



# Mama Don't Take MY ARD Away

[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2021, Alex Narvey

1

CLICK to start



# Mama Don't Take MY ARD Away

## BlueSky in Docker

[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2021, Alex Narvey

2

This is a short presentation on how I use BlueSky in a Docker container to administrate remote Macs for certain things that don't work well or at all with screen recording apps like Splashtop and Teamviewer.

CLICK



# 1 LAN to Rule them all!

192.168.x.x

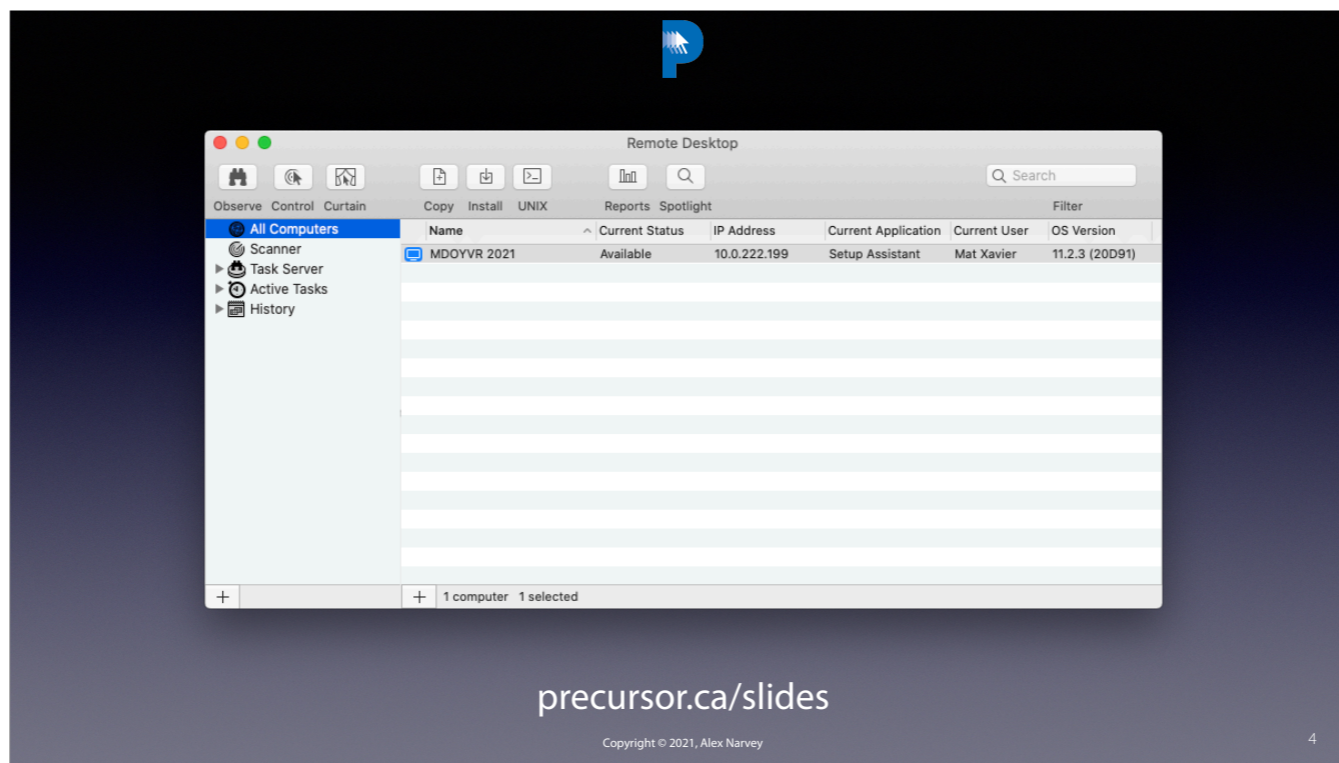
[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2021, Alex Narvey

3

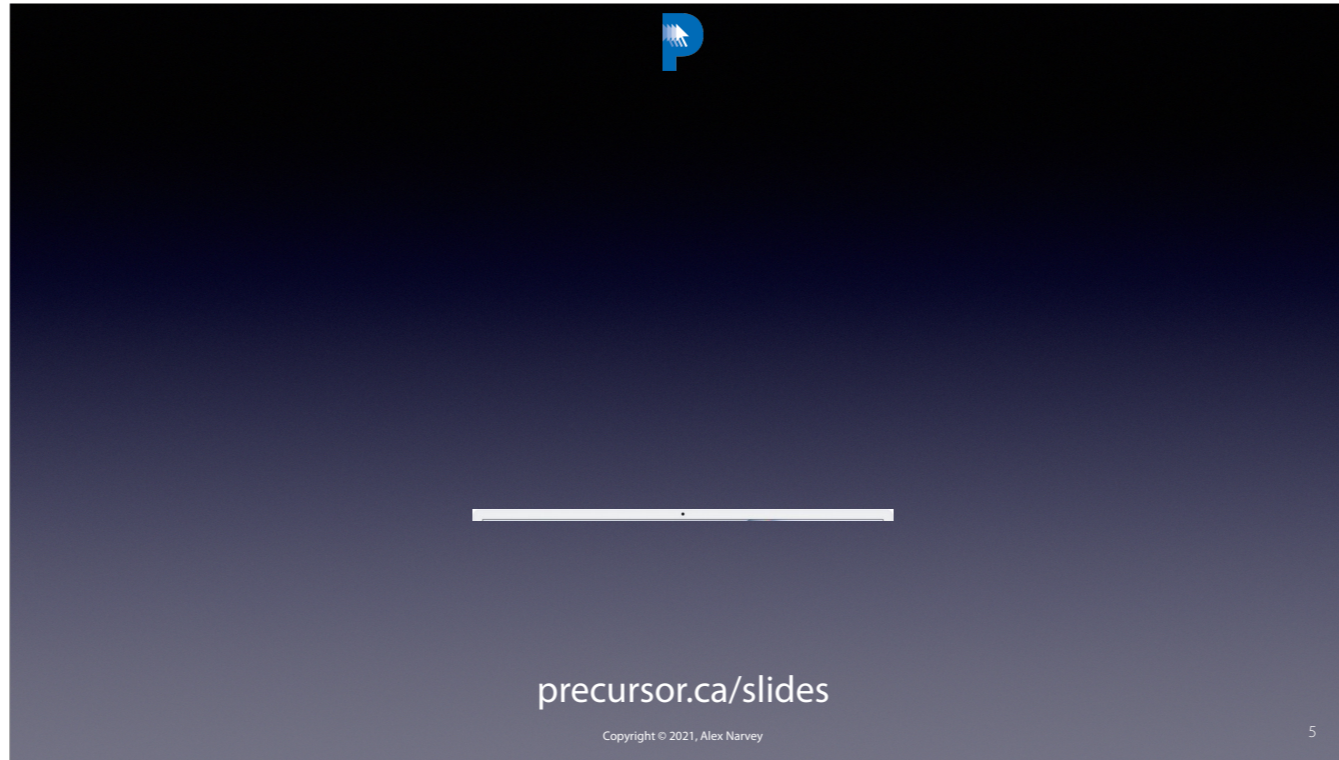
In the beginning, there was just the office LAN and every computer was local.

CLICK



It was easy to use Apple Remote Desktop to control all the computers on the local subnet.

CLICK

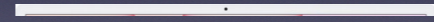


But these days, Work From Home computers are dispersed to the four winds.

CLICK



Trying to control them is like a game of Wack-a-Mole.  
CLICK

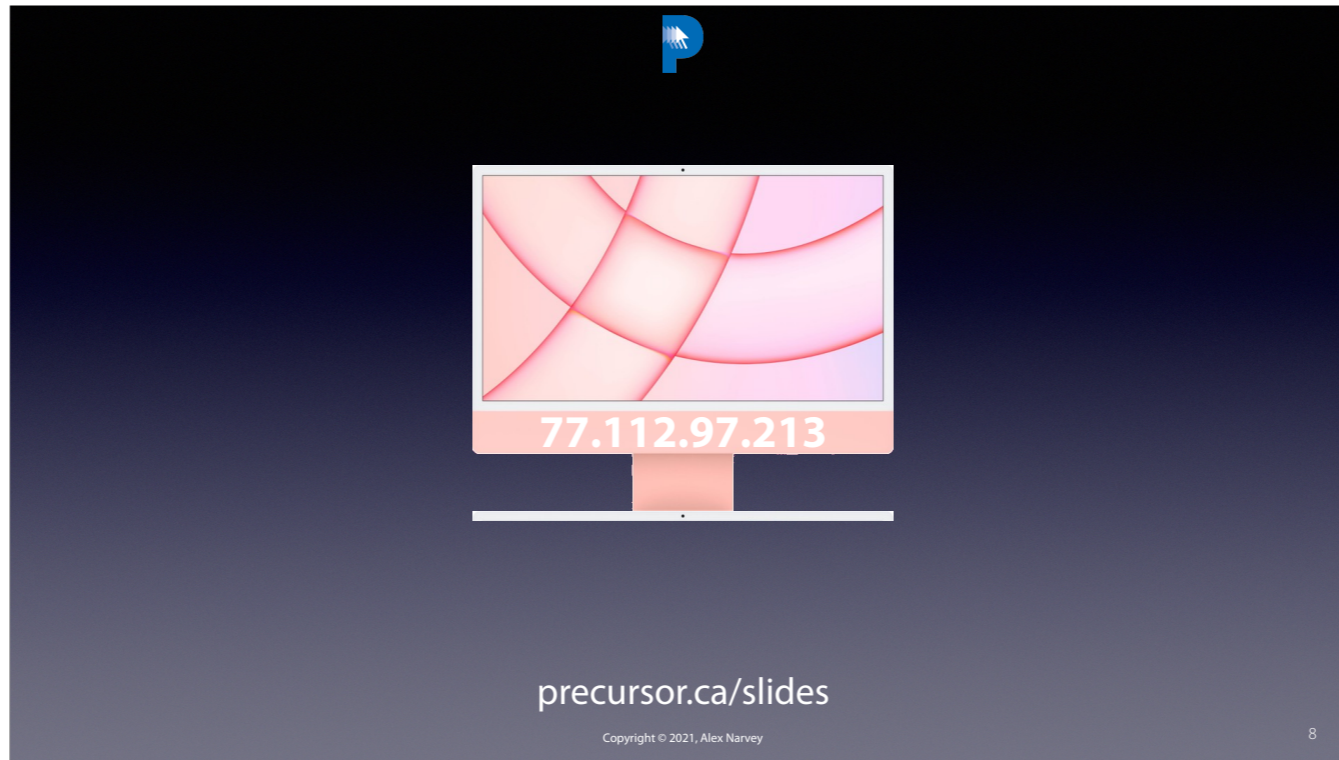


[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2021, Alex Narvey

7

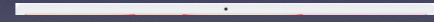
CLICK



They each have separate public i.p. addresses.

CLICK





[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2021, Alex Narvey

9

CLICK



And as such can't be reached by Apple Remote Desktop.  
CLICK

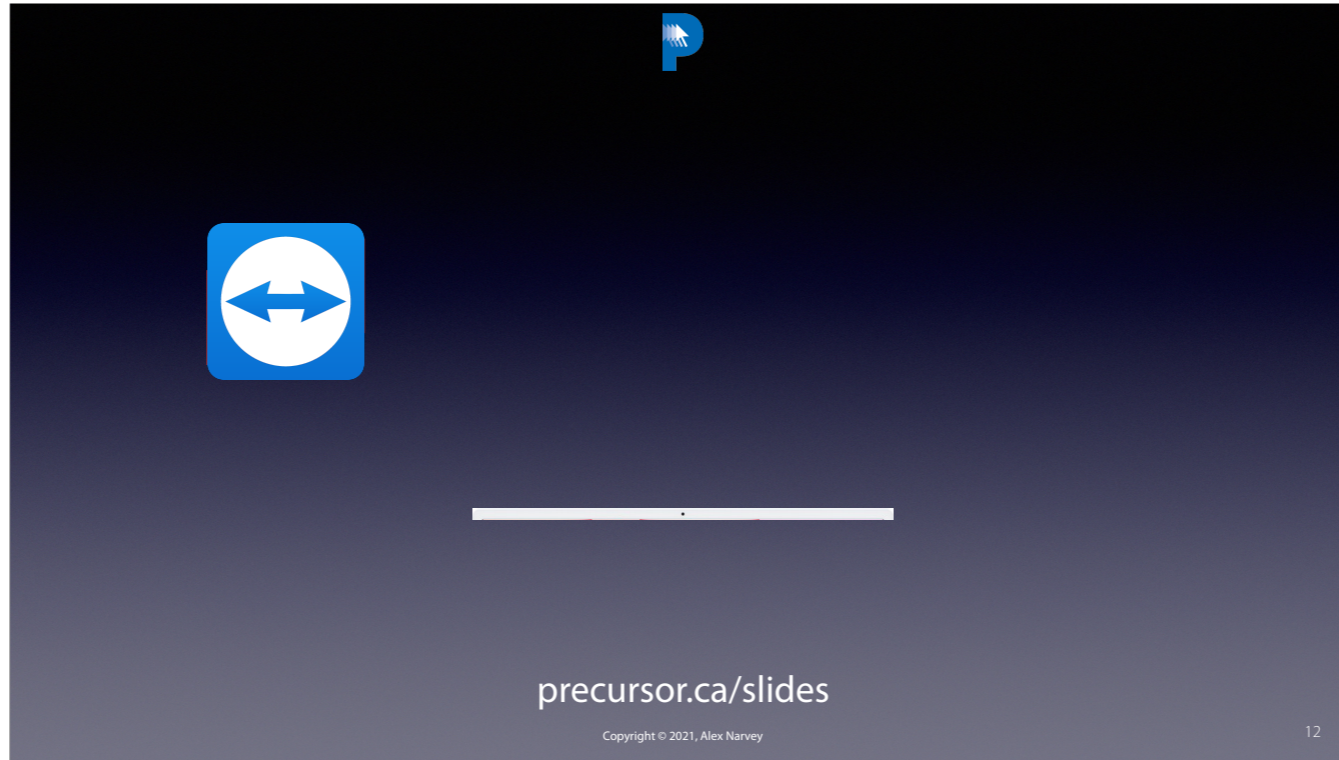


[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2021, Alex Narvey

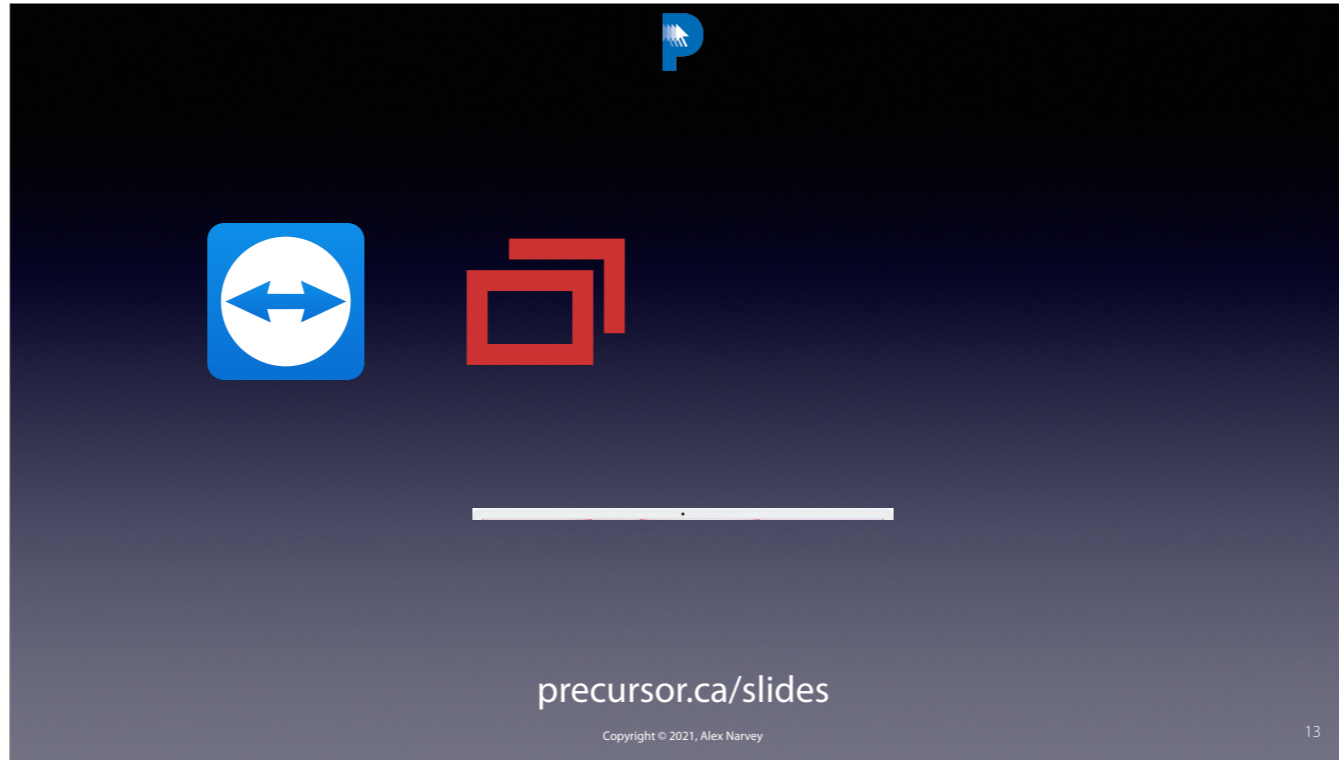
11

·  
CLICK

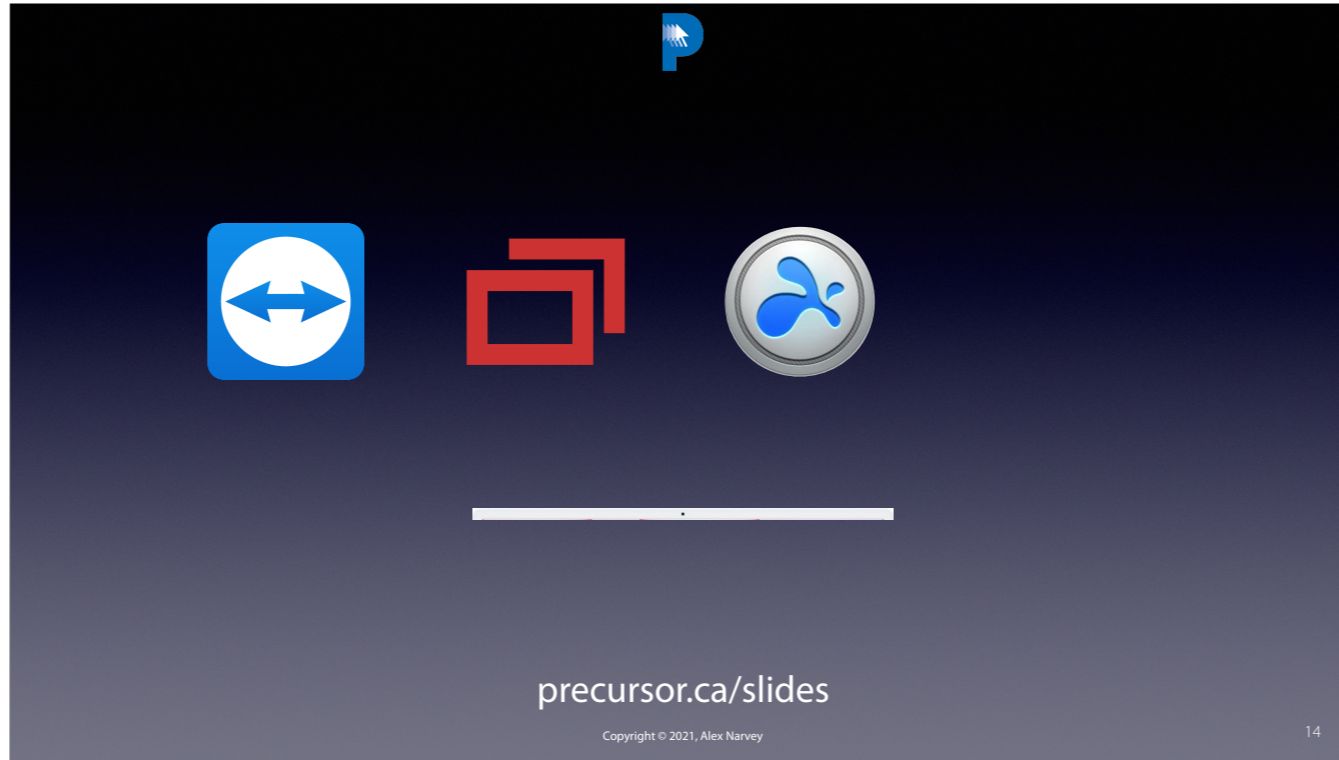


However, we have lots of tools to take its place.

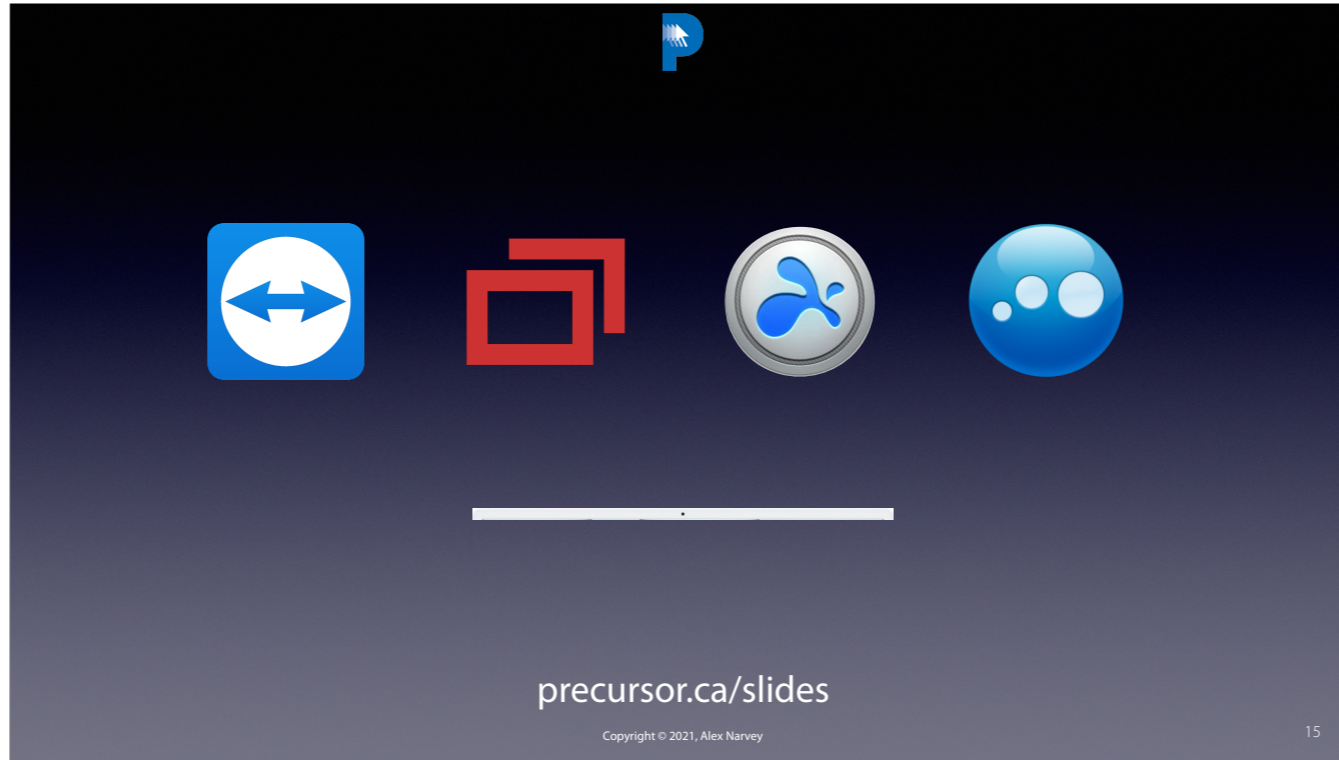
CLICK



Like Teamviewer, Connectwise Control.  
CLICK



Splashtop and LogMeIn.  
CLICK



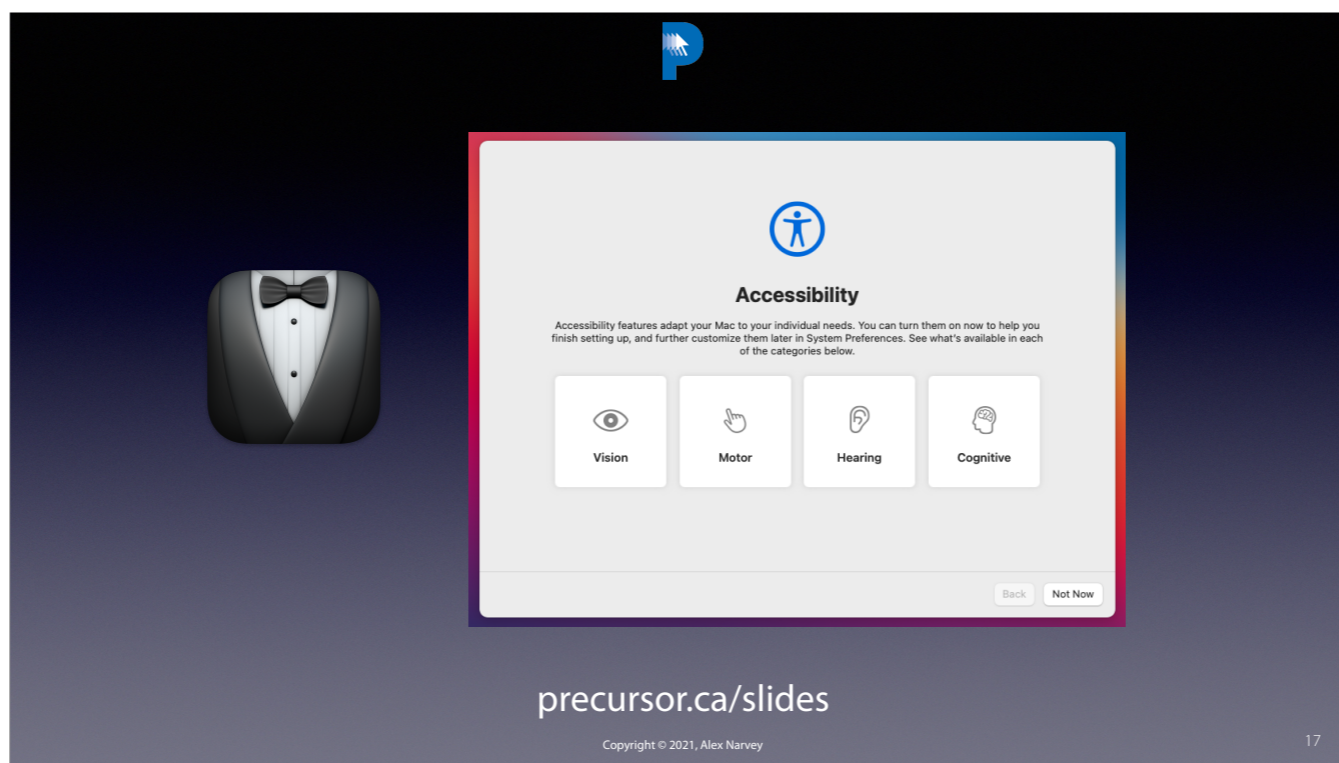
To name just a few.  
CLICK



But these tools are unlike ARD and can't help us when the computer is at certain stages.

CLICK





They won't take over when the computer is in the middle of Setup Assistant.

CLICK

The logo for Migration Assistant features three stylized faces. The central face is blue and white, with a black arrow pointing from the left towards it. Behind it are two other faces, one grey and one white, both with simple black features for eyes and a smile.

**Migration Assistant**

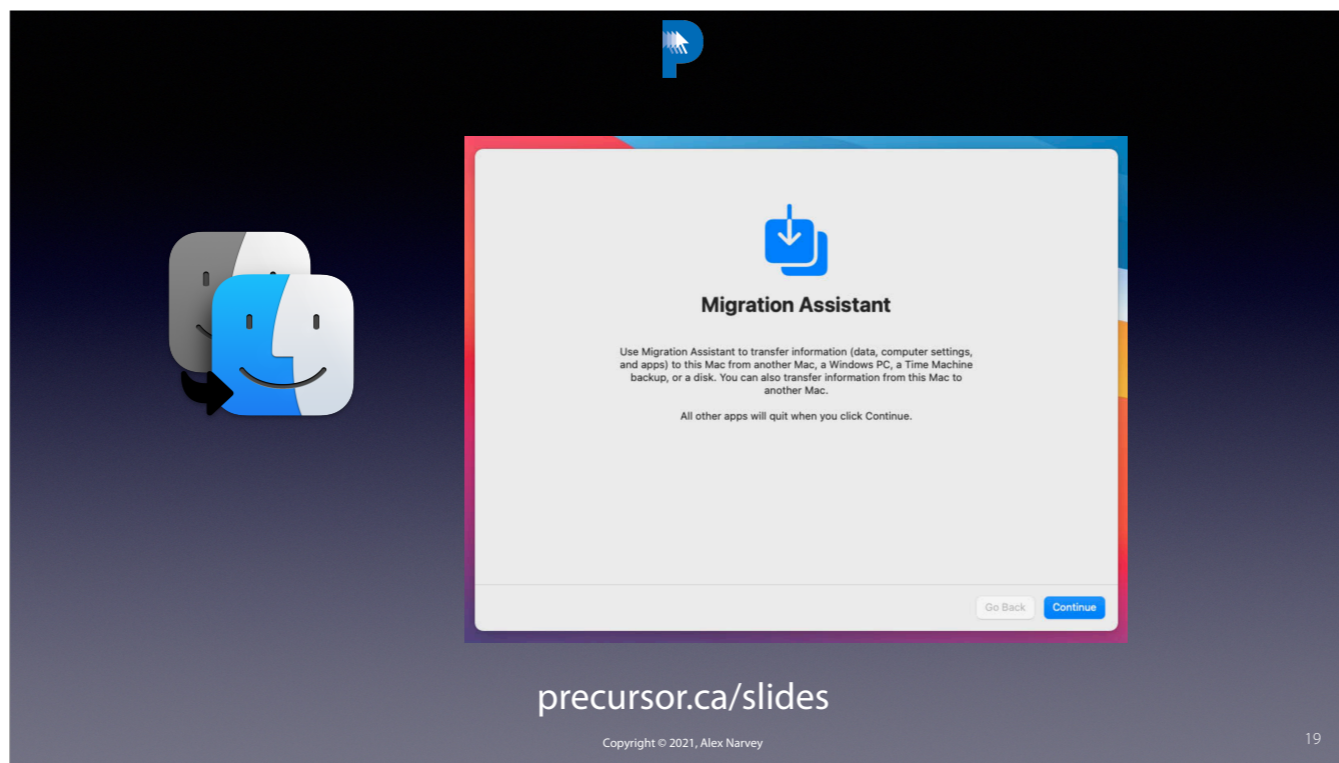
[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2021, Alex Narvey

18

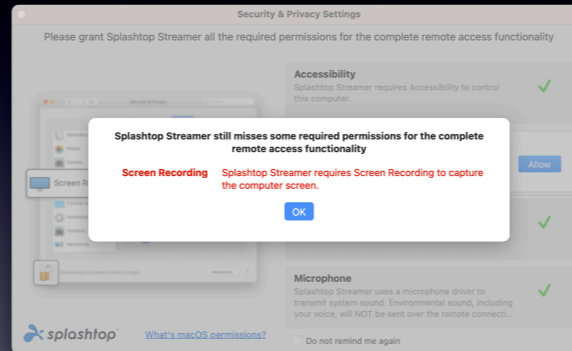
And they are not that useful if you have to run Migration Assistant from a Remote location.

CLICK



In particular, if you create a new user you are going to have a problem.

CLICK

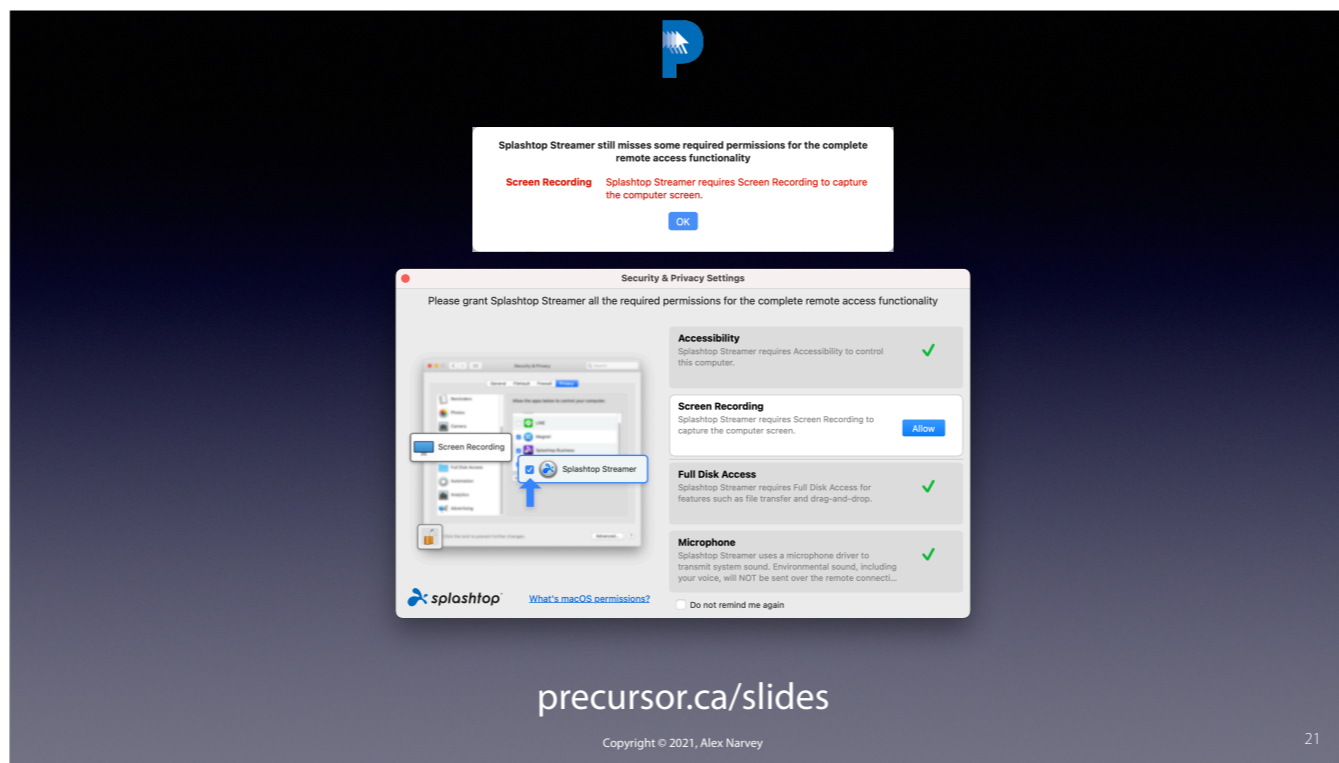


[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2021, Alex Narvey

20

And sometimes you DO have to create a new user at a remote location.  
CLICK

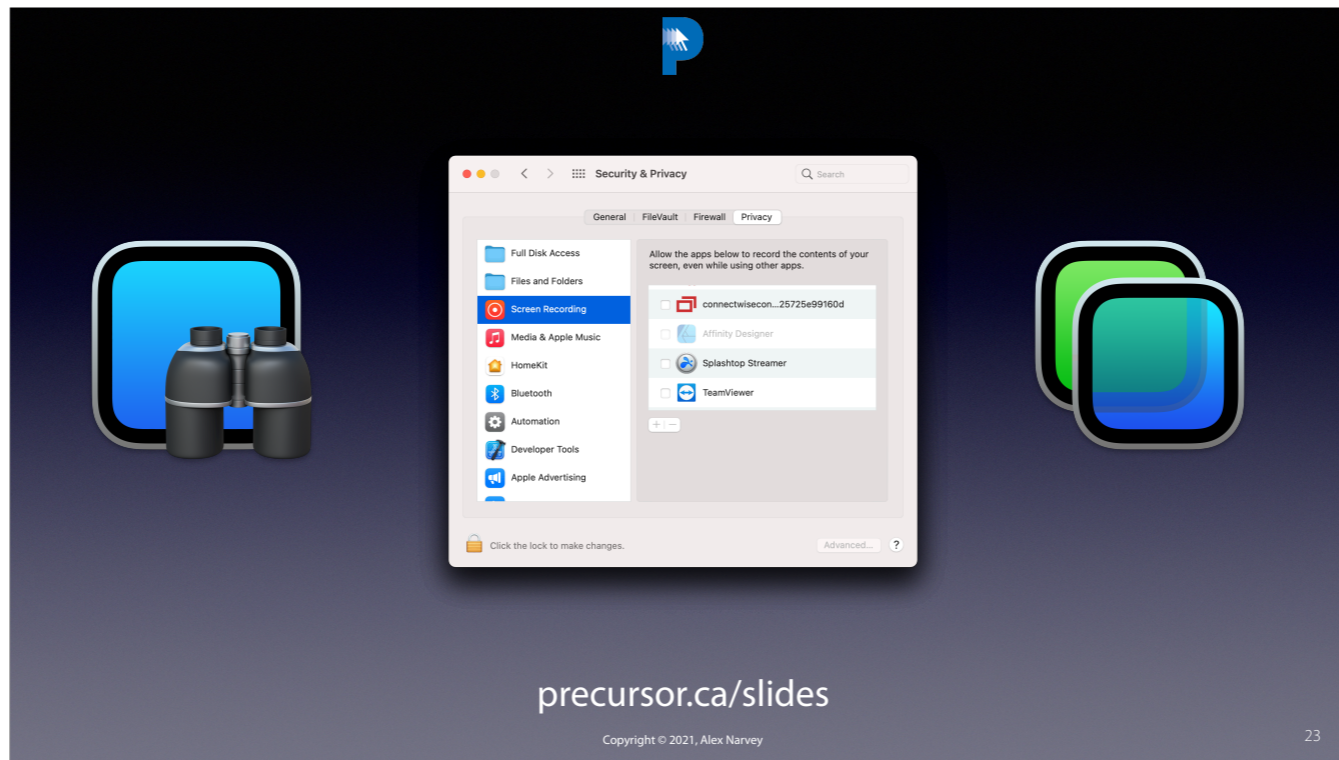


And no-one is going to be there to enable the Screen Recoding Privacy Policy.  
CLICK



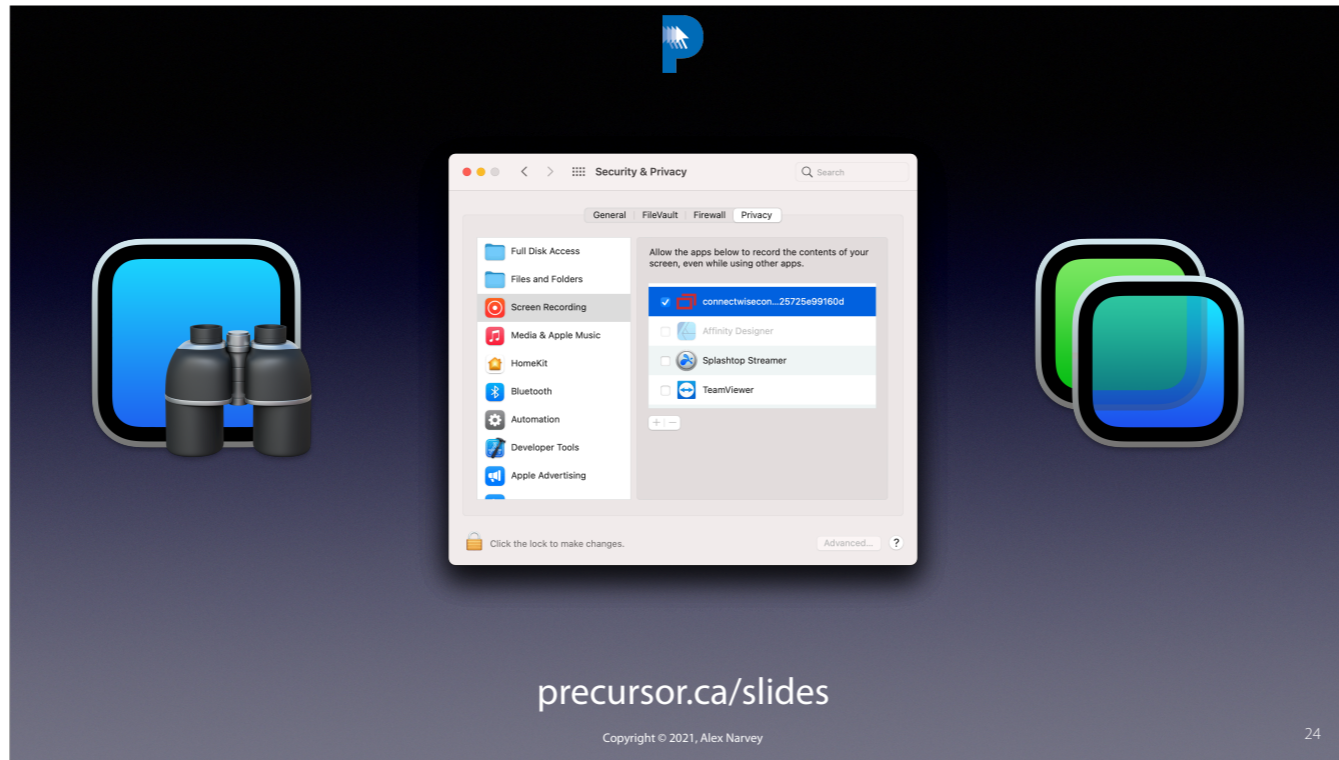
That is where ARD and Apple Screen Sharing still excel! They can control the remote screen in any of these situations.

CLICK



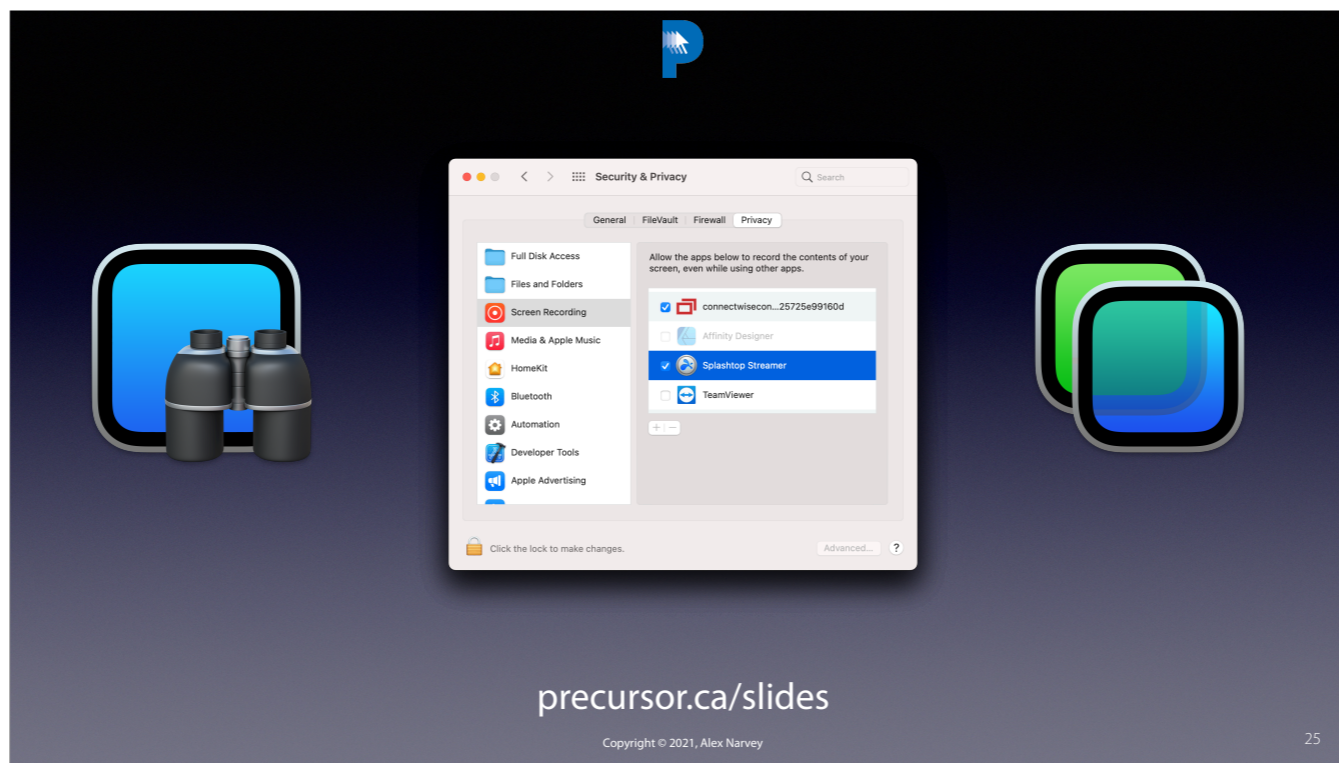
With ARD / Screen Sharing you can easily remotely click and turn on Screen Recording privileges.

CLICK

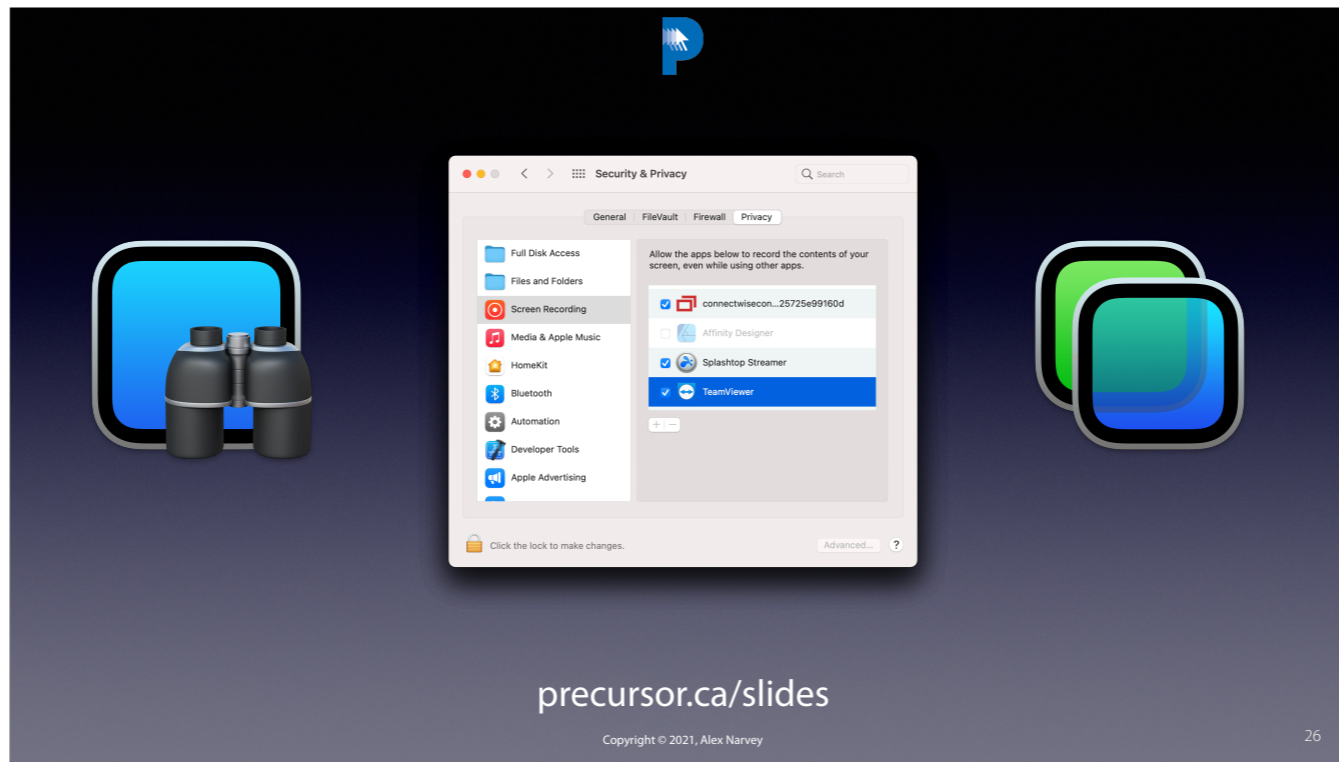


CLICK





CLICK



You could continue in ARD or use your tool of choice.  
CLICK

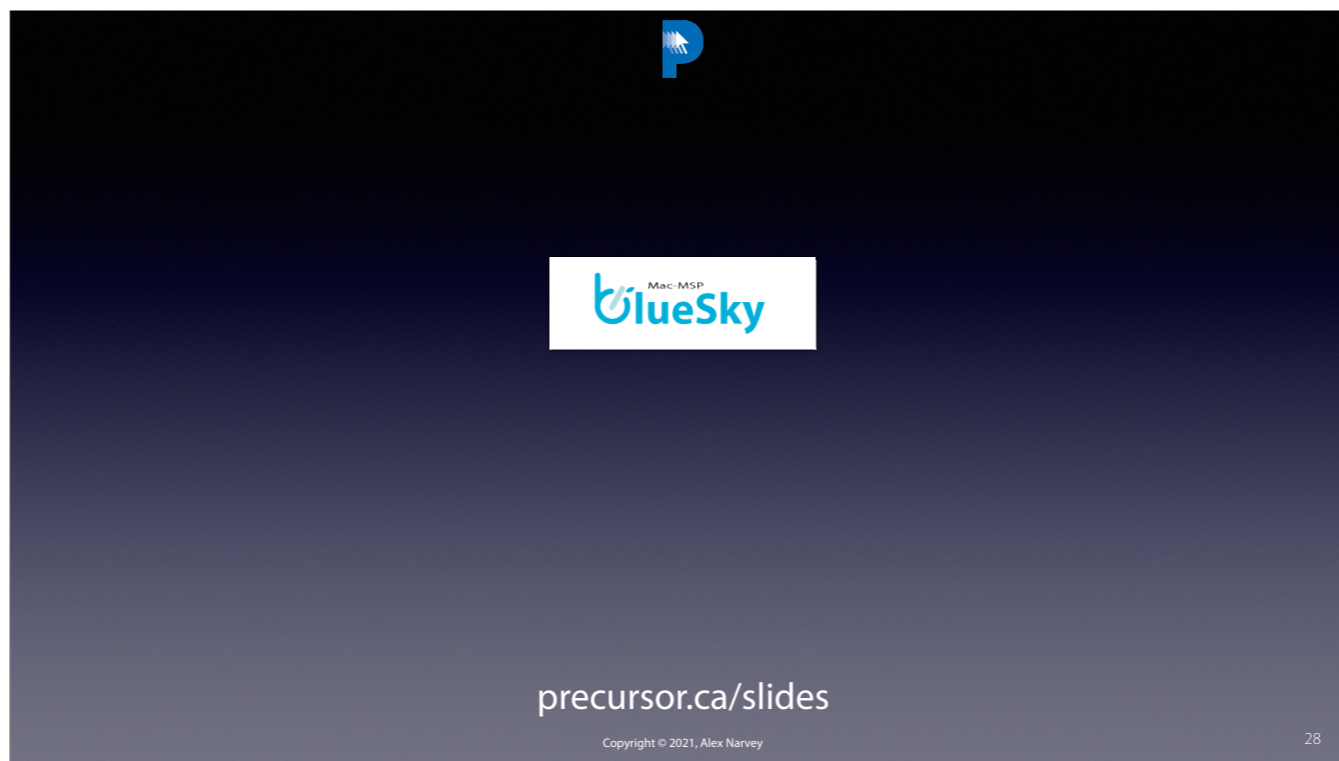


[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2021, Alex Narvey

27

ARD can't take over anything not on the local LAN. But I am told that Addigy's Live Desktop feature can. The problem is Precursor is not an Addigy shop.  
CLICK



But as Addigy user A.J. Potrebka pointed out to me, *“LiveDesktop is essentially BlueSky”*.

BlueSky as you might recall was a method of using SSH and VNC to control computers that Brian Best marketed from Mac-MSP.

CLICK



<https://github.com/logicnow/BlueSky>

[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2021, Alex Narvey

29

And Mac-MSP went to LogicNow and then to SolarWinds and eventually BlueSky itself was made open source and put up on GitHub for all to enjoy.  
CLICK



<https://github.com/logicnow/BlueSky>

[precursor.ca/slides](http://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2021, Alex Narvey

30

I decided to give it a try.  
CLICK



[https://github.com/logicnow/BlueSky/wiki/  
Security-Overview](https://github.com/logicnow/BlueSky/wiki/Security-Overview)

precursor.ca/slides

Copyright © 2021, Alex Narvey

31

BlueSky establishes and maintains an SSH tunnel initiated by your client's computer to a BlueSky server. Because of this no port forwarding is required. And the BlueSky installer turns on SSH Sharing for only one invisible BlueSky user - not anyone else. The tunnel allows two connections to come back to the computer from the server: SSH and VNC. The SSH and VNC services on the computer are the ones provided by the Sharing preference pane.



NOTE: SolarWinds has stopped responding to PR's regarding this project and bumped the active developers off the repo. I have moved the active development to sphen13/BlueSky Visit the #bluesky channel of MacAdmins Slack for unofficial help.

<https://github.com/sphen13/BlueSky>

precursor.ca/slides

Copyright © 2021, Alex Narvey

32

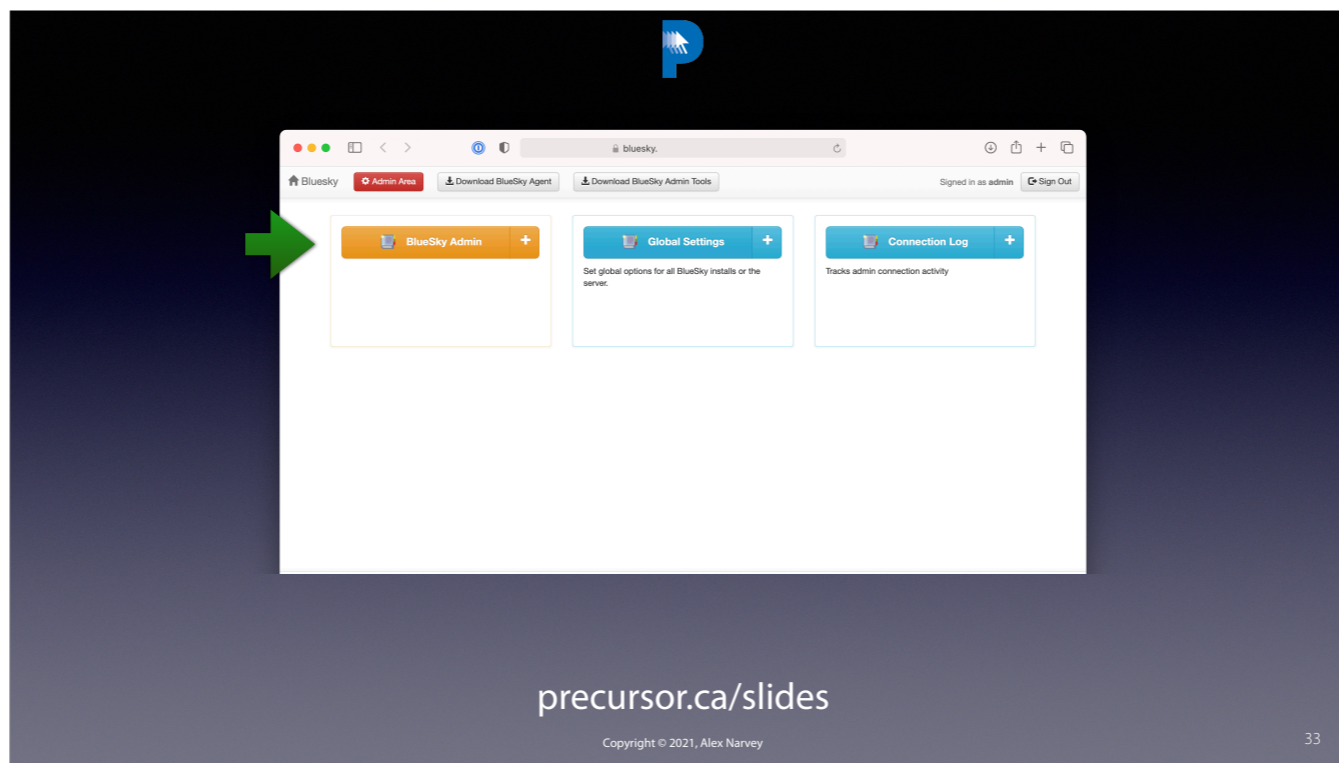
But the LogicNow repository is no longer maintained.

Fortunately, Stephen Boyle has kept it going at his sphen13 repo.

And there is also "BlueSky" channel on MacAdmins Slack that is most helpful.

CLICK





Following the Wiki you can create your own BlueSky Server and when you click on the Admin button...  
CLICK



The screenshot shows the BlueSky Admin web interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Admin Area', 'Download BlueSky Agent', and 'Download BlueSky Admin Tools'. Below the navigation bar, there's a search bar and a table of connected computers. The table has columns for BlueSky ID, Serial Number, Name, SSH, VNC, SCP, Last Check In, Status, Notify, and Alert. All computers listed have a status of 'Connection is good'.

BlueSky ID	Serial Number	Name	SSH	VNC	SCP	Last Check In	Status	Notify	Alert	
2	C07M	Y3J	Preceptor - Preceptor-0001	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2021-04-30 18:00:47 UTC	Connection is good	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	D05W	1GQ	Mac - Macintosh iMac	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2021-04-30 18:00:54 UTC	Connection is good	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	C07S	1J2	Preceptor - Preceptor Mac mini 2014	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2021-04-30 18:00:32 UTC	Connection is good	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	C02S	G7L	Mac - iMac iMac	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2021-04-30 17:57:16 UTC	Connection is good	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	C02T	1GJ	Mac - iMac iMac	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2021-04-30 17:57:55 UTC	Connection is good	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	C02R	8WP	Mac - iMac iMac	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2021-04-25 22:18:26 UTC	Connection is good	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	C02S	G7L	Mac - iMac iMac	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2021-04-30 18:00:37 UTC	Connection is good	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	C02R	G7L	Mac - iMac iMac	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2021-04-30 18:00:03 UTC	Connection is good	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

precursor.ca/slides

Copyright © 2021, Alex Narvey

34

You can see all the computers with BlueSky on them.  
CLICK



First step is to establish the SSH connection.  
CLICK



And then you can VNC - i.e. you can use Apple ScreenSharing through the SSH tunnel.

CLICK




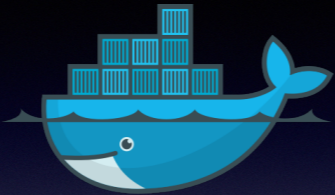
[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2021, Alex Narvey

37

You can host BlueSky on your own or you can put it up in a Droplet on Digital Ocean or Linode.

CLICK



docker

[https://github.com/logicnow/BlueSky/blob/master/docker/DOCKER\\_FULL\\_EXAMPLE.md](https://github.com/logicnow/BlueSky/blob/master/docker/DOCKER_FULL_EXAMPLE.md)

precursor.ca/slides

Copyright © 2021, Alex Narvey

38

I tried making one manually but no matter what version of linux I tried in the end it always had issues.

But it turns out there is a much easier method to establishing the server.

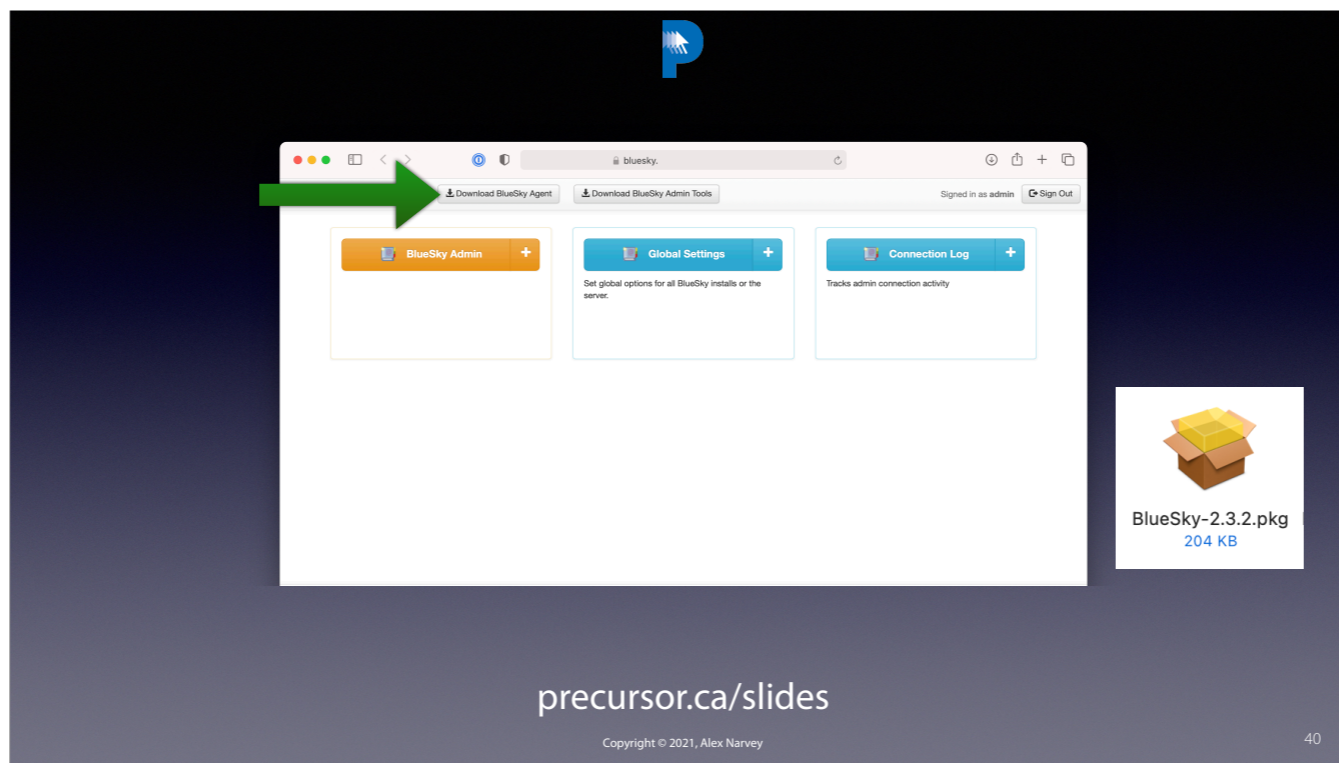
Just use Docker. The instructions are easy to follow, it only takes about half an hour or less, and it is guaranteed to work.

CLICK

The screenshot displays the Precursor cloud marketplace interface. At the top, there is a search bar and a 'Create' button. Below this, the 'Choose an image' section is active, showing a search bar and a 'See all Marketplace Apps' button. Under 'Recommended for you', several application images are listed, including WordPress 5.5.1, Plesk 18.0, Docker 19.03.12, LAMP, Jitsi Server, and cPanel & WHM. A green arrow points to the Docker 19.03.12 image. Below this is the 'Choose a plan' section, which has tabs for 'SHARED CPU' and 'DEDICATED CPU'. The 'Basic' plan is selected under 'SHARED CPU'. A green arrow points to the 'Basic' tab. Below the plan selection, there are CPU options: 'Regular Intel with SSD', 'Premium Intel with NVMe SSD', and 'Premium AMD with NVMe SSD'. The 'Premium AMD with NVMe SSD' option is selected. A green arrow points to this option. Below the CPU options, there are six droplet plans with their respective specifications and prices. A green arrow points to the first plan, which is the smallest and cheapest at \$6/mo.

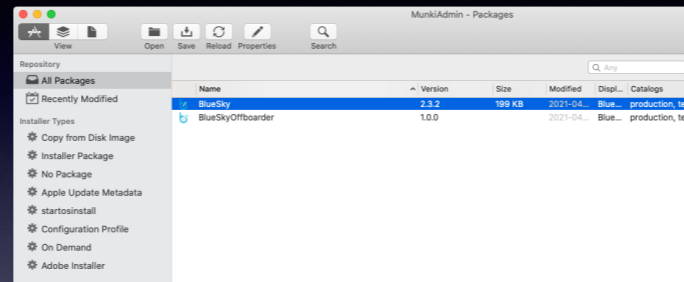
Plan	Price	CPU	RAM	Storage	Transfer
Basic	\$6/mo	1 AMD CPU	1 GB	25 GB NVMe SSD	1000 GB
General Purpose	\$12/mo	1 AMD CPU	2 GB	50 GB NVMe SSD	2 TB
CPU-Optimized	\$18/mo	2 AMD CPUs	2 GB	60 GB NVMe SSD	3 TB
Memory-Optimized	\$24/mo	2 AMD CPUs	4 GB	80 GB NVMe SSD	4 TB
Storage-Optimized	\$48/mo	4 AMD CPUs	8 GB	160 GB NVMe SSD	5 TB
Storage-Optimized (New)	\$96/mo	8 AMD CPUs	16 GB	320 GB NVMe SSD	6 TB

All you need is the smallest droplet available for \$6/mo. and you can even choose a Docker one right at the outset.  
CLICK



The functioning Docker Server has buttons to click to download a fully functioning pre-built BlueSky Client in an easy to deploy package.  
CLICK





```
munkiimport ~/Downloads/bluesky-232.pkg
```

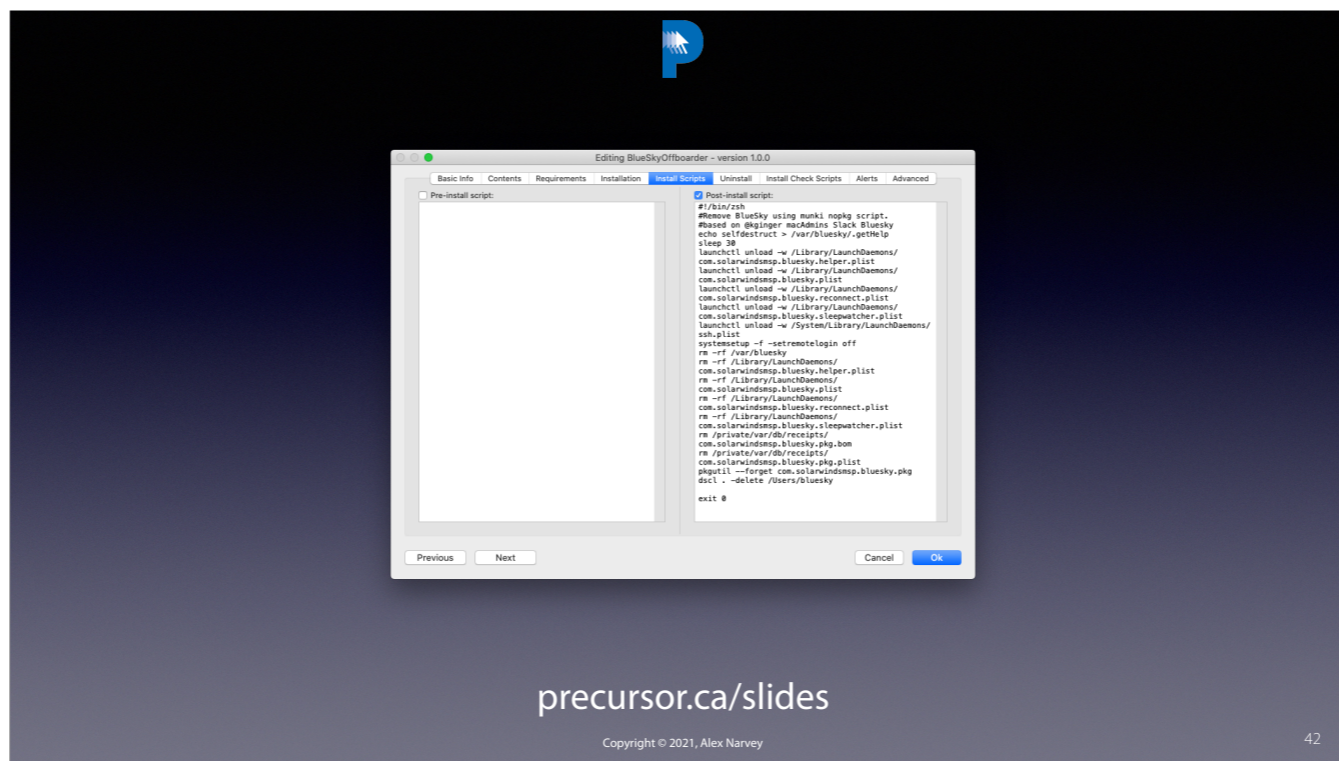
[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2021, Alex Narvey

41

I just imported that into munki and it was easy to deploy to any computer I manage.

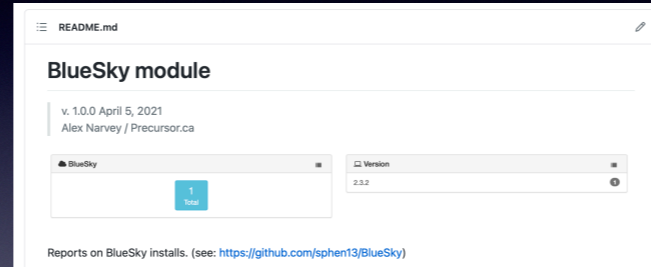
CLICK



To make sure it can be fully removed easily I created a munki nopackage script that make sure all parts are removed.  
CLICK



please make:module



[https://github.com/precursorca/bluesky\\_module](https://github.com/precursorca/bluesky_module)

[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2021, Alex Narvey

43

And to make it munki-rific, I thought, why not make a munkireport module with the new “Please make:module” command. It was easy.  
CLICK

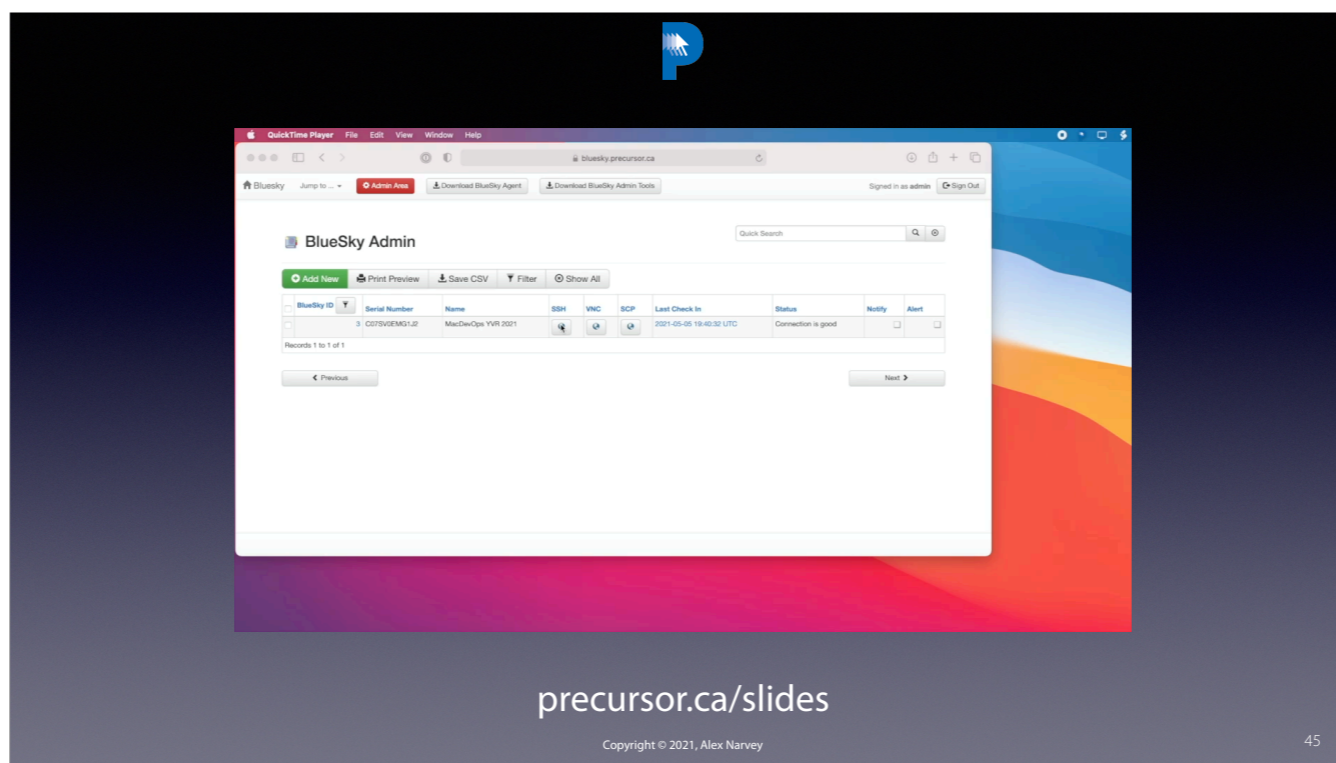


# Demo

[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

And now we have just enough time for a pre-recorded demo.



Here's the BlueSky window. To connect to the MacDevOps 2021 computer, I first type the user name and password into the Terminal Window that is activated and establish the SSH Tunnel.

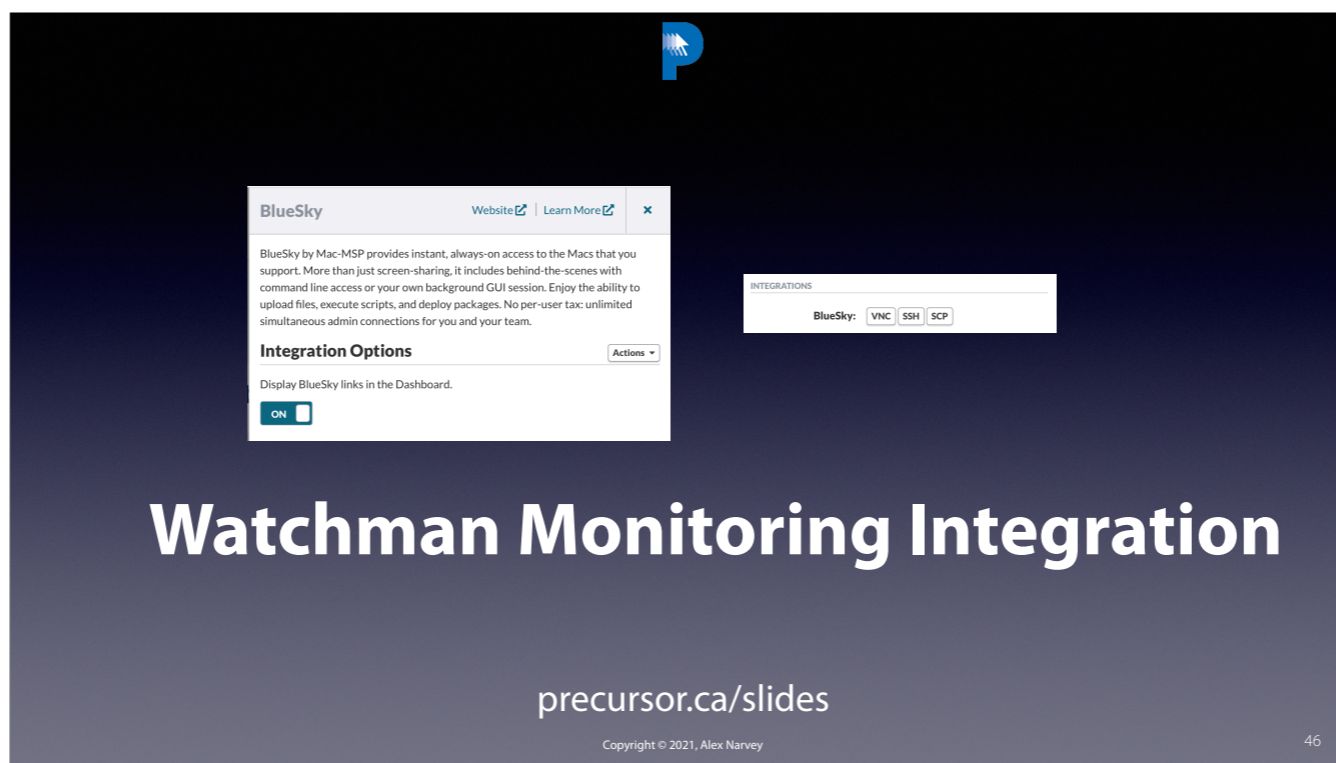
Then I access it via VNC ScreenSharing. I put in the name and password and I have access to the screen.

Let's log in the new user I created Monsieur X.

If I had done this via Splashtop I would be SOL because ScreenRecording is not enabled. But with BlueSky I can take care of that easily.

I can now continue controlling Mat's computer via BlueSky or with my tool of choice.

CLICK



The image shows a screenshot of the Watchman Monitoring interface. At the top center is a blue logo with a white 'P' and a stylized figure. Below it, there are two panels. The left panel is titled 'BlueSky' and contains a description of the service, an 'Integration Options' section with an 'ON' button, and an 'Actions' dropdown. The right panel is titled 'INTEGRATIONS' and shows 'BlueSky' with three sub-options: 'VNC', 'SSH', and 'SCP'. Below the panels, the text 'Watchman Monitoring Integration' is displayed in large white font. At the bottom, the URL 'precursor.ca/slides' and the copyright notice 'Copyright © 2021, Alex Narvey' are visible, along with the page number '46' in the bottom right corner.

# Watchman Monitoring Integration

precursor.ca/slides

Copyright © 2021, Alex Narvey 46

As an added bonus... BlueSky is even easier to use with the built-in integration in Watchman Monitoring. Just click the "On" button.  
CLICK



Alex Narvey



<https://Precursor.ca>



@precursorca

[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2021, Alex Narvey

47

Thanks for listening.

Slides and reference materials are available at [precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

THE END.