



# **Thincast Client**

## User Manual for Beta release

This manual describes the installation and usage of Thincast Client

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# Table of Contents

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<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
Versions	1
<b>Requirements</b>	<b>1</b>
Supported Operating Systems	1
Windows	1
macOS	1
Linux	1
Graphics Card	2
Network	2
<b>Installation</b>	<b>2</b>
Prerequisites	2
Windows	2
macOS	3
Linux	3
Ubuntu and Debian	3
OpenSuse	4
Fedora	4
Uninstallation	5
Windows	5
macOS	5
Ubuntu/Debian	5
OpenSuse	5
Fedora	5
<b>Usage</b>	<b>5</b>
First Start	5
User Interface	6
Menu Bar	6
Servers	6
Machine	6
Group	7
Settings	7
Help	8
Server list	8
Thincast Viewer	8
Machine	8
View	8
Devices	9
Help	9
Installing Thincast Guest Additions	9
<b>Support</b>	<b>9</b>
Upload a TSRP	9
<b>Changelog</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Third-party Licenses</b>	<b>10</b>

# Introduction

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Thincast Client allows you to access and manage all your virtualized desktops running on Thincast Workstation. It's completely free and available for Windows, Linux and macOS.

Thincast Client is currently in Beta phase, see "Versions" below.

## Versions

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We do provide different versions:

- Stable - Official releases. Use this for production.
- Beta - Upcoming release. Beta versions are under qualification testing, and may include significant issues.
- Nightly - Development snapshot. Contains the latest features and improvements but isn't completely tested and may include severe issues.

The beta and nightly versions are mainly for preview and evaluation purposes. Don't use them in production!

It is the end users' responsibility to protect their systems and data when using such beta/nightly software. It is strongly recommended that end users do back up all their data prior to using beta/nightly software.

Beta and nightly software does neither carry any warranties nor support services.

# Requirements

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Systems that run Thincast Client must meet specific requirements:

## Supported Operating Systems

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### Windows

- Windows 7 / 8 / 8.1 / 10
- Windows Server 2008 R2 / 2012 / 2012 R2 / 2012

Thincast Client does support x86 and x64 environments.

### macOS

- macOS 10.10 or later is supported

### Linux

- Ubuntu 16.04 (xenial) / 17.10 (artful) / 18.04 (bionic)
- Debian 9 (stretch) / unstable (sid)
- OpenSUSE 42.3
- Fedora 27

## Graphics Card

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To use the advantage of hardware video decoding, your GPU must support at least DirectX version 9.0c. However, the GPU software drivers must support DirectX 11 Feature Level 9.1 (which means the DirectX 11 API has been implemented in the GPU software driver to be compatible with DirectX 9 hardware). The following list shows supported GPUs but is subject to driver support for your operating system:

- Nvidia Geforce 8 Series or higher
- AMD HD 2000 Series or higher
- Intel HD Graphics Sandy Bridge generation or higher

Please note that hardware acceleration might not be available for Linux.

## Network

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Thincast Client requires a properly configured network to communicate with the Thincast Workstation.

# Installation

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## Prerequisites

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Thincast Client supports multiple platforms, please refer to chapter “[Supported operating systems](#)”. Please also make sure that you have installed all recent operating system and driver updates.

## Windows

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1. Download the latest version of Thincast Client for Windows from [here](#).
2. Open the installation package.
3. Thincast Client Setup will now be opened. Continue with “Next”.
4. Accept the End-user License Agreement and proceed with “Next”.
5. Select the destination folder for Thincast Client and click “Next”.
6. Choose the shortcut options you wish and continue with “Next”.
7. Click “Install” to begin the installation. Accept the dialog with “Yes”.
8. Click “Finish” to complete your installation.

If no shortcut was created, Thincast Client can be found under:

`C:\Program Files\Thincast\Client\TCClient.exe`

## macOS

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1. Download the latest version of Thincast Client for macOS from [here](#).
2. Double-click the .dmg file to mount it and click on “Agree”.
3. Drag and drop the application onto the shown shortcut icon “Applications”.
4. Close the Window.
5. Eject the disc image in Finder.
6. Delete the .dmg file by dragging it to the trash.
7. You’ve now installed Thincast Client for macOS. The application is inside your Applications folder.

## Linux

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The Linux version of the Thincast Client uses the package management of the respective distribution. You find the installed files in “/opt/thincast”. The client itself can be found in “/opt/thincast/bin/” and is called “TCClient”.

### Ubuntu and Debian

First install the repository signing key:

```
wget -O - https://www.thincast.com/download/50A50847305E8C67.asc | sudo apt-key add -
```

In the following instructions replace “stretch” with the code name of your Debian/Ubuntu distribution. Available Distributions:

Debian: stretch (9), buster(testing), sid (unstable) Ubuntu: xenial (16.04), bionic (18.04), cosmic (18.10)

The URLs can also be used via https if the corresponding apt transport is installed:

```
apt-get install apt-transport-https
```

To install and get updates for the Thincast client, a sources list must be added to your system. Create the file “/etc/apt/sources.list.d/thincast-client.list” with the following content:

- for the beta versions

```
deb http://www.thincast.com/software/download/tcc/beta/linux-stretch/ thincast-client-beta main
```

- for nightly versions

```
deb http://www.thincast.com/software/download/tcc/nightly/linux-stretch/ thincast-client-nightly main
```

After creating the sources list file run:

```
apt-get update  
apt-get install thincast-client
```

## OpenSuse

Available for OpenSUSE 42.3

Depending on the version you want to use, add a new the repository by creating the file “/etc/zypp/repos.d/thincast-client.repo” with the following content:

- beta version

```
[thincast-client]
name=thincast-client
baseurl=https://www.thincast.com/software/download/tcc/beta/linux-sl42.3
enabled=1
autorefresh=1
type=rpm-md
gpgcheck=0
keeppackages=0
```

- nightly version

```
[thincast-client]
name=thincast-client
baseurl=https://www.thincast.com/software/download/tcc/nightly/linux-sl42.3
enabled=1
autorefresh=1
type=rpm-md
gpgcheck=0
keeppackages=0
```

After the file was created, run these commands to install the Thincast Client:

```
zypper refresh
zypper install thincast-client
```

## Fedora

Available for Fedora 27 and 28.

Depending on the version you want to use, add a new the repository by creating the file “/etc/yum.repos.d/thincast-client.repo” with the following content:

- beta version

```
[thincast-client]
name=thincast-client
baseurl=http://www.thincast.com/software/download/tcc/beta/linux-fedora-$releasever/
enabled=1
metadata_expire=12h
gpgcheck=0
```

- nightly version

```
[thincast-client]
name=thincast-client
baseurl=http://www.thincast.com/software/download/tcc/nightly/linux-fedora-$releasever/
enabled=1
metadata_expire=12h
gpgcheck=0
```

After the file was created, run these commands to install the Thincast Client:

```
dnf refresh
dnf install thincast-client
```

# Uninstallation

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## Windows

1. To uninstall Thincast Client, open your Control Panel and navigate to Programs -> Uninstall a program.
2. Right-click on Thincast Client and select Uninstall.
3. Confirm with Yes.
4. You've now successfully uninstalled Thincast Workstation.

## macOS

1. Quit Thincast Client.
2. Open your Applications folder and drag the Thincast Client icon into the Trash.
3. Empty the Trash.
4. You've now successfully removed Thincast Client.

## Ubuntu/Debian

```
apt-get remove thincast-client
```

## OpenSuse

```
zypper remove thincast-client
```

## Fedora

```
dnf remove thincast-client
```

# Usage

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## First Start

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After installation, you can start Thincast Client as follows:

- On a Windows system, just type “Thincast Client” in the search box of the “Start” menu.
- On macOS, open the Finder and double-click on the “Thincast Client” item in the “Applications” folder.
- On Linux either use the menu entry if your desktop environment has one or run “/opt/thincast/bin/TCClient” manually.

Thincast Client will launch and depending on your configuration it will automatically discover all available servers and machines from your network.

If no servers are available, please check your network configuration and verify that Thincast Workstation is running. To add a server manually just click on “Servers” in the menu bar and after that on “Add”.

To access your virtualized desktop, simply double-click the specific VM in Thincast Client. A secured connection will be established and your virtualized desktop appears inside Thincast Viewer.

Note on Windows: For quick access, pin your virtualized desktop to your taskbar.

## User Interface

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The user interface of Thincast Client is kept simple. On the top you'll find the menu bar and below a list of servers will be shown. After connecting to a specific machine, the virtualized desktop will appear inside Thincast Viewer, which is your "Remote Display".

### Menu Bar

The menu bar on the top allows you to quickly access all important tasks of Thincast Client:

Following actions are available in the menu bar:

Servers	Machine	Group	Settings	Help
Add	Start	Start	Session Defaults	Check for updates
Edit	Connect	Connect	Update Settings	About
Convert to manual entry	ACPI Shutdown	ACPI Shutdown	Client Logging	
Remove	Power down	Power down	Session Logging	
Clear credentials	VM details		Log Directory	
Connect	Create desktop shortcut		Server Auto-Discovery	
Disconnect	Pin to taskbar			
Details				

### Servers

Basic tasks to manage your servers:

**Add** - Add a new server manually. To add a server, enter the required fields and click on "OK". The server will now appear in the list.

**Edit** - Edit a selected server

**Convert to manual entry** - Convert an automatically discovered entry from the server list into a manual entry. Manual entries remain visible, even if the server is not available.

**Remove** - Remove a selected server. Note: A server cannot be removed while you're connected.

**Clear credentials** - Clear the saved credentials for a selected server.

**Connect** - Connect to a selected server. The user authentication window may appear.

**Disconnect** - Disconnect from a selected server.

**Details** - View server details. This gives you information about the used version of Thincast Workstation on the server.

### Machine

Basic tasks to manage a selected machine:

**Start** - Start the selected machine.

**Connect** - Connect to the selected machine. Your virtualized desktop will now appear inside Thincast Viewer.

**ACPI Shutdown** - Shutdown the selected machine gracefully.

**Power down** - Abruptly cut off the power for the selected machine. Data corruption may occur!

**VM details** - Show ip address, port, operating system and GUID of the selected machine.

**Create desktop shortcut** - Create a desktop shortcut for the selected machine.

**Pin to taskbar** - Pin the selected machine to your taskbar.



## Group

Basic tasks for a group of machines. Note: Groups can only be configured in Thincast Workstation.

Start - Start a selected group of machines.

Connect - Connect to a selected group of machines.

ACPI Shutdown - Shutdown the selected group gracefully.

Power down - Abruptly cut off the power for the selected group. Data corruption may occur!

## Settings

Session Defaults - Set default options for session handling:

- Autostart VM (When selected, machine starts automatically after connecting)
- Ignore Unknown Certificate (Ignore warning dialogs if a certificate is unknown or not valid)
- Strict Certificate Validation (The verification of the certificate is strict. If the check failed, a connection to the selected machine is not possible.)
- Trust Certificate on first use (After trusting a certificate once, you'll not get any further warnings regarding this certificate.)
- Clear Certificate Cache (Deletes the store containing all previously trusted certificates.)
- Use FQDN (Use the complete domain name for a specific machine)
- Clipboard (Enables the clipboard by default)
- Sound Settings (Play sound on the local computer, on the remote computer or do not play sound at all.)
- Microphone (Enable/Disable the use of a microphone.)

Update Settings - Enable or disable automatic update for Thincast Client (not available on Linux as the package(s) will be updated along with your distributions packages).

You'll get notified when a new version of Thincast Client has been released.

You can also switch between the available update channels for Thincast Client:

- Stable releases - Choose this, if you only wish to be notified about stable updates to Thincast Client
- Stable and Beta releases - Choose this to be notified about stable and beta updates to Thincast Client
- Stable, Beta and Nightly releases - Choose this to be notified about stable, beta and nightly updates to Thincast Client . Note: Nightly updates might be unstable!

Client Logging - Enable client debug logging

Session Logging - Enable session debug logging

Log Directory - Specifies the directory where client/session log files will be stored.

Default locations if this option is not set:

- Windows: C:\Users\%USERNAME%\AppData\Local\Thincast\Client\log
- macOS: ~/Library/Application Support/Thincast/Client/log
- Linux: ~/.local/share/Thincast/Client/log

Server Auto-Discovery - Enable, disable and configure automatic server discovery.

## Help

Check for updates - Check for latest Thincast Client updates

About - Show the About dialog

## Server list

The server list gives you a summary of all available servers and VM's in your network. Enable Server Auto-Discovery by clicking on Session Defaults in the menu bar and then on "Server Auto-Discovery". Double-click on a specific server will expand the list and display the available VM's from that server.

Note: Only users that are in the "Thincast Workstation Admins" user-group on your Thincast Workstation installation will be able to access, start and stop a VM from that server. Please refer to the Thincast Workstation User manual section "[Windows Authentication](#)".

## Thincast Viewer

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After a connection to a VM has been established successfully, your virtualized desktop will appear inside Thincast Viewer.

All important actions can be accessed through the menu bar inside Thincast Viewer:

Machine	View	Devices	Help
Take Screenshot	Full Screen	USB Devices	
Type Clipboard Text	Fit guest now	Disable keyboard grabbing	About
Start	Fit window now	Grab Mouse Ctrl + Alt + M	
Insert Ctrl + Alt + Del	Auto Fit Guest	Install Guest Additions	
Pause	Auto Fit Window		
Stop VM	Smart Sizing		
Auto-Pause VM on Disconnect	Disable Screensaver		
Close			

## Machine

Take Screenshot - Take a screenshot. Screenshots will be saved to the clipboard and can be pasted into other applications.

Type Clipboard Text - Paste content from clipboard as single key strokes into your VM. This is very useful for login screens before drivers for clipboard redirection are loaded.

Start - Start a VM. Alternatively, you can use the "Play" button in the center of Thincast Viewer.

Insert Ctrl + Alt + Del - Type Ctrl + Alt + Del in your virtual machine

Pause - Pause your VM and preserve its current state

Stop VM - Shutdown the VM. You can choose between ACPI Shutdown and Power down

Auto-Pause VM on Disconnect - Automatically pause your VM and preserve the current state on Disconnect

Close - Disconnect from your VM and close the window.

## View

Full Screen - Allows you to operate your virtualized desktop in Full Screen mode

Fit guest now - Adapt your guest's resolution to Thincast Viewer's current window size

Fit window now - Adapt the window size of Thincast Viewer to your guest's resolution

Auto Fit Guest - Automatically adapt your guest's resolution to Thincast Viewer's current window size

Auto Fit Window - Automatically adapt the window size of Thincast Viewer to your guest's resolution

Smart Sizing - Automatically stretches/shrinks the guest to Thincast Viewer's window size

Disable Screensaver - Disable the screensaver while Thincast Viewer is running and visible (i.e. not minimized)

## Devices

USB Devices - Select a USB device to redirect it to your VM. Note: Only USB devices physically attached to the machine running Thincast Workstation will appear here.

Grab Mouse Ctrl + Alt + M - Exclusively grab the mouse in the TCViewer window. This is useful for applications that require direct mouse input like video games. To ungrab and free the mouse, use the shortcut Ctrl + Alt + M.

Disable keyboard grabbing - Disable the automatic keyboard grabbing

Install Guest Additions - Insert the Thincast Guest Additions image into your VM. Please refer to chapter "[Installing Thincast Guest Additions](#)" for more information.

## Help

About - Show the About dialog

## Installing Thincast Guest Additions

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1. To install Thincast Guest Additions, connect to a virtual machine.
2. In the menu bar of Thincast Viewer, click on "Devices" and select "Install Guest Additions", which mounts the Guest Additions image file inside your VM.
3. Double-click on the inserted disc in your VM -> This PC.
4. Accept with "Yes" to continue installation.
5. The Thincast Guest Additions Setup Wizard will be opened. Click "Next" to proceed.
6. Click "Next" to install Thincast Guest Additions in the default folder.
7. Click "Install" to install Thincast Guest Additions.
8. Select "Reboot now" and click "Finish" to complete the installation of Thincast Guest Additions.
9. Your VM will reboot and Thincast Guest Additions installation will complete.

## Support

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Please keep in mind that Thincast Client Beta and Nightly builds do not carry any warranties or support services.

However, we are eager to hear about your experience and any troubles with Thincast Client Beta! Please let us know by filling out our [contact form](#).

## Upload a TSRP

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Our support staff might ask you to create a TSRP (Thincast Support Request Package).

Please run `C:/Program Files/Thincast/Client/TCSupport.exe` on the computer where Thincast Client is installed and follow the instructions to upload the package. Then we can analyze your submission to find the problem.

Note: TSRP creation is currently only available for Windows.

## Changelog

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The [changelog](#) can be found on our website.

## Third-party Licenses

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Open-source software licenses used in Thincast Client are located under `C:\Program Files\Thincast\Client\Licenses`