CSE 391
Lecture 10

Do anything from anywhere – tools to free your choice of OS

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http://www.cs.washington.edu/391/
Lecture summary

• **Remote connections** – get to your application or resource from anywhere

• **Local options** – get your application or resource to work on your setup

• Figure out how to do what you want to do in a new environment

• **Course Evals** – Don’t forget to fill these out!
Remote Connections: to a Linux machine

- You’ve seen remote connections to a Linux machine in action
  - Departmental attu.cs.washington.edu Linux server
  - Can use ssh (or PuTTY) from anywhere – independent of location and OS
Remote Connection: to a Windows machine

What about remote connections to a Windows machine?

• RDP – Remote Desktop Protocol, Enables remote connections to a Windows box from anywhere, independent of OS.
  
  - **From Linux** – `xfreerdp` or `rdesktop` commands, for example for user rea:
    
    ```
    ```
    
    - Note: On the CSE VM you will need to install `xfreerdp`. If you try to run `xfreerdp` it should ask you if you want to install it, say yes.
  
  - **From Windows** – Remote Desktop Connection
  
  - **From Mac** – “Microsoft Remote Desktop” App from Apple store

- **Note**: You must have an account on the Windows machine in question in order to connect to it remotely.
CSE Virtual Windows nodes

• For students with CSE accounts: The CSE department offers a set of hosted virtual machine nodes, imaged similar to Windows machines in basement labs, remotely accessible via RDP for people with CSE accounts. YOU MUST USE YOUR CSE Windows PASSWORD!
  ▪ Overview: http://www.cs.washington.edu/lab/services/vdi/
  ▪ Pick an available node from the list of currently available nodes: http://vdi.cs.washington.edu/vdi/
  ▪ Need to use the right domain!! CSEPCLAB\<username>
  ▪ Note: Windows and Mac users must now install the Husky OnNet Package before doing a remote desktop from a non-CSE (personal) machine See: http://vdi.cs.washington.edu/vdi/ for more details.
Non-remote options: **linux on Windows?**

• **Cygwin**: unix style environment within Windows
  - [https://www.cygwin.com/](https://www.cygwin.com/)
  - “package manager” is part of the install file
  - Provides the unix-like directory structure
    - Home directory is `/home/<WindowsUsername>`
    - Your actual windows directory structure is located at `/cygdrive/<driveletter>`

• Enables: quick use of linux style tools in a terminal environment in Windows

• Compare to: Windows cmd interface
Non-remote options: Windows on Linux?

- One barrier to switching to Linux: lots of apps are built for Windows
  - <Insert app here> that I use all the time isn’t ported to Linux! 😞

- **Wine** is an attempt at solving this
  - Provides an environment to run Windows applications in Linux
    - [http://www.winehq.org/](http://www.winehq.org/)
  - Open source
  - Not perfect, but many people have good success with major programs
    - Many successfully run WoW, MS Office, TextPad...

- Lots of online tutorials / message boards / instructions to get your favorite app working in Linux
Another barrier to using Linux as your main Desktop OS: “I don’t know how to do <X> in Linux”

- Imagine you had never seen or used Windows before. Would you somehow intuitively know how to:
  - Change your desktop background/resolution?
  - Install new graphics card drivers?
  - Change system settings? (Control Panel? What’s that?)
  - Etc etc...

- So how do you figure it out?
  - Ever read the Windows manual? (hint: there is no “the” manual)
    - “Windows 7 Product Guide” -- 140 pages, considered very high level
    - “Windows 7 for Dummies” -- 432 pages
    - “Windows 7 Bible” -- 1248 pages

- What do you do when you don’t know how to do something?
DEAR VARIOUS PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, CO-WORKERS, AND OTHER “NOT COMPUTER PEOPLE.”

WE DON’T MAGICALLY KNOW HOW TO DO EVERYTHING IN EVERY PROGRAM. WHEN WE HELP YOU, WE’re USUALLY JUST DOING THIS:

PLEASE PRINT THIS FLOWCHART OUT AND TAPE IT NEAR YOUR SCREEN. CONGRATULATIONS; YOU’RE NOW THE LOCAL COMPUTER EXPERT!

Courtesy XKCD
The More You Know™

• Step 1: Try and explore intuitively
  ▪ Hey, you’re CSE majors. Where would *you* put that setting if you were designing the system?

• Step 1.5: Look in short, directly relating references
  ▪ Man pages, quick start guides, the TOC in the manual (if exists...)

• Step 2: If that fails, search online!
  ▪ Likely someone else has wanted to do what you want, and *also* couldn’t figure it out
    • And, likely they’ve posted to a discussion board and had some guru give a detailed response
    • Or, a FAQ has been written somewhere that tells you how
Mix and match

- Don’t think of Linux/Windows as a binary choice
- These tools provide a continuum of options
  - Windows
  - Windows + Cygwin
  - Windows + Cygwin + Linux VM
  - Linux + Windows VM + Wine
  - Linux + Wine
  - Linux

- Can choose the setup that best suits your situation and application requirements
The choice is yours

• To clarify: the purpose here was not to say “you should switch to Linux as your main OS”
  ▪ But, you should know what tools and options exist, and be able to use Linux as your main OS if desired
  ▪ You should be able to survive if someone locked you in a closet with a laptop that had Fedora or Ubuntu

• Wrap up discussion:
  ▪ What tools seem the most useful that you learned this quarter?
    • What tools seem like they address important areas, but need to be better?
  ▪ From your experience, are there other tools you think you’d mention in this course, tools CSE majors should be aware of?
    • Linux commands/tools, programming development tools...