

To: Deans, Directors and Department Heads

From: Sylvia Johnson, University Information Security Officer

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Subject: Securing UA—Accessing University Computers From Off Campus

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS

Currently, anyone with a username and password can access UA computers from off campus using remote access protocols such as Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP), PCAnywhere and telnet. Although that arrangement is very convenient for legitimate users, it is unfortunately also very convenient for persons with less than legitimate aims. To eliminate this unnecessary and unacceptable risk, we will be making some changes in accordance with the University Network Operational Security Standard, <http://security.arizona.edu/files/ISS602.pdf>, to better ensure that only authorized users can access UA computers and data.

Beginning September 2, you will need to use the UA Virtual Private Network (VPN) if you want to access UA computers using RDP or PCAnywhere. Instead of telnet, you will need to use SSH or, if necessary, telnet through the VPN. Persons accessing UA computers from UPH branch locations will NOT need to use the VPN to connect.

Two versions of VPN are available free of charge to faculty, staff and students:

1. Cisco IPSec VPN Client

Installation and Documentation: <https://www.sitelicense.arizona.edu/vpn>

2. Web-Based SSL VPN

Information: <https://www.secops.arizona.edu/netmgr-services/VPN-pilot.htm>

To connect: <https://vpn.arizona.edu>

SSH is available free of charge to faculty, staff and students at <https://sitelicense.arizona.edu/ssh/index.shtml>.

Users must have a UA NetID to access the VPN. Regular employees and students can create one by visiting <https://netid.arizona.edu>. Any sponsored volunteer, non-matriculated student, Foundation member, and others not represented by an official record in SIS or PSOS will need to obtain departmental authorization for a UA NetID if they require access. See <http://uits.arizona.edu/index.php?id=809>.

The 24/7 IT Support Center can assist you with VPN and SSH. Call 626-TECH (8324). For more information or to request an exception, please contact the Information Security Office at 621-UIISO (8476).