Remote Desktop: Connecting from a Windows PC at home to a Mac at work

Step 1: Set up sharing on your work Mac
1. Click the Apple menu in the top left corner
2. Choose System Preferences
3. Click the Sharing button
4. Check the Screen Sharing box
5. Click the Computer Settings button
6. In the window that comes up, check the "VNC viewers may control screen with password" checkbox
7. Set a password in the blank. Make sure it's something you'll remember when you get home
8. Click OK

Step 2: Find your work Mac's IP address
1. In the sharing window, click on Screen Sharing (the word itself - leave the checkbox unchecked)
2. On the right side of the window, find where it says "Other users can access your computer's screen at vnc://x.x.x.x or by looking for..." and make a note of the IP address listed after "vnc://"?

Step 3: Set up your work Mac to wake from sleep when you connect to it
1. Go back to the main System Preferences screen and click Energy Saver
2. Check the box next to Wake for Ethernet network access
3. Be sure to leave your work Mac powered on (logged out is fine) if you want to reach it from home

Step 4: Install the GlobalProtect VPN software on your Windows PC at home
1. In a web browser, go to https://myvpn.vancouver.wsu.edu
2. Click on either the 32 bit or 64 bit Windows version, depending on your computer's version of Windows
3. Look in your downloads folder for the GlobalProtect installer and run it
4. A GlobalProtect window should open
5. Fill in the Portal field with myvpn.vancouver.wsu.edu
6. Fill in the username and password fields with your network ID and password
7. Click the Connect button. It should soon say connected

Note: Beginning November 4, 2021, multi-factor authentication will be required to connect to the WSU Vancouver VPN as described in this article about MFA for the WSU Pullman VPN. At that time, the server address noted below will change from myvpn.vancouver.wsu.edu to vpn.vancouver.wsu.edu.

Step 5: Connect to your work Mac
1. Open a web browser and download TightVNC for free from http://tightvnc.com
2. Go through the install steps and choose to install just the TightVNC viewer
3. Launch TightVNC viewer
4. In the TightVNC Server line, enter your work Mac's IP address from Step 2 above
5. Click Connect
6. In the net window that comes up, type the password you set in Step 1 above
7. Click OK. A window should open showing your work computer's desktop
8. When you are finished, close the TightVNC window

Note about disconnecting from VPN and reconnecting in the future
• The VPN software will stay connected to the campus network even after you close TightVNC. To disconnect, click on the GlobalProtect icon in the system tray (it looks like a globe) and choose Disable
• The GlobalProtect icon should stay in the system tray, so you should just need to choose Enable to reconnect to the campus network. If it isn’t there, find it in the start menu and open it from there
• Follow the instructions in Step 5 above to reconnect to your work Mac

Common mistakes
• Forgetting to connect via GlobalProtect before trying to connect with TightVNC
• Not configuring your work Mac correctly (Steps 1 and 3)
• Using the wrong IP address for your work computer.