

Enable GUI access to a Rocky Linux VM

This guide explains how to install a lightweight graphical environment (XFCE) and configure **XRDP** to enable remote desktop access to your Rocky Linux virtual machine.

“ **Note:** You must have **sudo** privileges to perform the installation steps.

☐ Step 1: Update the System

```
sudo dnf update -y
```

☐ Step 2: Install EPEL repository

The installation of the **XFCE** desktop environment requires to install the **EPEL** repository which is a repository that provides high-quality software packages for RHEL-distributions.

```
sudo dnf install epel-release -y
```

☐ Step 3: Install XFCE Desktop Environment

```
sudo dnf groupinstall "Xfce" -y
```

☐ Step 4: Install XRDP

```
sudo dnf install xrdp -y
```

☐ Step 5: Enable and Start XRDP

```
sudo systemctl enable xrdp --now
```

Check the service status:

```
sudo systemctl status xrdp
```

You should see "active (running)".

☐ Step 6: Open RDP Port in Firewall

```
sudo firewall-cmd --permanent --add-port=3389/tcp  
sudo firewall-cmd --reload
```

☐ Step 7: Set XFCE as the Default Desktop for XRDP Sessions

Create or modify your user's `.Xclients` file:

```
echo "startxfce4" > ~/.Xclients chmod +x ~/.Xclients
```

To apply this for all new users, you can add it to `/etc/skel/`:

```
echo "startxfce4" | sudo tee /etc/skel/.Xclients  
sudo chmod +x /etc/skel/.Xclients
```

☐☐ Step 8: Reboot the system

To ensure all services and graphical environment changes take effect, reboot the virtual machine:

```
sudo systemctl reboot
```

Wait a few moments for the system to come back online.

☐☐ Step 9: Connect via Remote Desktop

From your local machine, open your **Remote Desktop Client (RDP)** and connect to:

```
<VM_IP_ADDRESS>:3389
```

Log in using your UNIL **username** and **password**.



If you need further help, please contact your system administrator or open a support ticket with the helpdesk (helpdesk@unil.ch).

Créé 2025-06-18 11:15:13 UTC par Toan Nguyen
Mis à jour 2025-06-18 11:16:52 UTC par Toan Nguyen