Instructions for Accessing Stata Through the Virtual Open Access Lab (VOAL)
at Texas A&M University
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1. VOAL webpage

On your **computer**, go to https://voal.tamu.edu/. You may want to read the instructions on the webpage before proceeding.

NOTE: To log in to VOAL, you must be enrolled in A&M's NetID Two-Factor Authentication (Duo). If you are already enrolled in Duo, proceed to the section "Ways to access VOAL."

2. Enrolling in Duo
(You have to follow these steps just once)

On your **computer**, go to https://duo.tamu.edu/:

– Click on "Enroll/Manage Devices."

– Log in with your NetID and password.

– Choose which type of device you want to use (not the device you will be using to access VOAL/Stata). Mobile phone is recommended. This guide will only cover enrollment in Duo with a mobile phone.

– The next screen will prompt you to enter your phone number.

On your **phone**, access your app store and download and install Duo Mobile. Open the application if it does not do so automatically.

On your **computer**, click "I have Duo Mobile installed."

On your **phone**, to activate your Duo account, allow Duo to access your camera. A permissions prompt will pop up. Scan the QR code which should currently be displayed on your computer screen. Alternatively, you could have an activation link emailed to you.

You should now be enrolled. The current menu asks you to select how you would like to use Duo. Push notifications are probably the easiest/quickest way to verify a login attempt.

3. Ways to access VOAL

On your **computer**, go to https://voal.tamu.edu/ and click Login. The next page will present you with the two ways to access VOAL:

1. "Download VMware Horizon Client" to your computer and access VOAL from this application.

2. "VMware Horizon Web Access" uses a web browser to access VOAL.

Option 1 (client) is supposed to perform better than option 2 (web access). We now explain how to access VOAL with each of these options.

4. Download and install VMware Horizon Client
(You have to follow these steps just once)

On your **computer**, go to https://connect.voal.tamu.edu/:

– Select "Download VMware Horizon Client". This takes you to the download page for the different versions of the client.

– Find the version that corresponds with your computer's operating system and select "Go to Downloads" (on the right) for that version.

– On the next page click "download". Once the download is complete, open the installation file.

– Follow the installation instructions.

– You will have to restart your computer after installation so make sure all work is saved and all programs are closed.

– After restarting your computer, open the VMware Horizon Client (there is likely a shortcut for the program on your desktop). You may want to save the application in a place where it will be quick and easy to access.

– After opening the client, click "new server."

– Enter this as the connection server: "connect.voal.tamu.edu"

– Select: "connect.voal.tamu.edu"

– Accept the license agreement.

– Log in with your NetID and password.

– You will be prompted to enter a passcode from Duo.

On your **phone**, open the Duo app:

– If no 6-digit passcode is displayed, select the drop-down arrow by "DUO-PROTECTED Texas A&M University."

– Select the refresh icon by the 6-digit number that appears. Do this every time you are prompted to log in with Duo, so that you can be sure you have a current passcode.

On your **computer**, enter the code in the field, then click "login:"

– Select VOAL from the list of applications.

– You should now be remotely accessing an OAL computer desktop. NOTE: the first time you do this, it may take longer to load your user settings than in subsequent logins.

5. Access VOAL through VMware Horizon Client
(You have to follow these steps <u>every time</u> you want to connect to VOAL)

On your **<u>computer</u>**, open "VMware Horizon Client" application.

– Accept the license agreement if prompted and log in using your NetID and password.

– You will be prompted to enter a passcode from Duo.

On your **<u>phone</u>**, open the Duo app:

– If no 6-digit passcode is displayed, select the drop-down arrow by "DUO-PROTECTED Texas A&M University".

– Select the refresh icon by the 6-digit number that appears. Do this every time you are prompted to log in with Duo, so that you can be sure you have a current passcode.

On your **<u>computer</u>**, enter the code in the field, then click "login:"

– Select VOAL from the list of applications.

– You should now be remotely accessing a VOAL computer desktop. NOTE: the first time you do this, it may take longer to load your user settings than in subsequent logins.

6. Access VOAL through VMware Horizon Web
(You have to follow these steps <u>every time</u> you want to connect to VOAL)

Another option for accessing VOAL is on your web browser. This is not recommended because the web access method is known to be somewhat unstable and slow. Your connection at times may spontaneously be lost, resulting in lost work and/or having to login again. Regardless, instructions for access using this method are provided below.

On your **<u>computer</u>**, go to https://connect.voal.tamu.edu/:

– Select "VMware Horizon Web Access."

– Accept the license agreement if prompted and log in using your NetID and password.

– You will be prompted to enter a passcode from Duo.

On your **<u>phone</u>**, open the Duo app:

– If no 6-digit passcode is displayed, select the drop-down arrow by "DUO-PROTECTED Texas A&M University".

– Select the refresh icon by the 6-digit number that appears. Do this every time you are prompted to log in with Duo, so that you can be sure you have a current passcode.

On your **<u>computer</u>**, enter the code in the field, then click "login:"

– Select VOAL from the list of applications.

– You should now be remotely accessing a VOAL computer desktop in your web browser. NOTE: the first time you do this, it may take longer to load your user settings than in subsequent logins.

7. Access Stata and organize applications/course material in VOAL
(You have to follow these steps <u>just once</u>)

Everything in the VOAL desktop will be in Windows 10. Mac users who have not used Windows before may want to take some time to familiarize themselves with this operating system's configuration.

Find "Stata 14" from the Start menu. Save Stata shortcut on desktop, Start menu, and/or taskbar in VOAL for easy access.

You also may want to bookmark Professor Amaral's course website in the internet browser:
http://www.ernestoamaral.com/soci420-18fall.html

Download the GSS data from course website:
http://www.ernestoamaral.com/docs/soci420-18fall/course.zip

You will get a compressed file (course.zip). Go to "File Explorer" application and click on the file.

Choose "Extract all" at the top. The course folder should be saved in network (nt or H: drive)

Open the course folder and click on the data folder. You can open databases of the General Social Survey (GSS) by double clicking on any of the files (GSS2000.dta to GSS2016.dta).