

Virtual Desktop vs Remote Desktop

I apologize for the confusion and will try to explain the differences here. There is some mixing of the language on the current instructional documents and the my.alaskapacific.edu tile access.

We are working to make the language consistent across all documents and systems.

Remote Desktop

- Microsoft Remote Desktop platform we use for remote workers, contractors, consultants, etc.
- Remote Desktop has been around APU in some flavor for many years.
- Uses an installable app for MAC (requires iOS 10.12 and later) and runs native from Windows 10
- Everyone in the community has access
- CAMS has document management and multiple open windows limitations on this platform.
- GreatPlains is NOT accessible
- Blackboard is accessible and runs very well.
- Email and Office 365 is accessible
- This is generic desktop that will require minor setup upon initial login for the individual user.
- Fenris is accessible

Virtual Desktop

- Citrix Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI)
- Citrix VDI is a recent implementation and will be the default in the next year or two.
- Uses thin clients on Campus or installable app on both MAC and Windows 10 (on or off campus)
- Requires specific permissions; not all community members have access by default
- CAMS is full-featured and fast
- GreatPlains accessible for accounting
- Blackboard is accessible and runs very well
- Email and Office 365 is accessible
- This will have a personalized feel and familiar layout from session to session
- Fenris is accessible

For now, we are steering all teleworkers to access the university network through my.alaskapacific.edu and the Microsoft Remote Desktop tile. This is the Remote Desktop described above.

People already using thin clients and the Citrix VDI will see a Citrix Virtual Desktop tile on my.alaskapacific.edu. This tile will only be visible to people already using thin clients.

APU minimum technology requirements apply in both situations.