

Telnet

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What is Telnet?

The Telnet protocol allows you to log in to remote computers or hosts on the Internet from your local or desktop computer. By using Telnet over the Internet, your local computer can act as a terminal connected to a computer located somewhere else. Once you establish a session on the other computer by logging in with a valid username and password, you can interact with the other computer and obtain access to whatever services it provides.

The term *Telnet* tends to confuse people because, like the word “telephone”, it is used rather loosely in conversation as both a noun and a verb. Depending on context, “Telnet” might be a generic reference to a Terminal emulation program that uses the telnet protocol, it might refer to the Telnet protocol itself, or it may even be used as a verb to refer to the act of using the Telnet protocol. Just as you can telephone someone by using a telephone over a telephone connection, you can telnet to another computer by running Windows Telnet, (a particular program) which uses Telnet (the protocol).

Telnet client programs are available for many types of computer operating systems, including OpenVMS, Digital UNIX, Microsoft Windows, and Mac OS. Information and Technology Services (ITS) supports these operating systems, but does not recommend or support all Telnet programs that run on these operating systems.

Most terminal emulation programs that run on desktop computers are capable of making Telnet connections. To find out the Telnet capabilities of a specific terminal emulator, consult the program’s user manual.

Why should I use a Telnet program?

Using a Telnet client program and the Internet, you can connect to RIT’s multi-user computer systems from virtually anywhere in the world. You can use on-campus Ethernet (in a lab, office, or residence hall), or RIT’s modem-based DialIP service to establish an Internet connection from your computer. Once connected, you can use a Telnet client program to log in to RIT’s OpenVMS or Digital UNIX (Grace) computers with your RIT account.

Telnet doesn’t work if you’re trying to connect to RIT’s Enterprise Server running CICS. For that, you need to use a similar protocol called TN3270. There are some Telnet programs that can also use the TN3270 protocol, but most of the less expensive Telnet programs don’t have this additional capability. You may find that you have to use a separate TN3270 emulation program if you need to connect to the Enterprise Server.

Many Telnet client programs let you log in to more than one system at a time. Once you establish a session on one of RIT’s computer systems, you can also telnet (i.e., connect) to a different system using another instance of that same Telnet program.

How do I get help with a Telnet program?

- **Help on OpenVMS and Digital UNIX**

To learn more about Telnet on RIT's OpenVMS systems, use the following command at the "\$" prompt:

\$ help telnet

On RIT's Digital UNIX systems, you can view the "man" (manual) page about Telnet by typing:

% man telnet

On-line help is also available for some personal computer Telnet client programs. Examine your software and its documentation to find out if it has on-line help.

- **Additional help**

For personal help, contact the ITS HelpDesk (see contact information at the end of this document). Also, for general computer help, you can consult the ITS HelpDesk documents that are available at the ITS HelpDesk or from the https://www.rit.edu/its/help/help_documents.html web page.

How do I use a Telnet program?

- **From a personal computer system:**

Personal computer users can choose from many terminal emulation programs that are capable of making Telnet connections. **ITS recommends and supports only The Reflection Suite.** The Reflection Suite is available for both Microsoft Windows and Macintosh computers, and supports both Telnet and TN3270 protocols. You can get a copy of "The Reflection Suite" user document from the location specified in the "Additional Help" section above.

For TN3270 only, ITS also recommends and supports Jolly Giant Software's QWS3270 Plus program. Information and a free trial are available at <http://www.jollygiant.com/qws3270plus.html>

ITS does not recommend or support the Telnet program that comes pre-installed with Windows. Any Telnet client program that you use should be at least VT200 compatible to work with applications running on the OpenVMS systems. For information on getting a Telnet client program contact the ITS HelpDesk (see bottom of page), or go to the Wallace Memorial Library VIA (second floor).

Before using a Telnet client program on a personal computer, you must first establish an Internet connection. You can do this through on-campus Ethernet, modem-based DialIP, or an outside service provider. Once you establish a connection, launch the Telnet client program and select the command that lets you start a new Telnet connection. When the program prompts you for a host,

type in the name of the system you want to connect to, such as “**grace.rit.edu**” for RIT’s Digital UNIX server. See the chart below for a partial list of RIT computers and their Internet addresses.

Note: When logging in to the OpenVMS or Digital UNIX systems while connected to the RIT campus network (through on-campus Ethernet or modem-based DiallP, *not* an outside service provider), you can just type “grace” to get to Grace, “vaxa” to get to VAXA, etc. You do not need the “.rit.edu” ending, because the campus network assumes you want a server at RIT.

To end any of your Telnet connections, be sure to type logout at the command prompt. You need to type the logout command to end a Telnet session with RIT’s OpenVMS or Digital UNIX systems because closing a Telnet client’s connection window without logging out does *not* always end your Telnet connection properly. After you type the logout command, you may still need to close the Telnet connection window and exit the program because many Telnet programs do not automatically quit when all connections are closed.

- **From RIT’s OpenVMS or Digital UNIX systems:**

Use the telnet command to run the Telnet program on RIT’s OpenVMS or Digital UNIX systems. For example, type “**telnet grace**” to log in to Grace (RIT’s Digital UNIX server) from one of the OpenVMS systems. Since you are already connected to RIT’s campus network, you can leave off the “.rit.edu” ending that completes Grace’s Internet address. If not connected to RIT’s campus network, you would need to include Grace’s full address by typing “**telnet grace.rit.edu**” (see list below for additional computers).

Example: **\$ telnet grace**

Trying... Connected to GRACE.RIT.EDU.

Digital UNIX (grace) (ttyq4)

login: **abc1234**

Password:

Digital UNIX V4.0F (Rev. 1229); Mon Mar 12 12:47:44 EDT

2001

Internet address	Computer system	Notes
grace.rit.edu	Grace	The Grace Digital Unix computer
vaxc.rit.edu - vaxf.rit.edu	VAX C through VAX F computers	Connect to a VAX computer by substituting the appropriate letter in the

		address
vms1.rit.edu - vms4.rit.edu	Alpha computers 1 through 4	Connect to an Alpha computer by substituting the appropriate number in the address
ritvax.rit.edu vaxa.rit.edu vaxb.rit.edu vaxg.rit.edu	VAX (round robin)	A VAX computer (C through F) will be selected for you
ritvms.rit.edu ritaxp.rit.edu	Alpha (round robin)	An Alpha computer will be selected for you

Contacting the ITS HelpDesk

Phone Support: (585) 475-HELP or 475-2810 (TTY)

Email: helpdesk@rit.edu

Web Address: <https://www.rit.edu/its/help/>

In Person: Gannett Building, Room 7B-1113

Contacting the Resnet (Residential Computing) HelpDesk

Phone Support: (585) 475-2600 or 475-4927 (TTY)

Email: resnet@rit.edu

Web Address: <https://www.rit.edu/its/services/resnet/>

In Person: Nathaniel Rochester Hall (Building 43), Room 1034

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