

[UPDATED] 2019 Most Popular Free Remote Desktop Solutions



JOINME VS ANYDESK VS
CHROME REMOTE DESKTOP VS
WINDOWS RDP VS ULTRAVNC
VS REMOTE UTILITIES VS
TEAMVIEWER (PERSONAL USE) VS
SCREENCONNECT VS LITEMANAGER
FREE VS WAYK NOW VS
ZOHO ASSIST

Updated January 24, 2019: We have added Zoho Assist!

Please look below for the added Remote Desktop software review and also take a look at our updated comparison table.

JOINME VS ANYDESK VS CHROME REMOTE DESKTOP VS WINDOWS RDP VS ULTRAVNC VS REMOTE UTILITIES VS TEAMVIEWER (PERSONAL USE) VS SCREENCONNECT VS LITEMANAGER FREE VS WAYK NOW VS ZOHO ASSIST

In the same way there is an abundance of <u>Password Manager</u> software and <u>2 Factor-Authentication</u> methods to choose from, finding the perfect remote connection software for you or your company can be as hard as finding the perfect date on Tinder. But don't worry, we've worked hard and done the background search so you won't have to. After much in-house debate and research, the following are our favorites **free** remote connections: join.me, AnyDesk, Chrome Remote Desktop, Windows Remote Desktop Connection, <u>UltraVNC</u>, <u>Remote Utilities</u>, <u>TeamViewer</u> (Personal Use), <u>ConnectWise Control</u>, <u>LiteManager</u> Free, <u>WaykNow</u> and Zoho Assist.

Remote connection software helps users work on a computer through another computer. These programs are a must for technical support staff, as they enable IT pros to help when physical access is impossible. It also allows anyone to start or attend meetings, collaborate on projects, and discuss business, even when they are nowhere near their desktops.

So let the comparing begin!



JOIN.ME IS A CLOUD-BASED APPLICATION THAT IS PART OF THE LOGMEIN FAMILY. IT HAS A SIMPLE SCREEN WITH AN EASY-TO-USE SHARING TOOL FOR MEETINGS ON THE FLY.



WHAT WE LOVE

MOBILE WHITE BOARD: If you use join.me on your iPad, then you will love the distinctive Mobile White Board. This feature mimics an actual white board, allowing you to sketch, draw, and add pictures and graphics while doing a presentation.

SLEEK USER INTERFACE: join.me has a logical easy-to-use user interface; everything is worded in a friendly and simple way. It is full of features to enhance your online meeting experience, enabling you to manage presenters, add hosts to your plan and view meetings with up to 10 participants seeing a screen at once.

EASY ACCESS TO SUPPORT: join.me has an extensive Help section that is easy to understand. They have a user forum, a feedback form for feature requests, a knowledge base and email support (which is quite fast). They also offer phone support, but only for the Pro and Business plans.

STRESS-FREE MEETINGS: join.me offers an easy way to conduct meetings and conference calls. There are no codes or long set-ups, and there is no additional software to install. Each participant can use the session's chat and request mouse control over the other participants' computers without any installation.



WHERE IT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

ULTRA-HIGH-RESOLUTION DISPLAY: If you use an ultra-high-resolution screen, the desktop application may not display properly and you might have very tiny text, even when trying to zoom in or resize the window.

LIMITED MOBILE USE: After the 14-day free trial, you will still be able to start and join meetings, but you will lose access to the join.me Pro features.



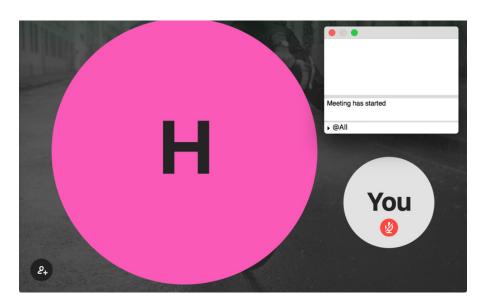
WHO IT'S FOR

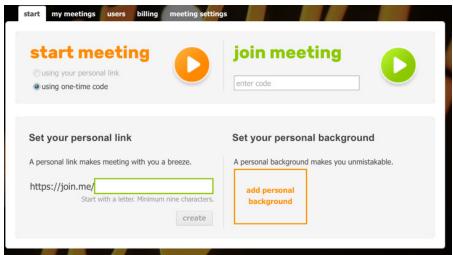
join.me is **perfect for sales teams, small businesses and start-ups** that require a fast solution for sharing screens or doing conference calls, but it might be limited for larger businesses.

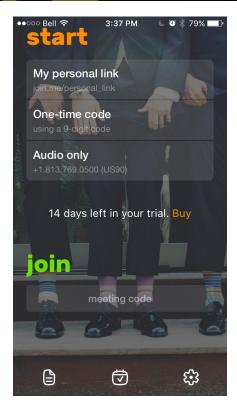


SECURITY

join.me offers data protection with **256-bit TLS encryption**, handling your data as securely as your bank account handles your money. No images, files, or data (i.e. anything shared during your meetings) are stored on their servers.









ANYDESK IS A FAST REMOTE-ACCESS PROGRAM THAT DOESN'T REQUIRE ANY INSTALLATION AND WORKS WITHOUT HAVING TO CONFIGURE A ROUTER.



NO INSTALLATION REQUIRED: AnyDesk makes it easy to access all your programs and files from anywhere, without having to entrust your information to a cloud service. You simply need to download and launch the very small 1.1MB program file to get started, so no installation is required.

SHARE YOUR SCREEN WITH JUST A URL: If you wish to share a screen session, all you have to do is send a URL. Whoever receives the URL doesn't have to install anything, they simply click on the URL to open a link in a web browser.

UNATTENDED ACCESS: A much-requested feature is unattended access, which allows you to access a computer without any user interaction. You can connect to the computer as soon as it is powered on, and you can also connect directly to the logon screen.

NO ROUTER CONFIGURATION REQUIRED: AnyDesk doesn't require any modifications to the router, like port forwarding. This means that the program can be downloaded quickly and you can start a connection in just moments.



WHERE IT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

FILE TRANSFER ABILITY: AnyDesk file transfer does not provide a typical way to transfer files per se. You must copy your file to the clipboard and then paste it into the remote computer's screen to proceed with the transfer. Since there is no file transfer window you can't see the progress of the transmission

WHITEBOARD: The addition of a whiteboard tool to allow drawing or writing on the screen would be a plus value for AnyDesk.



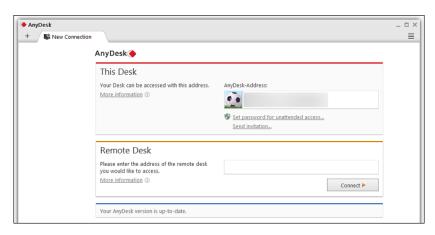
WHO IT'S FOR

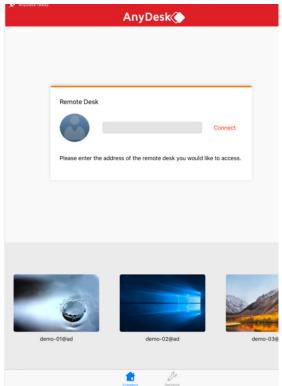
The free version of AnyDesk is for **casual personal** use rather than commercial use.

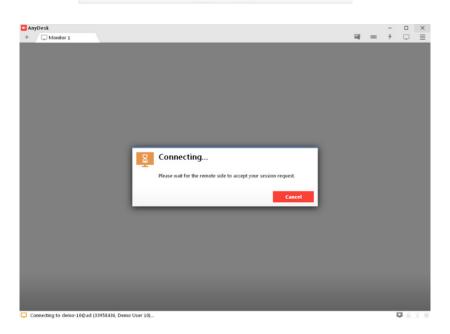


SECURITY

AnyDesk uses **TLS 1.2 encryption**, which is also used in online banking. Both ends of a connection are cryptographically verified, which makes it impossible to take over your AnyDesk ID and pretend to be you.









CHROME REMOTE DESKTOP IS A REMOTE DESKTOP PROGRAM FROM GOOGLE THAT RUNS ON THE CHROME WEB BROWSER.



EASY INSTALLATION: Both parties need the Google Chrome browser installed, but once that is done, the installation and setup is quick and easy.

WORKS WITH DIFFERENT OPERATING SYSTEMS: Since Chrome Remote Desktop runs solely from the browser, almost any operating systems can use it. This means you can provide support to practically anyone.

DIRECTLY LINKED TO YOUR GOOGLE ACCOUNT: Chrome Remote Desktop is linked to your Google account, so there is no need to create another account or generate a one-time code.

ACCESS ANY COMPUTER ON THE WEB: You can easily access any computer on the web without changing network or firewall settings.



WHERE IT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

SIMPLE SCREEN SHARING APPLICATION: Chrome Remote Desktop is a simple screen sharing application and not a complete remote access program, meaning that file transfers only work through copy-and-pasting a file. It also lacks a built-in feature to let you chat across computers.

MISSING FEATURES: Other than window resizing and the print screen option, Chrome Remote Desktop is lacking many features, such as audio support, video or instant messaging, printing remote files to a local printer and sending custom keyboard shortcuts.



WHO IT'S FOR

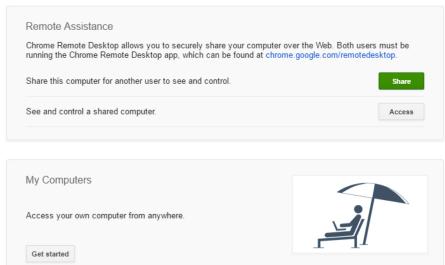
Chrome Remote Desktop is mostly for **personal use**, and it is best suited for **users who need a simple screen sharing application.**



SECURITY

Sessions are **fully encrypted using Chrome's SSL features, including support for AES.** Your session data are never recorded, and no session data are transmitted in a way that would let Google or anyone else (besides the participants) access it.

Chrome Remote Desktop



To begin sharing your desktop, give the access code below to the person who will be assisting you.

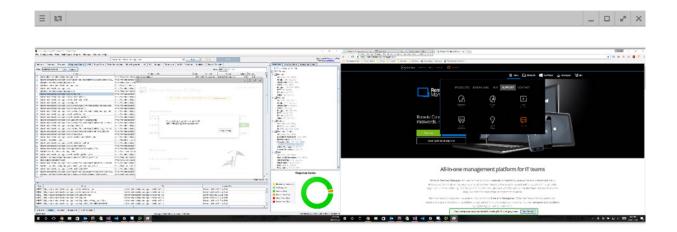
5428 7741 2060

Once they enter the code your sharing session will begin.

0

waiting for connection...

Cancel





REMOTE DESKTOP CONNECTION IS WINDOWS' TOOL FOR ACCESSING AND CONTROLLING A COMPUTER FROM A REMOTE LOCATION.



CLEAR DISPLAY: The display is crisp, fast, and colorful, and the connection is quick and responsive. Other than the small blue toolbar at the top of the screen, which shows that you're using Windows Remote Desktop, you wouldn't know you weren't using the computer on the desk next to you.

EASY FOR WINDOWS USERS: If you mostly use Windows, enabling RDC on your home server and directly connecting it over your LAN is faster and much easier than downloading and setting up a third party application.

MINIMAL EFFORT: Once past the initial set up, which takes minimal effort on the client side, there is not much to do after that. You have tons of options and features that allow you to manage, access, and troubleshoot the remote computer. It's totally free and without restrictions.

UNATTENDED ACCESS: Remote Connection offers unattended access, which allows you to access a computer with no one sitting at the host PC.



WHERE IT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

ROUTER CONFIGURATION REQUIRED: If you wish to connect remotely, you will need to forward ports and configure the router of the remote network, which for some users can be quite complicated.

PROFESSIONAL VERSION OF WINDOWS REQUIRED: All versions of Windows can connect to other machines via the RDP client, but only the professional versions (and above) of Windows have an RDP server. Most people you would help in your circle of friends and relatives are likely running a home release of Windows, meaning you wouldn't be able to connect to them.

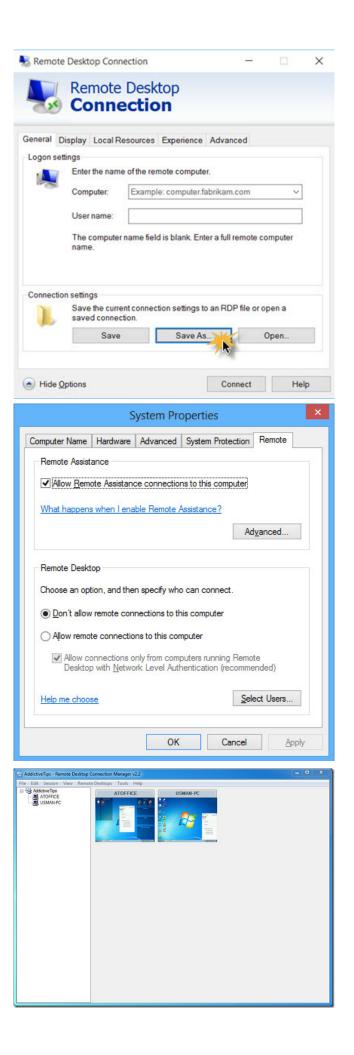


WHO IT'S FOR

Windows Remote Desktop was made **for home and office use with Windows computers**. It is perfect for local network administration in a professional environment, but certainly not for worldwide technical support calls.



WindowsRemote Desktop is **more secure than some remote administration tools**, such as VNC, that do not encrypt the entire session. It **can be secured using SSL/TLS** in Windows Vista, Windows 7, and Windows Server 2003/2008.





ULTRA VNC IS A FREE REMOTE ACCESS SOFTWARE THAT CAN DISPLAY THE SCREEN OF ANOTHER COMPUTER (VIA INTERNET OR NETWORK) ON YOUR OWN SCREEN.



FILE TRANSFER: Compared to other solutions, sending files using Ultra VNC is more stable between units. Just select the file you wish to send from and the folder of the computer you wish to send to, making it easy for remote file retrieval.

ADVANCED SETTINGS: Ultra VNC has an abundance of advanced settings like cursor tracking, view only mode, custom encoding options, automatic clipboard synchronization, and send custom keyboard commands. It can even connect to a remote computer that's in Safe Mode.

CONNECT OVER A BROWSER: UltraVNC offers the option of bypassing the UltraVNC Viewer program and instead connecting to the server over a browser.

BLANK COMPUTER SCREEN: In a corporate environment, you can use UltraVNC's ability to blank a computer screen to reduce the user ability to see passwords, setting changes, or other confidential information he or she doesn't need to see. This could also work well in an educational context, as you can monitor a student's activity in a silent mode.



WHERE IT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

ROUTER CONFIGURATIONS REQUIRED: To allow the server to accept incoming connections from an UltraVNC client, you must configure port forwarding on the server; and for the port forwarding to be configured, you also need to setup a static IP address for the server.

SETTINGS CAN BE CONFUSING: UltraVNC is a bit more complex to use than other applications. If you aren't too tech-savvy, UltraVNC settings can get confusing since it is an open-source project that was made exclusively for Microsoft Windows.



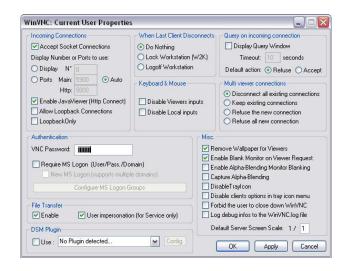
WHO IT'S FOR

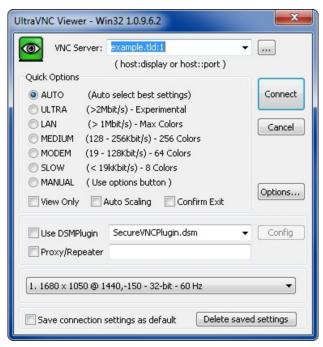
UltraVNC is **enterprise-driven**, since it might be too complicated to set up for basic users. It's **made for IT enthusiasts or those with an advanced knowledge of computers and remote access**, as most of the settings can be fine-tuned, making it perfect for them.

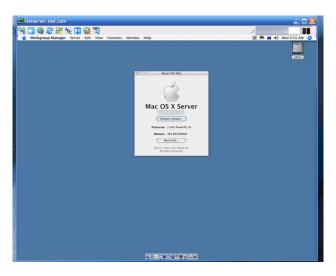


SECURITY

All UltraVNC versions are thread-safe, allowing the server to host multiple viewers simultaneously. Default configuration uses **2048-bit RSA keys and 256-bit AES keys**.









REMOTE UTILITIES IS A FREE REMOTE ACCESS PROGRAM. YOU CAN CONNECT TO AS MANY AS 10 COMPUTERS FOR FREE FROM A MOBILE DEVICE OR DESKTOP PROGRAM.



INVENTORY MANAGER: Remote Utilities has an Inventory Manager that contains remarkable details about the hardware, host operating system, and installed software, including the version numbers and manufacturer names.

USB DRIVE: With Remote Utilities, you can launch the client and host program from a USB drive without having to install any software. The host software can be easily run without installation for spontaneous support.

REMOTE COMMAND PROMPT: There is a remote command prompt that looks just like a normal one, but it actually runs commands against the host computer rather than the client. The remote command prompt running processes can be easily shut down remotely.

NOTIFICATION PANEL: One of the neat feature of Remote Utilities is the notification panel, which lets you inform a remote user about who is connected to their computer; the remote user can even stop the remote session if necessary.



WHERE IT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

CONFIGURING HOST: Configuring Remote Utilities may be confusing on the host computer, since there are tons of different options.

DOESN'T WORK ON MACOS: If you're working on a Mac, then you should look at other remote access solutions since Remote Utilities doesn't support macOS at the moment.



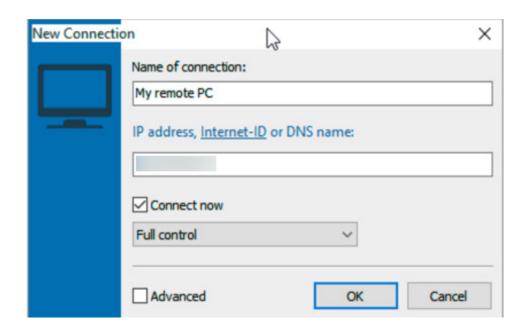
WHO IT'S FOR

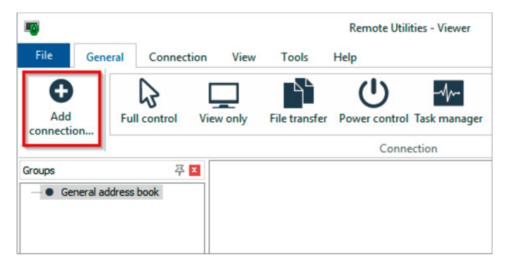
Because of its complexity, Remote Utilities is a **better fit for** power users than for average home users.

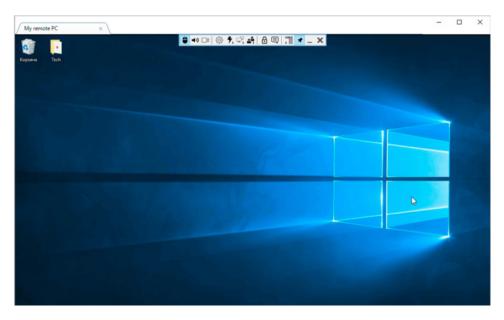


SECURITY

The transferred data are encrypted with the secure encryption algorithms of RSA 2048 and AES 256.









WAYK NOW IS A FREE CROSS-PLATFORM REMOTE DESKTOP AND REMOTE ASSISTANCE SOFTWARE THAT IS FLEXIBLE, EASY-TO-USE AND LIGHTWEIGHT.



LIGHTWEIGHT: Wayk Now is packaged as a lightweight, self-contained executable that can be launched without installation. The package contains both 32-bit and 64-bit versions of the software and automatically launches the most optimized version for your environment.

CROSS-PLATFORM: Easily provide support to users on almost any operating system like Windows, macOS, Linux, iOS and Android, all with the same rich feature set.

SIMPLE AND SECURE: Wayk Now has a very sleek user interface. Everything you need is right there; it is friendly, easy to use and highly secure. It uses strong TLS1.2 encryption and certificate validation to protect all your communications.

ENHANCED CLIPBOARD: Wayk Now has an enhanced clipboard that lets you copy and paste just about anything between local and remote applications.



WHERE IT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

SESSION RECORDING: Wayk Now doesn't support session recording, meaning that you won't be able to record remote control or meeting sessions.

AUDIO SUPPORT: Without audio support you won't be able to hear sound from the remote computer through the speakers attached to the local computer.



WHO IT'S FOR

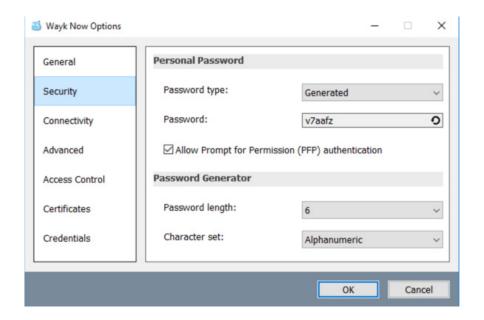
Wayk Now is the ideal remote desktop access solution for personal use, IT professionals and executives alike. It's free for personal and commercial purposes.

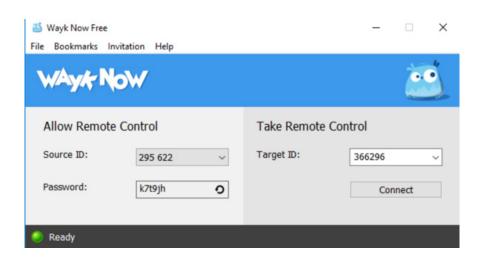


SECURITY

All communications are secured using a **strong TLS 1.2 encryption with certificate validation.**









TEAMVIEWER IS A COMPUTER SOFTWARE PACKAGE FOR REMOTE CONTROL, DESKTOP SHARING, ONLINE MEETINGS, WEB CONFERENCING AND FILE TRANSFER BETWEEN COMPUTERS.



GREAT SUPPORT: TeamViewer has a great online support for its users. They offer user guides, a few how-to videos and a searchable FAQs section. However, if you can't find your answer among these options and wish to submit a ticket, don't forget that their tech support only speaks to licensed users.

FILE SHARING FEATURE: TeamViewer has one of the easiest file sharing features on the market. You can easily transfer files with the standard dual-window interface, or you can simply drag and drop from one computer to another. If you need to share just one piece of information, you could also do a simple copy-and-paste, thereby cutting out the need for a file transfer.

EASY SOLUTION: It has very few setup steps, a fast connection, easy interface and fast transfer time, making it a dependable solution for remote computer access. No need to make any changes to the router or firewall configurations.

CONNECTION LOGS: The TeamViewer Management Console automatically logs your connection data. Combined with your individual comments, this documentation is perfect for invoicing and reporting.



WHERE IT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

NOT FREE FOR COMMERCIAL USE: TeamViewer cannot be used for free in commercial settings, and it might stop working if it thinks you're using it for commercial reasons.

COMPLEX SECURITY SETTINGS: Security is one of the major reasons a lot of people are searching for alternatives to TeamViewer. It does offer high-end security, but it is complicated to set up and if not properly configured, your system could be put at risk.



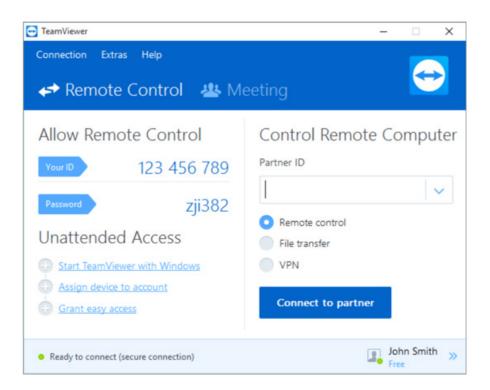
WHO IT'S FOR

The free version is **only for personal use** and it will disconnect your session if commercial usage is detected. The price for the enterprise version is steep.

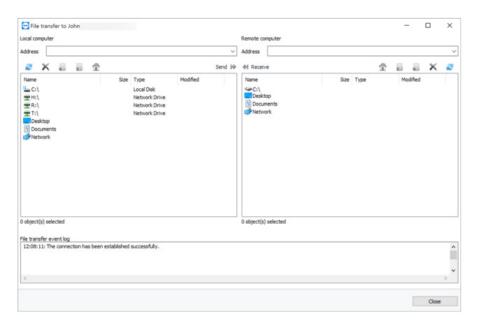


SECURITY

TeamViewer offers **256-bits encryption**, which is higher than the industry standard.









CONNECTWISE CONTROL IS A REMOTE COMPUTER ACCESS SOFTWARE THAT OFFERS HIGH PERFORMANCE AND OUTSTANDING SECURITY.



ADVANCED SECURITY SOLUTIONS: ConnectWise Control has multiple layers of protection to help keep your data safe. It offers plenty of customization for security settings, including: audit logs of every session, limited access to certain sessions, screen recording, session timeouts, two-factor authentication, and restricting IP addresses. ConnectWise Control not only offers the most security options, but it also gives the user more control over session security.

HELP AND SUPPORT: ConnectWise Control has numerous resources to help you learn how to use the software. In addition to a searchable knowledgebase, ConnectWise Control has how-to videos and user forums, as well as several ways to contact technical support. The support team can be reached by email, live chat or telephone.

FAST AND EFFICIENT: Once the set-up is complete and you launch your first session, ConnectWise Control is fast and efficient to use. The icon-based toolbar makes it easy to swiftly find the function you need. You can easily access the control panel, download programs and stream videos between the two computers.

GREAT PLATFORM PERFORMANCE: ConnectWise Control performs admirably on all platforms, whether you are connecting via Mac, PC or tablet.



WHERE IT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

CAN'T BE USED AS A SINGLE-USER SOLUTION: ConnectWise Control would be difficult to use as a single-user solution since someone must be at both ends to create the admin controls, initiate a remote connection and, on the host side, grant permission for the session to begin.

DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH A SESSION: Establishing a session can get quite complex for a client or an employee who may not be very technically oriented.



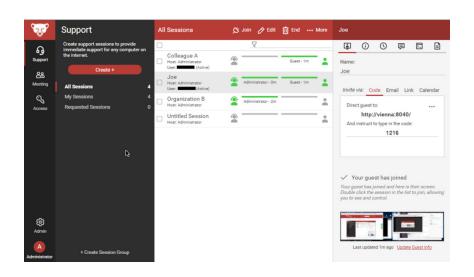
WHO IT'S FOR

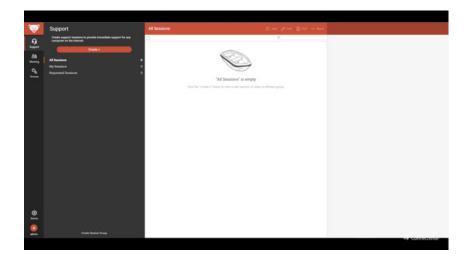
ConnectWise Control is free **for personal use only**, not for commercial use.



SECURITY

The software offers end-to-end **256-bit SSL encryption**, which is above the industry standard.







LITE MANAGER

LITEMANAGER FREE IS A SECURE REMOTE ACCESS AND SUPPORT TOOL.



GREAT USER INTERFACE: LiteManager Free is as user-friendly as it gets. It allows you to easily reposition panels where you'd like, while the main elements are positioned separately. The list of remote computers can be displayed in different styles: as regular icons, as a table or as thumbnails.

REMOTE COMMANDS: The ability to remotely execute commands and run console apps is great; you can, for example, install MSI packages on the remote machine and run power functions like Shutdown.

EVENT LOG: LiteManager Free allows you to get reliable information about the current status of the computer and about what is going on it at the moment.

FLAWLESS REMOTE ACCESS MODE: The program offers additional control modes like file transfer and remote installation, as well as open utilities like task manager, registry editor, CMD and much more. The application works on Windows, Mac and Linux, and both 32-bit and 64-bit OS editions are supported.



WHERE IT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

FREE VERSION MISSING FEATURES: As great as LiteManager Free is, it lacks some of the full version's features like RDP, device manager, screen recorder, capture overlay video, audio video chat, timer, address books and remote change server settings.

INCOMPLETE DOCUMENTATION: LiteManager Free documentation could use some improvement; at the moment, it is missing information and, without a searchable tool, finding the precise information you are searching for is overly challenging.



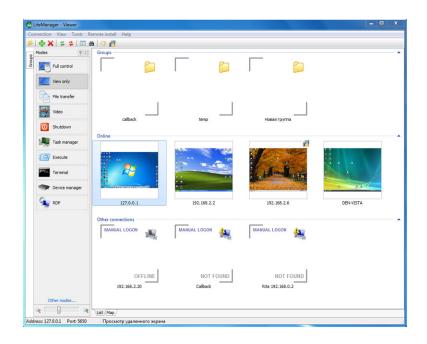
WHO IT'S FOR

Lite Manager Free is a **great option for home and commercial use.**

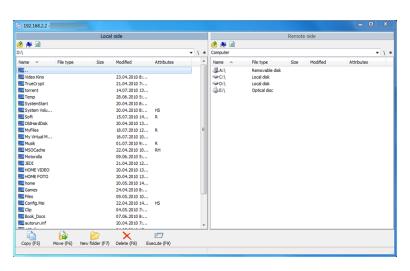


SECURITY

All data are transferred over the network in a compressed and encrypted format using the most advanced technologies and key exchange protocols: a 2048-bit RSA signature key and a 256-bit AES session key.









ZOHO ASSIST IS AN EASY-TO-USE, ALL-IN-ONE, WEB-BASED SOLUTION FOR REMOTE SUPPORT, UNATTENDED DESKTOP ACCESS, AND SCREEN SHARING.



INSTANT CHAT: Zoho Assist offers instant messaging to quickly launch live chat with the user while in a support session.

EASY-TO-USE: Zoho Assist is simple to setup and easy to use, even for non-techies. Simply generate a number, send a link to the end-user email address and from there, the user can easily follow the instructions provided, allowing the technician to quickly connect and offer support.

FILE TRANSFER: Easily transfer files up to 2GB between devices. The transfer process is intuitive and synchronized, allowing you to send and receive files at the same time.

2FA SUPPORT: With security being on everyone's mind, the fact that Zoho Assist supports multi-factor authentication to provide an extra layer of security is quite impressive. Use SMS and time-based OTP as a secondary factor of authentication to protect your information.



WHERE IT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

MISSING FEATURES: The Free version is indeed free, but is missing some basic features such as file transfer, multi-monitor navigation, mobile apps support, session recording and screen sharing, to name just a few.

UNATTENDED ACCESS: I think that Unattended Access should be included in the Remote Support plan and shouldn't be an extra to pay for since it really raises the price of licenses for small and medium businesses who would need that feature.



WHO IT'S FOR

Zoho Assist is a **great remote access solution for small to medium businesses.** It can also be a great solution for individuals who needs a simple remote control to support friends and family.



SECURITY

Zoho Assist provides end-to-end **SSL and AES 256-bit** encryption.

HERE IS A TABLE FOR A QUICK OVERVIEW OF SOME ADVANCED OPTIONS SUPPORTED BY THE DIFFERENT REMOTE CONNECTION SOFTWARE.

	join me JoinMe	AnyDesk	Chrome RDP	Windows RDP	Ultra VNC	Remote Utilities	Wayk Now	Team Viewer	Connect Wise	Lite Manager	Zoho Assist
Drag and Drop		**			✓	~		~	*	~	*
File Transfer	~	~		***	~	~	~	~	*	~	*
Copy/Paste	**	~	~	4	~	4	~	~	*	~	~
Session Recording	*	~			~	~		~		*	*
Screen (1) Sharing	~	4	~		~	~	~	~	~	~	*
Share Control	~	~		~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Audio (2) Support	*	~		4		~		~	*	~	
Audio VoIP	~			√ ****				~	*	*	
Unattented (3) Access	*	~	~	~	~	~	*	~	*	~	*
Supports Mobile App	~	~	~	4		~	~	~	~		*
Portable (4) Version		~			~	~	~	~	~	~	
Chat Across Computer	~	~			~	~	~	~	*	~	~
Clipboard (5) Synchronization		~			~	~	~	~	*	~	~
Multi-Monitor Support	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	*	~	*

^{*} Only available with the paid version. ** Presently working on that feature. *** Windows 7 and later doesn't support file transfer but Windows XP and Vista does support file transfer. **** Only in 32-bit not currently supported in 64-bit.

(1) **Screen sharing:** Share everything that is on your desktop with coworkers as if they were there looking over your shoulder. (2) **Audio support:** The remote control software transfers audio signals across the network and plays the audio through the speakers attached to the local computer. (3) **Unattended access:** Setting up unattended access on a customer's computer or server allows you to access their computer when the customer is not sitting in front of it, enabling you to provide unattended technical support at any time. (4) **Portable version:** A portable version means that it is not installed and can therefore be started from any data carrier (such as a USB stick or a CD) (5) **Clipboard synchronization:** If the option is enabled, any text copied to the clipboard will automatically be available on the other side.

After taking your time in choosing and doing some careful comparison-shopping, all there is left to do, is to pick out the right one for you!

Have fun shopping!