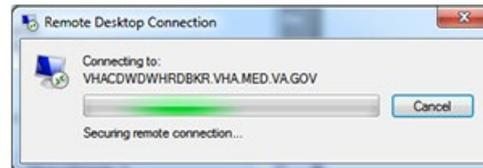
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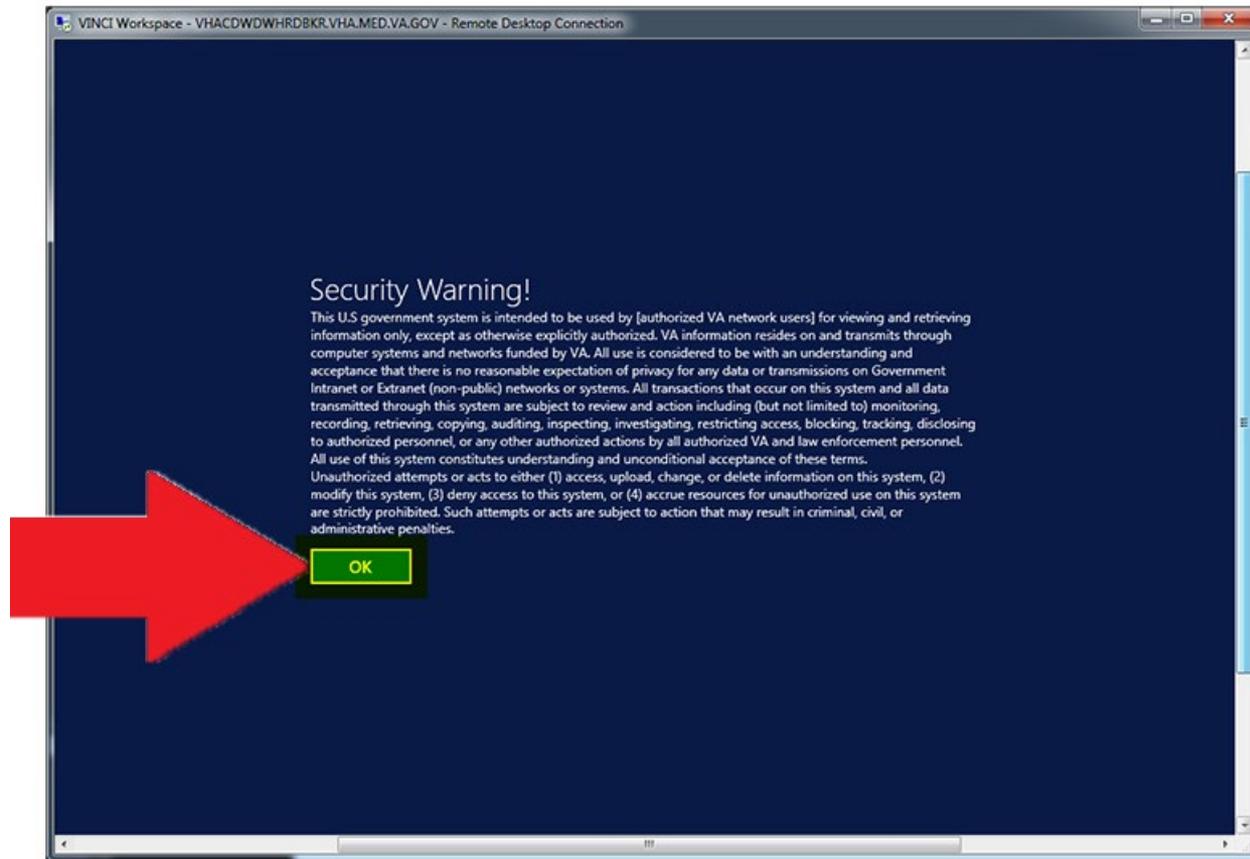
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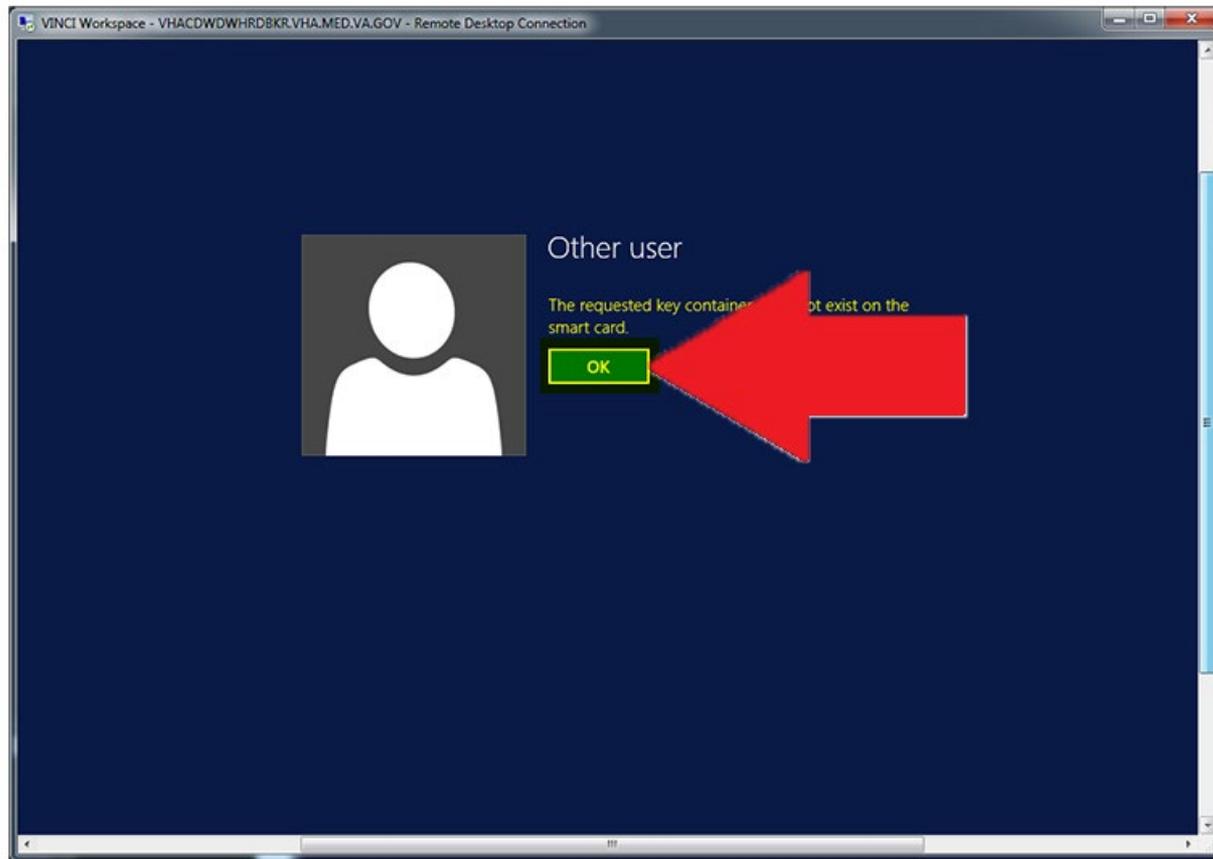
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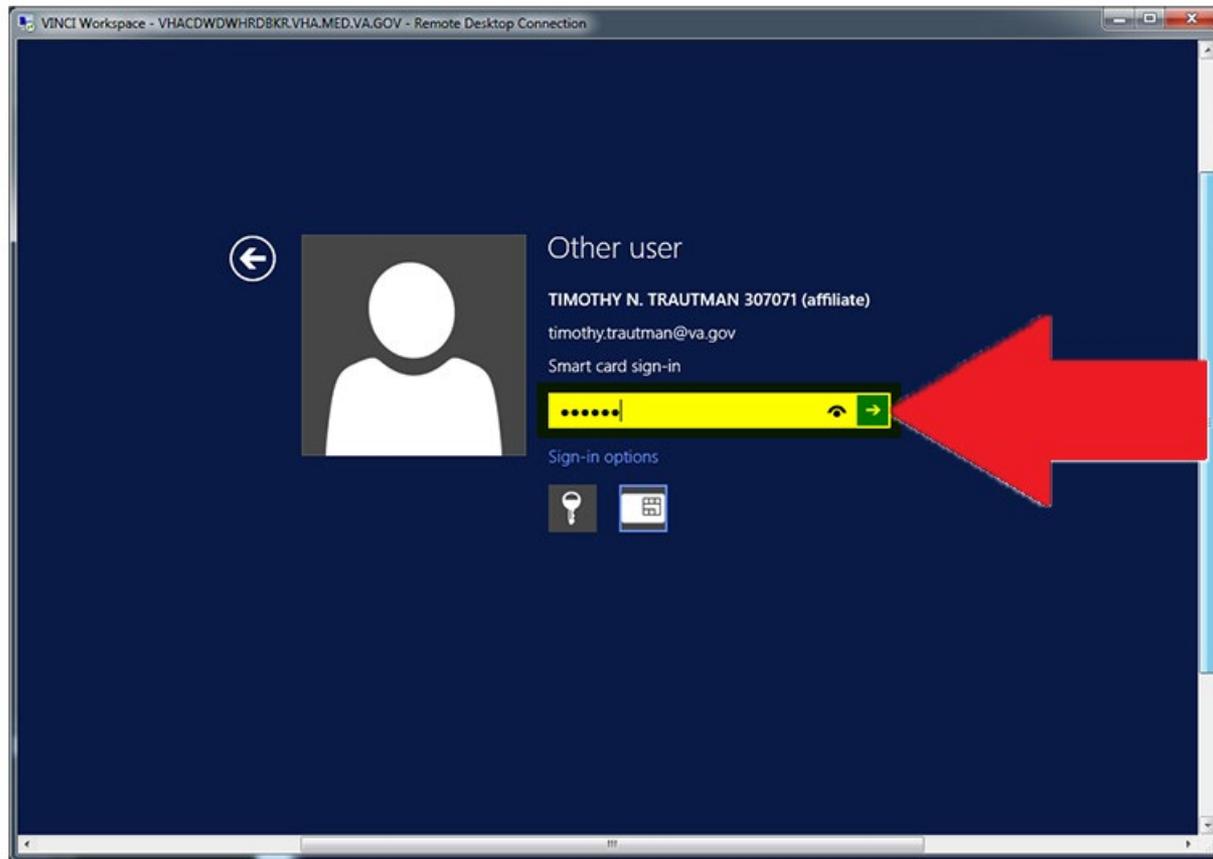
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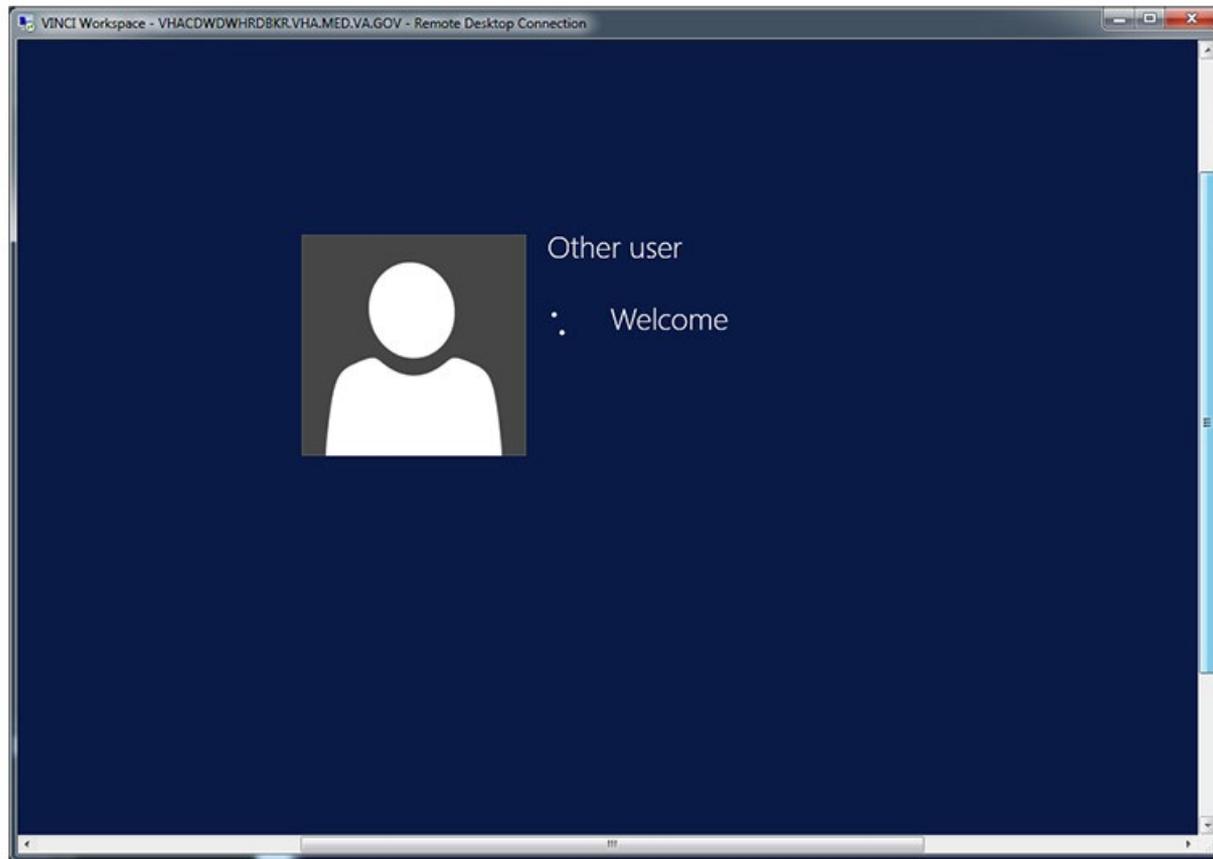
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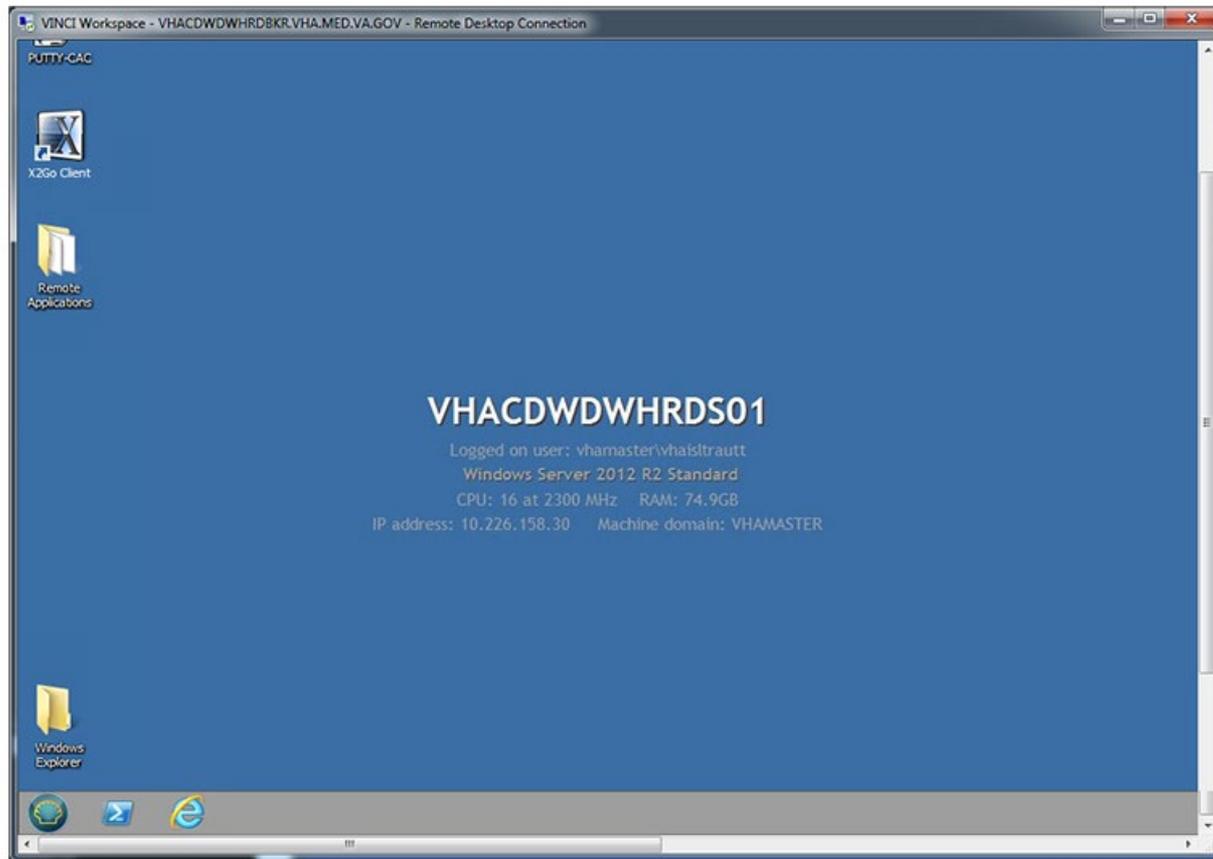
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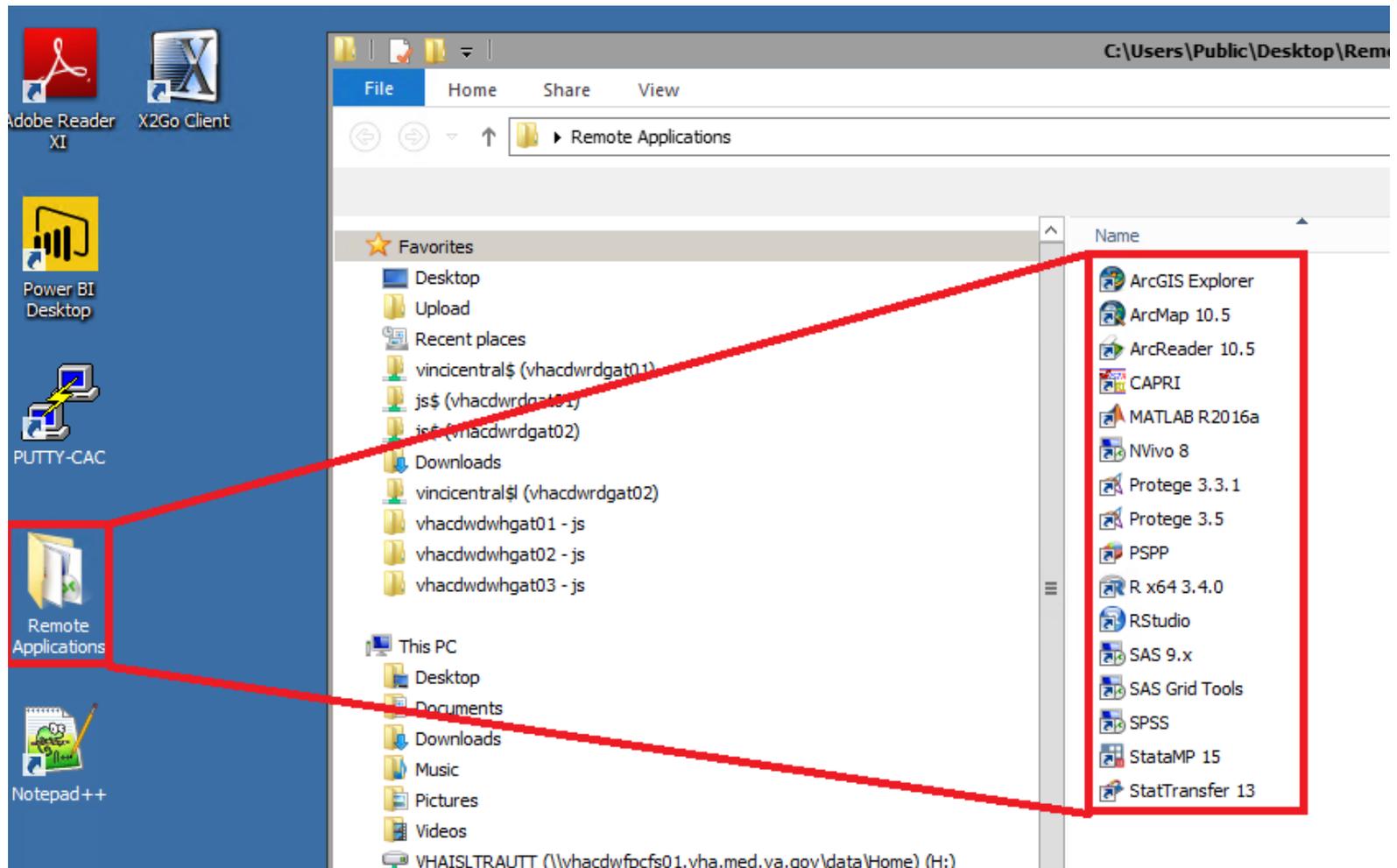
Logging into the VINCI Workspace



Logging into the VINCI Workspace



VINCI Workspace Applications



VINCI Workspace Restrictions

- No Internet access (for data security)
- Cannot copy and paste to/from workspace
 - Can save info as a file and download/upload within regulations
- Copy and paste between applications in the workspace is restricted as applications run from several different servers
 - Same server - can copy and paste
 - Different server - cannot copy and paste

VINCI Workspace Storage

■ H-Drive Personal Storage

- 10 GB standard size
- For personal file storage only
- NOT for storing study data



■ O and P-Drive Project Folders

- 100 GB standard size
- Intended for storage of shared project files
- Access is controlled and limited to study staff
- Specifically intended for study file storage

■ Microsoft SQL 2014 server study database

■ Tape and Disk backup

VINCI Workspace Storage

LIVE DEMONSTRATION

VINCI Video

[Understanding VINCI Workspace Drives](#)



VINCI Workspace Databases

- VINCI creates study databases that are accessible within the VINCI Workspace
- The particular location depends on study's data needs (static vs. live data) and the space available on the server

- Databases (FQDN)
 - Static data - `vhacdwr01.vha.med.va.gov`
 - Live data - `vhacdwr02.vha.med.va.gov`
 - Live data - `vhacdwr03.vha.med.va.gov`

- Use SQL Server Management Studio 2017 to access your study database

Accessing VINCI Workspace Databases

LIVE DEMONSTRATION

VINCI Video

[Accessing VINCI Databases using SQL Server Management Studio 2017](#)



VINCI File Transfer Tool

- VINCI File Upload Tool
 - Can transfer one file at a time (ZIP multiple files together into one)
 - Limited to 2GB per transfer
 - Available from VINCI Central

- VINCI File Download Tool
 - Can transfer one file at a time (ZIP multiple files together into one)
 - Available from VINCI Central

VINCI File Upload Tool

- VA Intranet-based utility application for copying files into the workspace
- Copies to either your H-drive or project folder per your selection
- Creates an “Upload” folder for the contents
- VINCI File Upload Tool:
<https://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/WebApps/VCFileTransfer/Upload>

VINCI File Download Tool

- VA Intranet-based utility application for copying files from the workspace
- Copies files from your H-drive or project folders per your selection
- File Audit Process
 - Copies of transferred files are archived
 - Copied files from IRB Research studies are audited for PHI, PII, and SI
- VINCI File Download Utility:
<https://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/WebApps/VCFileTransfer/Download>

Using the VINCI File Transfer Tool

LIVE DEMONSTRATION

[VINCI Video](#)
[Using the VINCI File Transfer Tool](#)

File Download Restrictions

- Operations Project Users
 - Can transfer files out without permission
 - Identifiable PHI/PII/SI data
 - Aggregate data
 - Documents - papers, analysis, presentations
- IRB Research Study Users
 - Can transfer some files *without* permission
 - Aggregate data
 - Documents - papers, analysis, presentations *without* PHI/PII/SI
 - Can transfer out *with* data steward permission
 - Data containing PHI/PII/SI
 - To local secure server, not desktop or laptop

File Download Restrictions

- Before downloading any file, familiarize yourself with HIPAA and VHA definitions of PHI and PII; [VHA Handbook 1605.1](#), Appendix B, is a good resource
- If you are not sure whether you may download PHI/PII for your project, read your Research Request Memo
- Once you have selected the "Download" link, be aware that browsing to and opening any file will cause the file to be downloaded. Do not use "Open" in utility. If you open a file and then close the utility without saving the file, it will still be written to your local temporary internet files folder in violation.



File Download Restrictions

- Pay attention to the warning that is displayed as soon as you select the "Download" link, which advises you to select "Save As" and not "Save" when downloading the file. Selecting "Save" will copy the file to your "Downloads" folder in violation. "Save As" will allow you to copy the file to your local secure server.



- Remind your team that they are each responsible for ensuring only data approved for download by the data steward may be transferred out of VINCI and that the data is downloaded to your local VA server.

VINCI Workspace Resources

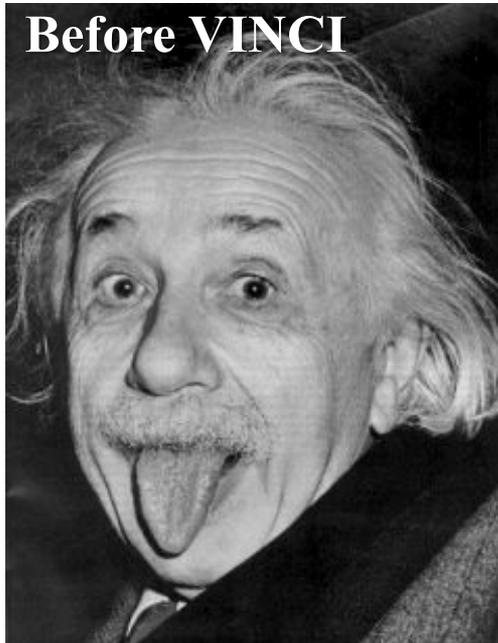
- **VINCI Central:** <http://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov>
- **See VINCI User Guides:**
 - VINCI Workspace User Guide
 - VINCI Database User Guide
 - VINCI File Transfer Guide
 - VINCI Development Workspace Software Install Guide
- **See SAS User Guides:**
 - 21 various SAS user guides from A Grid Primer - Where to Begin? to SAS Coding Considerations using the Linux-based Grid
- Under **VINCI University**, see **VINCI Cyberseminars**
- Under **VINCI Tube**, see **VINCI Videos**

Questions?

VINCI Support: VINCI@va.gov

SAS Support: VINCISASAdmins@va.gov

Before VINCI



After VINCI

