

Reference #1 <https://viterbiit.usc.edu/instructional-support/viterbi-mydesktop-vdi/>

Reference#2 <https://viterbiit.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/MyDesktop-Logon-Instructions-01152020.pdf>

VDI stands for Virtual Desktop Infrastructure. It is also called MyDesktop. It allows students to access and use Windows tools without installing them on their own PC/Mac.

Students in several EE courses (such as 109/250/354L/454L/457/560) at VSoE, USC, may need to use

(1) Mentor Graphics Modelsim/Questasim for HDL simulation and/or

(2) Xilinx Vivado for HDL synthesis and downloading a .bit file to a FPGA board.

Students usually run into problems installing the above tools on their laptops/desktops as

(i) the above tools do not run on Mac OS

(ii) the above tools run well on Windows 10 or 11 perfectly but not many students are expected to have Windows laptops these days.

(iii) Some students have laptops running windows 10 or 11 but their RAM or hard disk space is limited and the tools do not run properly

The Modelsim HDL simulator runs well under UNIX and that is an alternative to VDI if you just need Modelsim alone and do not need Xilinx tools, like in the case of EE457. Accessing Modelsim on UNIX is separately discussed. The EE354L students need to use VDI as Xilinx Vivado does not run on UNIX.

Students installing VMWare on their Mac: extra precaution:

Some students with Macs were fully successful with their VMWare installation whereas several students had problem with their USB port. VDI was not able to recognize a memory stick or a Nexys-4 FPGA board connected to an USB port on their Mac. Some students told me the following:

When we first connect the Nexys board or a memory stick to an USB port on a Mac when it is connected to VDI, there will be a pop-up saying USB detected and to setup. If we ignore that pop up and if continue without setting up, from next time onwards VDI doesn't detect USB on the Mac.

We do not get a second chance to fix it :(Can't we remove VMware and reinstall it?

Thanks to the VSoE-IT headed by Michael Goay <mgoay@usc.edu> for providing VDI, an important service to our students and courses!

Steps:

This file: https://viterbi-web.usc.edu/www-classes/engr/ee-s/254/Spring2012/Modelsim/VDI/VDI_getting_started.pdf



1. Please follow our VSoE-IT instructions at

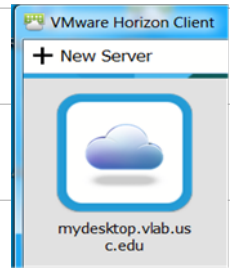
<https://viterbiit.usc.edu/instructional-support/> ← In there you find "MyDesktop Logon Instructions".
<http://www-classes.usc.edu/engr/ee-s/254/Spring2012/Modelsim/VDI/MyDesktop-Logon-Instructions-01152020.pdf>
and install VMware Horizon Client on your laptop.

Choose appropriate version for your laptop OS.

Install the latest VMware.

See <https://mydesktop.vlab.usc.edu/>

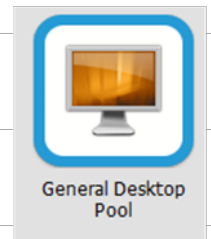
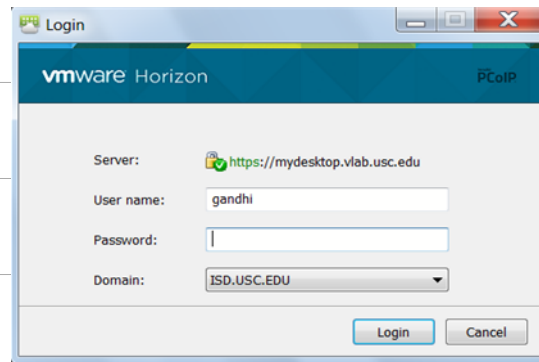
You do this only once.



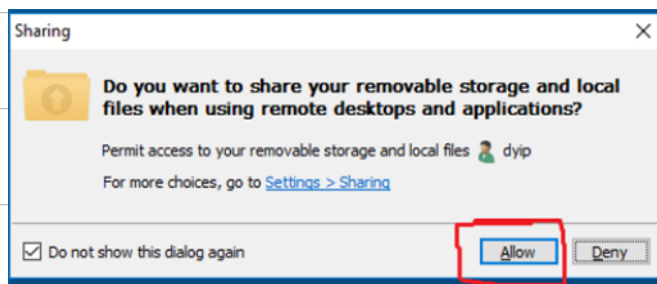
2. Your course should have been authorized to use VDI. Further you need to be on internet to access the VDI. Do not do VPN. Just be on home internet at your home or USC secured internet if you are on campus. Double-click on the icon.

3. Click on the "cloud-like" icon labeled "mydesktop.vlab.usc.edu"

4. Login using your USC net ID (Do not use D2L ID). Click on the "General Desktop Pool".



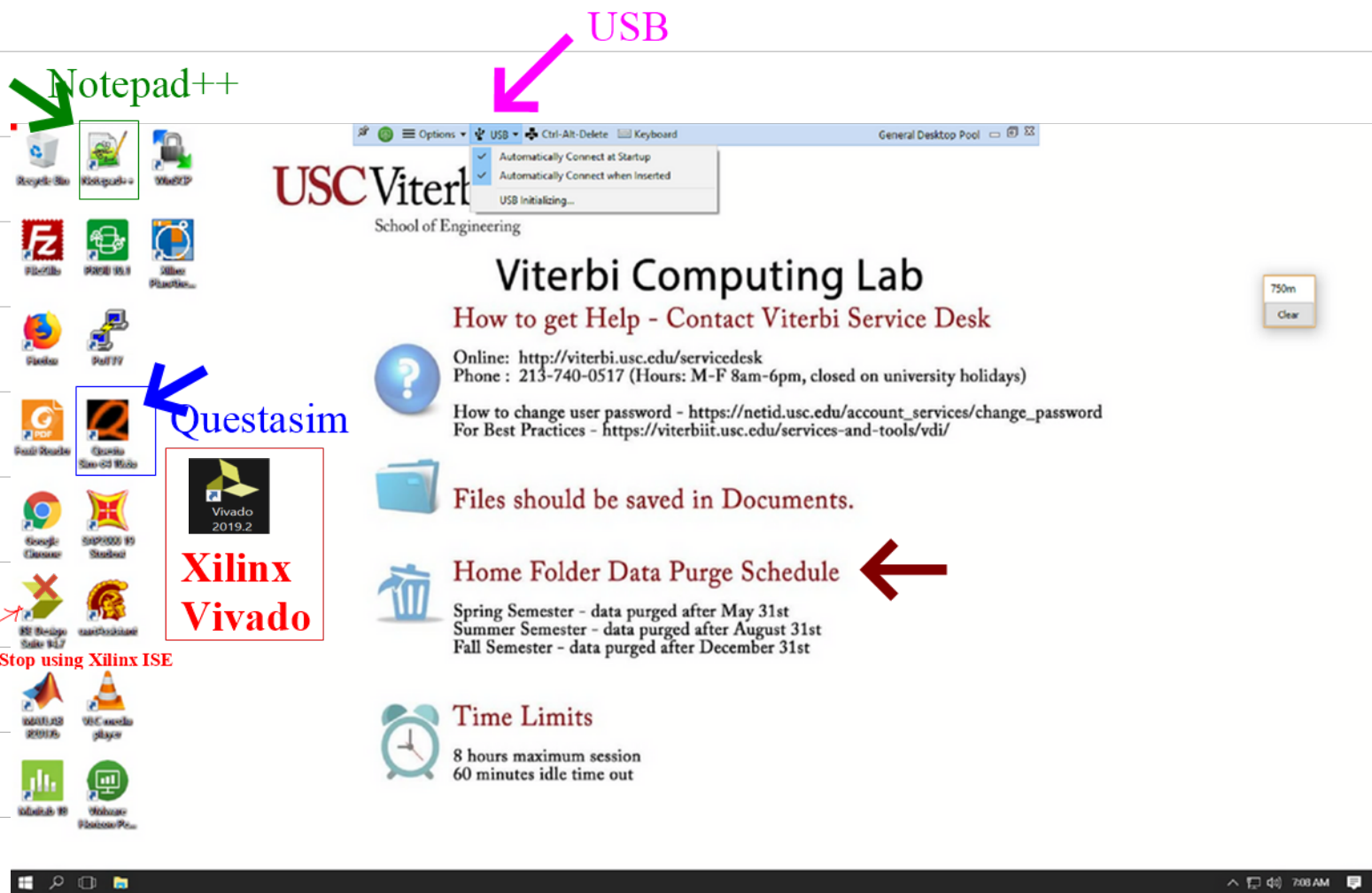
5. Now it displays the VDI desktop (shown on the next page). Please do read the displayed notices at least the first time when you start VDI. And click on "Allow" in the following dialogue box.



6. You can save files in Documents on VDI. But they get purged at the end of the semester!

7. Do read the notices posted there (on the desktop) at least once (for the first time).

Make a note of the "Home Folder Purge Schedule". At the end of the semester, your files will be purged.



8. The Documents folder is a Network Folder. The Questasim and the Xilinx ISE can not access files in the Documents folder or the Desktop. Please create directories under C:\

A. Create C:\Questasim_projects (or C:\Modelsim_projects) for EE457/EE354L Verilog simulations

B. Create C:\Xilinx_projects for EE354L Vivado projects.

9. Please try the above procedure once.

10. Approach your TA/mentor/instructor or Viterbi IT to get help.

11. Depending on the number of people trying to access VDI at the same time, you may not be able to connect to VDI at times. So, please do not postpone working on your assignment until the night before the due date!

Enjoy using VDI !!!