

Department of Clarifications:

The June Issue #1, Tip #1 about remote access generated some confusion on the part of several readers. Perhaps I could have been clearer in my description of remote access. This is my excuse: I was desperately trying to fit my explanation into one paragraph, so some details were left on the cutting room floor...

A better explanation: my intent was to use the remote software that comes with the computer. There are a gazillion ways to do remote access with third-party software, but most of those require cash... lots of cash in some cases. I want to concentrate on the free ones... Here are two of them:

Example 1: Remote access from your Mac at the office to your Mac at home: on the home Mac, open up System Preferences, then iCloud, and enable the "Back to My Mac" option. Next open Finder, then Preferences, then SideBar, then click the computer name under the "Shared" heading. You may need to set some options on your home router to enable internet access... When you get to work, use the Finder, Preferences, Sidebar, Shared menu to connect back to your home Mac. [More Details Here](#)

Example 2: My specific problem was I wanted to remote from a Windows PC to an Apple Mac within my home network. **Yes, I am too lazy to get up off the couch and walk all the way to my office in the basement.** I wanted to have a remote way to do it. The solution is something I was already very familiar with: VNC. It was easy – it is the exact same software that comes with Linux and can be added to Windows. Why is it identical? See the Sidebar Article.

VNC works on almost everything: Windows, OS-X, UNIX, Linux, Solaris, and a bunch of other operating systems too long to list. I set my Mac to allow Screen Sharing, fired up my Windows laptop, started VNC and made the connection in a snap. It was pretty weird to see a Mac screen on a Windows laptop, but hey, that's how I roll.

If you want to remote from your iPad to your Mac, VNC works there too. And your iPhone for that matter, but you might have some screen size issues to deal with. VNC is a free download from the iTunes store. Android users: fear not, your version is available from the Google Play store. VNC allows you to remote from almost any device to almost any other device, making it an almost-universal solution for remote access. Thanks AT&T and the UNIX / Linux community!

-John Becker

Sidebar: The UNIX Kernel

OS-X is built upon the UNIX kernel code, the "Mother of all Operating Systems". Developed by ATT in the early 1970's, UNIX was so good and so solid, it and derivative operating systems became the basis for a host of mainframes, minicomputers, and most famously Apple's OS-X for Mac. Next most famous versions: Linux and Ubuntu. There are even bits of UNIX commands in DOS!

So if you want to nit-pick, all OS-X users can claim some level of Unix/Linux knowledge. Especially if you ever typed a command line command in the Terminal app. *By the power invested in me by the Geeks United, I hereby anoint you all as "Unix/Linux Users"...*