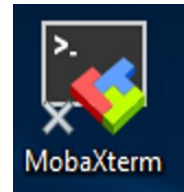


Accessing the Teaching Linux Farm remotely from Windows systems

Many/most of the software required for taught courses is available on the department's teaching Linux farm, which can be accessed from home machines (desktop or laptop). This uses a *Secure Shell* connection (SSH). Windows systems usually require an SSH client to be explicitly installed (as this is not included as part of a typical installation).

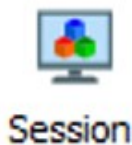
The software that we recommend is called **MobaXterm**, and this can be obtained from <https://mobaxterm.mobatek.net/download-home-edition.html>. Download the Installer edition zip archive, open it, and run the MSI installer found there. Then follow the Setup Wizard as usual. This will typically install an icon on your desktop (as well as an entry in the Start Menu)



Configuring MobaXterm

The first time you use MobaXterm, you will need to supply details of the connection to set up. This information will then be saved, and can be used again for subsequent connections. MobaXterm supports a variety of different types of session – in this document we will only consider a simple SSH connection to the departmental teaching Linux farm.

There are (currently) eight systems making up this farm – these are named `lxfarm01.csc.liv.ac.uk` through to `lxfarm08.csc.liv.ac.uk`. The available software and configuration of these systems should be exactly the same – you can choose any one of these machines. If a particular machine is not available (or seems overloaded), simply disconnect and choose a different one.

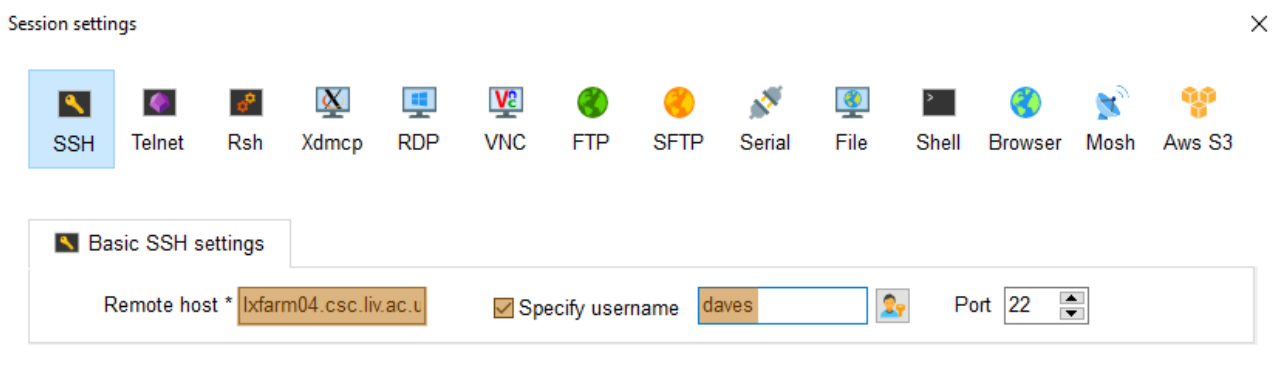


Click the *Session* icon (left) in the buttons bar across the top of the window. Then click the *SSH* session button (right) and fill in the fields as follows:

Remote Host `lxfarm{XX}.csc.liv.ac.uk`
Check the box *Specify username* and enter your University username

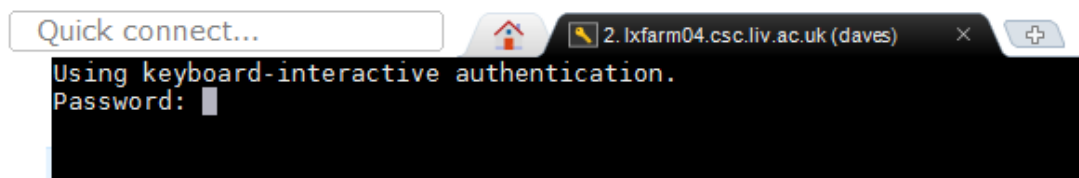


The rest of the settings (*Advanced*, *Terminal*, etc) can be left at the default values.

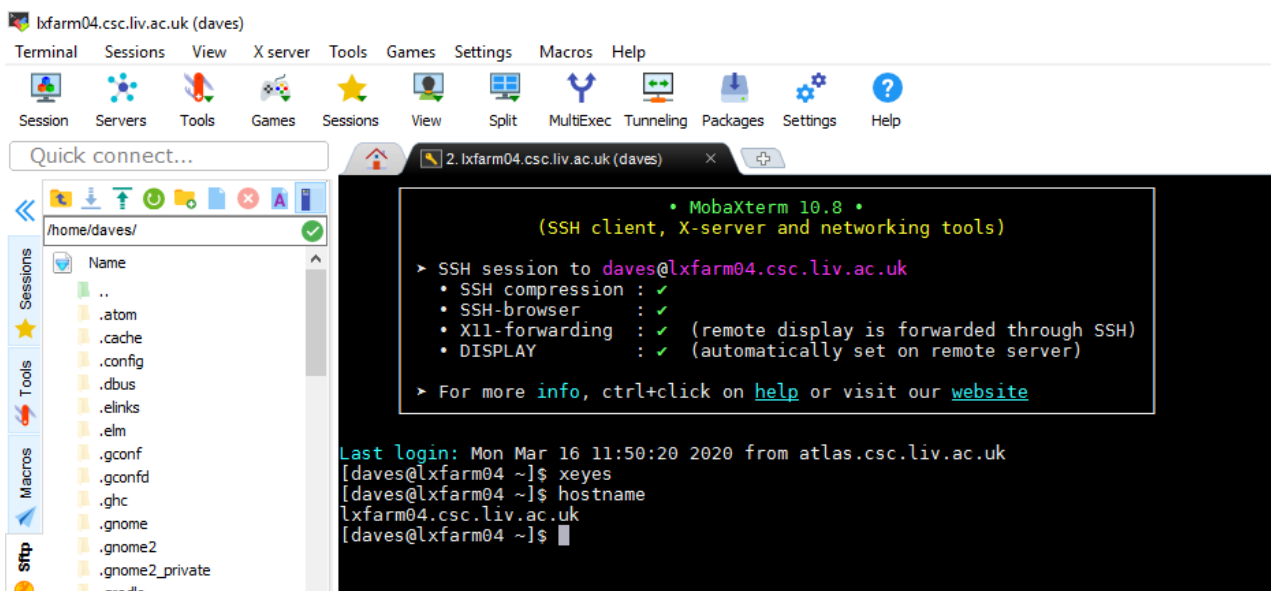


Then click OK

You will be asked to supply your University password (and press Return).



This will log you into the chosen system, and you can run Linux commands on that machine. For text-based commands, the output will be shown in the same **MobaXterm** terminal window – graphical commands should open up a new window on your local display.



Note that immediately after logging in, you will be informed of the time and source (IP address or hostname) of the last successful login session. If you do not recognise this connection, please inform the CS technical team immediately by emailing CSC-HELPDESK@liverpool.ac.uk. You may also wish to change your password.

When reporting this, or any other issue with the system, it is extremely helpful to include details of which Linux machine you were using (which should now appear as part of the command prompt), and the date & time any problem occurred. If you're not sure which system you're on, the command `hostname` will also show this information (*see above*).

When you have finished with the session, use the command `exit` to disconnect, and then close the **Terminal** window, as usual.

Note that closing the **Terminal** window *without* first `exit`ing from the Linux system may leave processes running on that Linux farm machine, and could cause problems in the future.
