Working on ArcGIS through the UT Virtual Desktop

The CAEE Department at UT Austin has established a Learning Resource Center in ECJ 2.206. Computers in this center have ArcGIS Pro loaded on them and you can complete your homework assignments. You can also use ArcGIS Pro using the UT Virtual Desktop, which means that you can log into a university computer from your home or laboratory and run the software on that computer using your own computer to provide remote access. This may be helpful for those with Mckintosh computers, for example. Here are the instructions for using ArcGIS Pro from the Virtual Desktop.

Step 1. Go to https://apps.engr.utexas.edu/dnapps/EnableAccount/ and request Virtual Desktop Access

Note: Skip to Step _ if you are accessing the Virtual Desktop through a computer on campus or while on campus wifi.

Step 2. Set up a VPN connection – visit https://vpn.utexas.edu/

Step 3. Visit https://appd.engr.utexas.edu/ and after logging in you should see the below:

Select CAEE Desktop and that will connect you to a computer in the Civil lab which has ArcGIS Pro installed on it. Select the program from the start menu and log into your ArcGIS account to use the program.

Note: Data on your local computer should be accessible through the VPN in the folder identified below

When you open ArcGIS Pro, you'll find that it recognizes only files on the c:/ of the remote machine that you are logged into. Hence, before you start your project work, you should create a folder under c:/users/yourname for this project and copy your data files there so that you can access them from this virtual desktop machine.

You will find that logging into the Virtual Desktop for the first time is slow, but the second time is much faster. You will also find that the first time you add data to ArcGIS Pro, it is very slow to display but after that things go more quickly.