Accessing Lightning Off-Campus with a Personal Computer

Below are directions on how to access Lightning (Philadelphia Universities shared network drive) from off-campus using either a Faculty Staff computer or a Personal computer. Before connecting to Lightning you will need to log into the PhilaU servers through VPN

**Connecting to VPN:**

1. Connect to the Internet.

2. Open a web browser and go to [http://vpn.philau.edu](http://vpn.philau.edu).

(Note: VPN (Virtual Private Network) allows users to access Philadelphia University servers remotely using either a Windows-based PC or a Macintosh.)

3. Login with YourUserName and Password combination. This combination is the same as the one used for WebAdvisor or Blackboard.

4. Enter the domain which is PHILACOL (for faculty and staff).

(Note: If no Domain option exists, the user may need to express their username as STUDENT\username or PHILACOL\username.)

5. Once directed to the new page, click on the link for "NetExtender".
6. Follow the installation instructions to install NetExtender on your computer.

7. A little gray "N" will appear in the user's taskbar on the bottom right corner of the screen.

8. Double-click the "N".

9. A new window will open. Type YourUserName and Password and domain and click connect.

10. If the combination is correct, registration window will change to one with three tabs displaying "Status, Routes, DNS". There will also be a small button at the bottom to disconnect.

11. The user is now connected to the University via the NetExtender VPN.

**Lightning on a Personal Windows PC**

1. Click on the "Start" button (circle with the windows icon in it) at the far bottom left of your computer screen, and then "Run".

2. Without quotes, type in the address bar "\lightning", then click OK.
3. Input YourUserName and Password combination. Faculty and staff members should type in their username as follows: "Philacol\YourUserName".

5. Browse to the correct folder. For instance, academic file folders can be found in the Apps folder, inside the folder entitled Academic.

6. Right-click on the appropriate folder, select "create shortcut", and drag-and-drop a shortcut of that folder onto the desktop.

7. Double-click the desktop shortcut to access Lightning.

(Note: If a message appears stating that it cannot find the server, make sure the computer is still connected to the network. If so, try deleting the shortcut and re-creating it, replacing "\lightning" with "\lightning.facstaff.philau.edu".)

**Lightning on a Personal Apple/Mac Computer**

1. Log-on to a computer and set up VPN using the instructions above.

2. At the Mac desktop, choose "Connect to Server" from the Go pull-down menu.

3. Choose the Lightning server, or type the server name (which can be expressed as smb://Lightning) in the address bar. Click 'Connect'. 
4. Input YourUserName and Password combination. Faculty and staff members should type in their username as follows: "Philaco\YourUserName".

5. If the computer prompts the user to choose a volume to mount, choose the appropriate one and click OK. For example: academic file folders can be found in the Apps folder, so choose Apps as the folder to mount.

6. The icon should appear on the desktop. Find the desired folder and open it. The user now has access to files on Lightning.

7. To create an alias (shortcut) to a particular subfolder, hold down the 'Apple' and 'Option' keys and drag the icon to the desktop.

If a message appears stating that the computer cannot find the server, make sure it is still connected to the network. If so, try deleting the shortcut and re-creating it, replacing "smb://lightning" with "smb://lightning.facstaff.philau.edu".

**Support**

For further assistance, please contact the Technology Help Desk at 215-951-4648 or by Email at HelpDesk@PhilaU.edu