

How to access the Mainframe

Last Updated Monday, 20 March 2017

Subject: Attention all Mainframe and CICS users.
How do I install programs to access the Louisiana Tech Mainframe?

Access to the LaTech mainframe requires a secured connection. The Computing Center has acquired licensing for a web-based emulation package (BlueZone) which works well for Windows computers. The Computing Center has also acquired licensing for a think HTML5 (zScope) client which will work on any platform.

The primary Windows client which the Computing Center has licensed is called BlueZone and may be installed on a computer via web deployment from the link below. An Active X client will be installed if using Internet Explorer as the browser. If using a non-activeX browser such as Edge, Firefox or Chrome, the java web start based client will be installed. For Internet Explorer installes Rocket Software BlueZone active X code must be allowed to install in the browser. For java based installes, a current version of java must already be installed on the computer.

If you have a Windows machine that was imaged by the Computing Center then an icon for "LaTech CICS" may already be on your desktop. Just click on the icon to start the install process. The link provided below can be used from any Windows browser. The page will detect which type of install is needed:

<http://emulator.latech.edu/bzweb1/cics> Click link to install client

Microsoft Windows Users

When installing BlueZone via the link above, click on the Show Download Instructions link from the install page to see information on how to install the client using Firefox, IE and Chrome. To go help information, click on the link above and then click on the Show Download Instructions link

Macintosh Users

The Computing Center recommends that Mac users should use the zScope HTML5 client available at the following link:

<http://emulator.latech.edu/zscope>

Mac users may also use the free TN3270X client available for that platform. Click on the following link on how to configure the TN3270X program to use a SSL connection. Help Setting Up Tn3270X

Linux/Unix Users

The Computing Center recommends that Linux/BSD/Unix users should use the zScope HTML5 client available at the following link: <http://emulator.latech.edu/zscope>

Linux/Unix users may also download and install the GNU SSL tn3270 emulator located at the following web site and enable SSL for host cics.latech.edu: <http://sourceforge.net/projects/x3270>

Tablet Users

The Computing Center recommends that tablet/phone users should use the zScope HTML5 client available at the following link: <http://emulator.latech.edu/zscope>

Home Users

The LaTech VPN is no longer required to access the LaTech Mainframe from off campus. The Bluezone software has been acquired with a concurrent/metered license, so install it wherever you need it. The zScope client also uses a concurrent license and may also be used from off campus.

If you have any problems making the switch, please contact our Helpdesk by any of the methods described on our homepage.