Screen Sharing in OS X

Before you start
1. You need to know the DNS name (or IP address) of your on-campus Mac (target computer).
2. You need to have enabled Screen Sharing on the on-campus Mac.
3. You need to make sure your computer at work is powered on.
4. Your off-campus Mac should have the Pulse Secure VPN client installed.

Only enable Screen Sharing on a physically secure computer
Under most circumstances, when remote controlling a computer via Screen Sharing, remote actions are visible on the display. Don’t enable Screen Sharing unless you can secure access to the computer (e.g. in a locked office).

Enable Screen Sharing on the Target Computer

- On the target computer, go to System Preferences -> Sharing and check the box next to Screen Sharing. By default, remote access is limited to those with administrator accounts but you can change the settings to allow specific users or groups to have access.

- Do NOT enable the option VNC viewers may control screen with password: unless you desperately need to control the Mac from Windows or Linux. In that case, you should definitely take extra security precautions to encrypt the remote control channel.

Establishing the Remote Connection

- Launch Pulse Secure and connect to the Brandeis VPN.
- To launch the Screen Sharing client (sitting at the computer from which you will do the remote controlling), go to Finder, and in the menu choose Go > Connect to Server... (shortcut for that is cmd-K)
- Enter the IP address of the remote mac in the form of
the examples below:

- With a static IP:
  "vnc://129.6.4.55.194/"
- With a DNS nickname:
  "vnc://dog.bio.brandeis.edu/"

- Then click Connect
- you can click the + symbol to add as a known connection
- When prompted to login, enter your login credentials for the on-campus computer.

Troubleshooting

"Screen size is tiny" (e.g. when remote controlling a big iMac from a small MacBook).

1. Open Screen Sharing as above
2. Go to Screen Sharing > Preferences... > Display -- under When viewing a computer, choose "Show full size" (or from the menu, View > Turn Scaling Off)

Log files

- to see who has accessed the computer, look in /var/log/secure.log
- On OS X 10.6, search for lines containing the string AppleVNCServer; on 10.7, look for screensharingd.