

LXQt with VNC

This guide will help you set up the lightweight LXQt desktop environment with VNC on a Debian EC2 instance, allowing for a graphical desktop interface through a secure connection.

Initial Setup

```
# Update system packages
sudo apt update
sudo apt upgrade -y

# Install LXQt desktop environment
sudo apt install lxqt -y

# Install TigerVNC server
sudo apt install tigervnc-standalone-server tigervnc-common -y

# Set VNC password - you will be prompted to enter a password
vncpasswd

# Create VNC config directory if it doesn't exist
mkdir -p ~/.vnc

# Create a simple xstartup file
cat > ~/.vnc/xstartup << 'EOF'
#!/bin/sh
export XDG_SESSION_TYPE=x11
export DESKTOP_SESSION=lxqt
exec startlxqt
EOF

# Make xstartup executable
chmod +x ~/.vnc/xstartup

# Kill any existing VNC server instances (optional, use if needed)
# vncserver -kill :1
```

```
# Start VNC server
vncserver :1
```

Connecting to Your VNC Server

From your local machine:

```
# Create SSH tunnel and keep it open
# Replace with your actual key file and EC2 public DNS
ssh -L 5901:localhost:5901 -i "your-key.pem" user@your-ec2-public-dns "vncserver :1; sleep infinity"
```

In a new terminal window on your local machine:

```
# Connect to the VNC server using TigerVNC viewer
xtigervncviewer localhost:1
```

Useful VNC Management Commands

```
# Check if VNC server is running
vncserver -list

# Manually kill VNC server
vncserver -kill :1

# Start VNC with specific resolution
vncserver :1 -geometry 1920x1080

# Start VNC with more parameters (depth, geometry, etc.)
vncserver :1 -depth 24 -geometry 1920x1080 -localhost no
```

Security Best Practices

- Always use SSH tunneling when connecting over the internet
- Keep your EC2 security group restrictive (don't open VNC port 5901 publicly)
- Use a strong VNC password

- Consider using `-localhost yes` parameter when starting VNC to only allow connections via SSH tunnel
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