

## How to enable and configure desktop sharing on Linux Mint Cinnamon desktop

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**Categories :** [Desktop](#), [Linux Mint](#), [Networking](#)

**Tagged as :** [vnc](#)

**Question:** I was trying to enable desktop sharing via VINO VNC server (`vino-server`) on Linux Mint 17 Cinnamon desktop. However, I notice that `vino-preferences` tool which allows us to configure `vino-server` (e.g., sharing option, security, notification on/off) no longer exists. Also, I cannot find desktop sharing menu on Cinnamon desktop. How can I configure desktop sharing via `vino-server` on the latest Linux Mint 17 Cinnamon desktop?

The latest Linux Mint Cinnamon desktop comes with `vino-server` pre-installed for VNC desktop sharing, but it's reported that desktop sharing configuration menu is missing.

An alternative way to configure `vino-server` and enable desktop sharing is to use `dconf-editor`'s graphical interface.

First install `dconf-editor`:

```
$ sudo apt-get install dconf-editor
```

Launch `dconf-editor`.

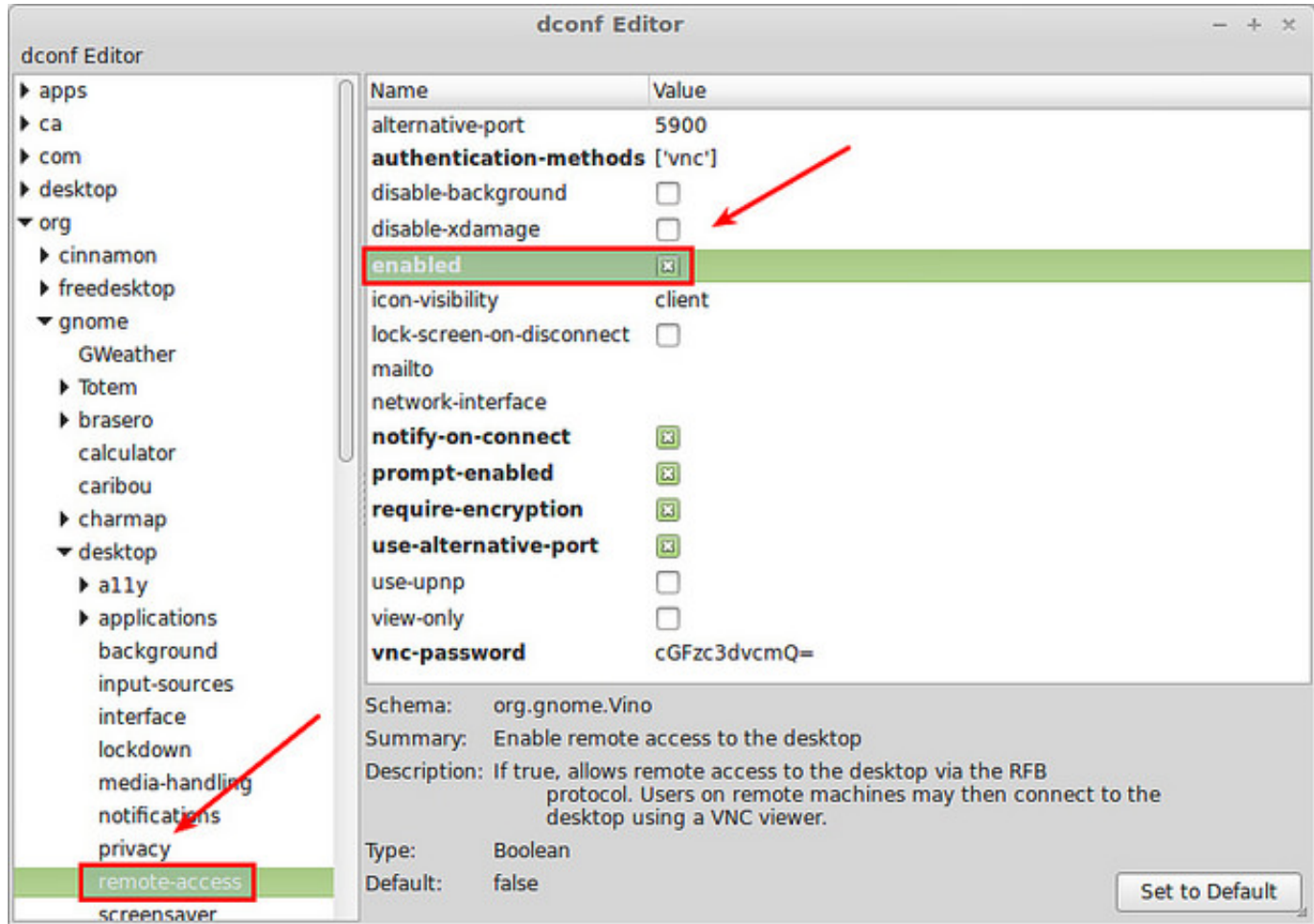
```
$ dconf-editor
```

Navigate to "org->gnome->desktop->remote-access" on the left panel of `dconf-editor`. Then you will see various desktop sharing options.

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Most importantly, click on "enabled" to activate desktop remote access. Besides this, you can customize other options.

For example, you can enable VNC password authentication by changing the following fields:

- **authentication-methods:** set it to ['vnc']
- **vnc-password:** change it to Base64-encoded string of a preferred password.

In this example, we choose VNC password as "password", and its Base64-encoded string is "cGFzc3dvcmQK".

```
$ echo "password" | base64
```

```
cGFzc3dvcmQK
```

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Optionally, you can enable other options:

- **notify-on-connect:** shows a desktop notification when `vino-server` receives a connection request.
- **prompt-enabled:** a remote user is not allowed to access a desktop via VNC until the VNC request is approved by the desktop owner.

## Troubleshoot

1. I am getting the following error when attempting to start `vino-server`.

```
** (vino-server:4280): WARNING **: The desktop sharing service is not enabled
, so it should not be run.
```

To enable desktop sharing service, use `dconf-editor` as described above. Alternatively, run the following command.

```
# gsettings set org.gnome.Vino enabled true
```