T.2020 virtual laboratory
Virtual machine access howto

This document summarizes how to access the virtual laboratories developed within the T.2020 project of the School of Engineering, University of Padova. The virtual lab is a virtual machine that you can access using your computer. In the virtual lab you can find all the software needed for your courses and some storage.

There are two methods for accessing the virtual machines: one uses the VMware Horizon Client (needs the installation of a dedicated software), the other is based on the HTML Access (using a web browser). Using VMware Horizon Client is recommended.

This document shows how to:

1. Connect to the virtual machine using VMware Horizon Client;
2. Connect to the virtual machine using the HTML Access.
**STEP 1: CLIENT INSTALLATION** (go to step 2 if already done)

1. Go to [https://vlab.vdi.ict.unipd.it](https://vlab.vdi.ict.unipd.it).
2. Click on **Install VMware Horizon Client**.

3. In the new page click on **Go to downloads** related to your operating system.

4. In the new page click on **Download now** to start the download.
5. Once downloaded the software, install the VMware Horizon client. This process depends on your operating system. If prompted, accept the default installation parameters to complete the installation.

6. If needed, reboot the system.

**STEP 2: FIRST ACCESS VIA CLIENT** (if you already had access go to step 3)

1. Start **VMware Horizon Client**.
2. Click on **New Server**.

3. Enter the server `vlab.vdi.ict.unipd.it` and click on **Connect** ("Always connect at launch" is optional).

4. Enter your **Username** that is your institutional email address (@unipd or @studenti.unipd.it) and your password for the email account, then click on **Login**.
5. The CentOS7 login page will show up (if a clock or a black screen is shown instead of the login page, press the `esc` key). Enter your institutional email address (@unipd or @studenti.unipd.it) and the corresponding password to access the virtual space.

![Login Page](image)

6. At the first login you will be asked some questions to customize the environment. You can safely accept the default values.

7. A CentOS7 remote desktop shows up: you can now start using the system.

8. Once you finish using the virtual machine you need to disconnect. Click on the on/off icon on the top right corner, then on your user (your initials + a number) and then on **terminate session**.

![Remote Desktop](image)

9. You can temporarily suspend your connection (up to 180 minutes or within the time frame you reserved) without closing the session and without losing your work by closing the DEI-CentOS window.
10. Your personal data (the documents you saved on the desktop or in your personal profile) will not be deleted. They will be available when you will connect in the future.

**STEP 3: ACCESS** (applies to all the connections but the first one)

1. Launch **VMware Horizon Client**.
2. Double click on *vlab.vdi.ict.unipd.it* (this is automatically done if you selected “Always connect at launch” in the third point of step 2).

![VMware Horizon Client](image)

3. The **Username** field is already filled. Enter your **Password** and click on **Login**.  
   The virtual machine will be loaded.

4. When you finish using the virtual machine, please remember to disconnect from it.
1. Use a browser to reach https://vlab.vdi.ict.unipd.it.
2. Click on VMware Horizon HTML Access.

3. Fill the **Username** with your institutional login (@unipd or @studenti.unipd.it) and enter the email **Password**. Click on **Login** to connect.
4. Click on *DEI-CentOS7* to access the virtual machine.

5. The login window will be shown. If a clock or a black screen appears instead, press the *esc* key. To access the virtual machine enter your institutional login (@unipd or @studenti.unipd.it), click on *Avanti (next)*, enter the *Password* and click on *Access*.

6. The virtual desktop is shown: you can now start using the virtual environment.

7. When you are done, disconnect from the virtual machine.

*Suggestion:* in case the performance is not satisfactory (e.g., lagging, refresh problems, etc.) when you use the HTML access, try using the VMware client to improve the performance.