

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

Organized by Michael Upchurch and Ernesto Amaral

1. Enrolling in Duo

(You have to follow these steps **just once**)

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."

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

- Click on "Enroll/Manage Devices."
- Log in with your A&M 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.

2. 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, because you install an application on your computer.

Option 2 (Web Access) allows you to you access VOAL 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.

Thus, we will explain how to access VOAL using Option 1 (Client).

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

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

- Click on “Login” and use your A&M NetID and password.
- Select “Download VMware Horizon Client”. This takes you to the download page for the different versions of the client.
- Select the latest version and click on “Download Now” (on the right) for that version.
- Save the installation file in your computer.
- Open the installation file.
- Follow the installation instructions.
- You might have to restart your computer after installation, so make sure all work is saved and all programs are closed.
- After restarting your computer, save a shortcut for the “VMware Horizon Client” in a place where it will be quick and easy to access (e.g., desktop, taskbar).

4. Access VOAL through VMware Horizon Client (You have to follow these steps every time you want to connect to VOAL)

On your **computer**, open the “VMware Horizon Client” application.

- Select: “connect.voal.tamu.edu”
- Accept the license agreement if prompted and log in using your A&M NetID and password.
- You will be prompted to enter a passcode from Duo.
- Select VOAL from the list of applications.
- You should now be remotely accessing a VOAL computer desktop. The first time you do this, it may take longer to load your user settings than in subsequent logins.

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

Everything in the VOAL desktop will be in Windows. 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 from the Start menu. Save Stata shortcut on desktop, Start menu, and/or taskbar in VOAL for easy access.

You may want to bookmark Professor Amaral's course website in the internet browser (e.g., Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge):

<http://www.ernestoamaral.com/>

Use an internet browser to download the data from the course website:

<http://www.ernestoamaral.com/docs/soci600-24fall/course.zip>

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

Choose "Extract all" at the top. The course folder should be saved in the Home Drive (H:).

Open the "course" folder and click on the "data" folder. You can open the databases by double clicking on any of the DTA files.