

CentralWindows

Desktops hosted centrally at the institute with MS-Windows

We have hereby created the possibility for all who have an institute account, independent of your own work system and location, to use a current MS-Windows operating system with software licensed by the institute (e.g. MS-Office, EndNote, SPSS) and free software, combined with access to the institute data and information resources, from almost any workstation (with internet connection) worldwide.

Due to the nature of the access and the protection via an entry gateway with 2-factor authentication, security and data protection are guaranteed. The data is also well protected by our central server technology with various redundancies.

Total failure or theft of the immediate work equipment are thus still a major annoyance, but not a super disaster, because there is no risk of data loss or data compromise in this case, when using this solution completely.

In addition to the regular use of CentralWindows by institute computers in the internal network, it is now also possible to access institute resources via CentralWindows with private devices (laptops, tablets, smartphones, etc.) that are only allowed to be in the institute's guest network (just as before via RemoteLinux).

Further information can be found in the in-house wiki at :

<https://cbswiki.cbs.mpg.de/bin/view/EDV/FuerUser/XenAppPortal>

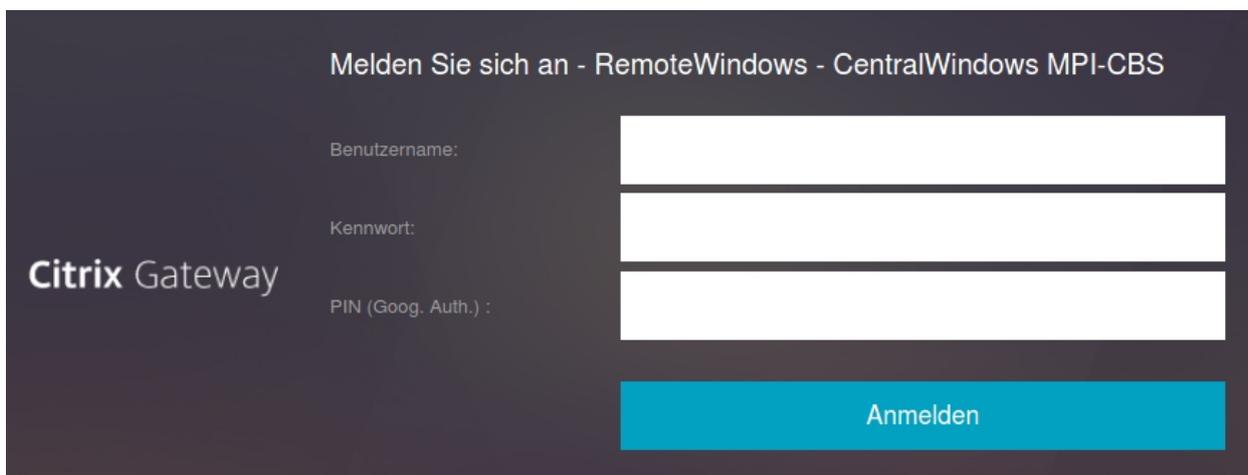
Prerequisites:

- In order to use it, you must have a valid contract with the institute, which includes the use of the institute's network.
- A so-called remote access must be applied for, which one then receives, after authentication usually personally via an ID document, in the form of a key (QR code) and the activation for the access.
- For access, all devices with Internet availability are sufficient, on which a supported browser (Firefox, Chrome, Chromium,...) runs and, if necessary, the Citrix Workspace App can be installed. These are therefore common PCs, laptops, tablets, workpads, smartphones, etc. that meet these requirements, with a wide variety of operating systems (Windows, Linux, Mac, Android).

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Usage

1. Requirements fulfilled? Google Authenticator provided with access key via QR code? 6-digit time code appears in the Google Authenticator at MPI CBS ...?
2. If 1. OK then go to access WEB page with browser (Firefox, Chrome):
<https://remotewindows.cbs.mpg.de>
3. Enter institute login data: Username (NOT email), password and PIN from Google-Authenticator to MPI CBS.



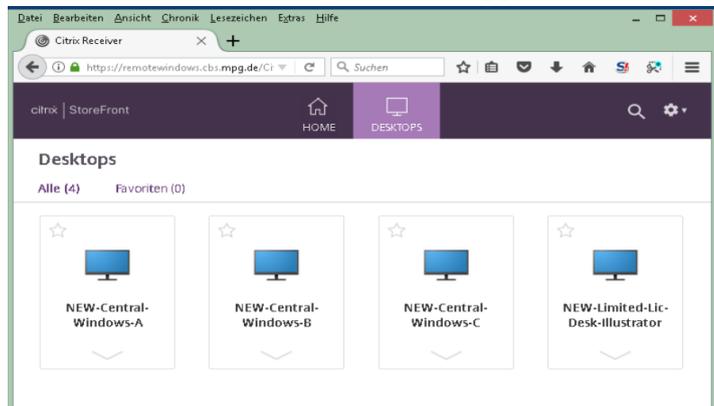
4. For a quick test of access or if no further software installation is desired, select "Use light version" and use CentralWindows completely in the browser, which is however connected with slight function and performance restrictions. So far feedbacks were all positive, so that also a use of the light version can be recommended. Otherwise please choose "Determine Receiver". By the way, you can also switch to the light version later. Instructions for installing the Workspace App can be found under 9.



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- With the light version selected or the Citrx Workspace App already installed, the Citrx Store Front view now appears, either in the browser or in the app.

A desktop must now be selected here. **Desktops A, B and C are equivalent** and point to the same servers via load balancing. It doesn't matter which desktop you use. **It is only important to remember which one you use** (preferably regularly). The selection only serves as a backup



in case a desktop is blocked. The Limited-Lic Desk... is reserved for license-limited applications, such as certain Adobe products. Please note: newer Adobe products, require an extra license with a special login via MPG. Users whose department/group does not rent such licenses will not be able to use the software. If needed, please request the use of Adobe software via ticket with confirmation from the department/group head (as they are rental licenses that incur permanent costs to the MPG).

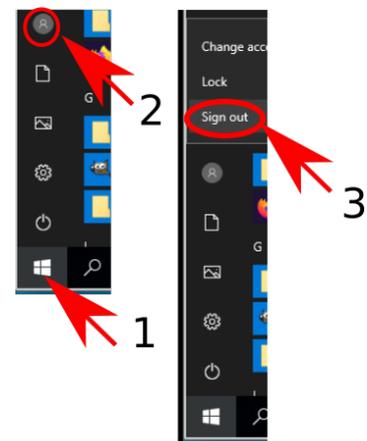
- After selecting the desktop (1x click is enough) and loading time for the user profiles and settings, the corresponding Windows desktop appears in the Browser window or via the app. If you also want a full screen in the browser, just press F11 and likewise to undo it.



7. Exit - Logout

This point is especially important. After work is done, you should save your open documents! If you do not need to continue working with the windows and documents elsewhere, you should close all applications and log out via the Windows menu (Sign out). **This is the only way to reliably save certain Windows user settings (e.g. file assignments, printer settings).**

Important! In the current Windows versions the sign out button is not located under the power button in the Windows start menu, but further up - see picture.



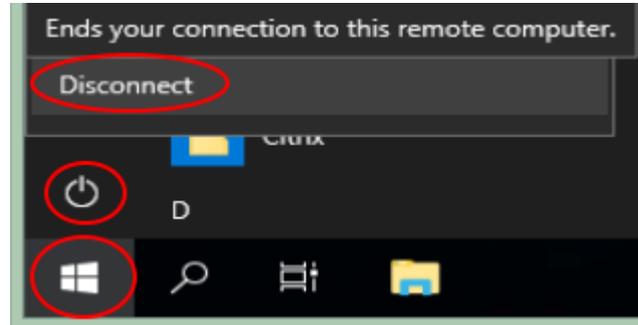
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8. Special feature - park/move session

If you can't finish your work yet and have to continue working in another room or in your home office instead of in the institute, you can park your session for the time being (disconnect) and start it again later with all open windows and applications or move it to another location.

For this you should remember the desktop (A, B ...) you used before!

Save all open documents and select "Disconnect" from the Windows Start menu.



At the new (or the same) location, log on to CentralWindows as usual and start the remembered desktop (A, B, ..).

Now you should have the desktop with all applications and windows in front of you again.

If this is not the case, something went wrong - wrong desktop, accidentally logged off or technical problem.

By the way, you can also move a "forgotten", not-disconnected desktop.

Important! This feature does not work over the weekend or during maintenance/security updates, because the servers have to be restarted. A regular saving is obligatory anyway.

9. Installing the Citrix Workspace App

Of course, the installation varies depending on the operating system and version you are using. Most of the time, the app cannot be installed without admin privileges, likewise for Mac systems. On Android-based tablets and smartphones, you simply install the app (Citrix Workspace from Citrix Systems, Inc) via the Google Playstore.

Important for all installations: with the Workspace App NO account is created! The call and connection is still done via a browser!

I will implement an account setup, which allows a more practical work, at a later time.

In the current variant, the browser calls the app each time to start the desktop.

In case of problems with the installation of the app on Windows, I'm happy to help. For Linux users should be familiar with Linux and have admin permissions, I will help with the details.

Mac users may be able to get help from our Mac expert Tobias Schenk.