CSE 390
Lecture 10

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

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http://www.cs.washington.edu/390a/

Important Announcement

- There will **not** be a traditional final

  - Instead, the last Assignment will take the place of the Final
    - Everyone needs to complete it
    - It is a bit more involved / comprehensive than other assignments
    - Have to choose a number of "achievements" and turn in evidence that you completed them
    - If you need to make up an assignment from earlier in the quarter, you can do extra "achievements"
    - **Must earn a passing mark on last assignment to "pass" the course**

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

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
  - Also independent of OS:
    - From Linux – **rdesktop** command
    - From Windows – **Remote Desktop Connection**
  - The CSE department offers 15 hosted virtual machine nodes, imaged similar to Windows machines in basement labs, remotely accessible via RDP.
    - Overview: http://www.cs.washington.edu/lab/services/vdi/
    - List of currently available nodes: http://vdi.cs.washington.edu/vdi/
    - Need to use the right domain: CSEPCLAB\<username>

Non-remote options: linux on Windows?

- **Cygwin**: unix style environment within Windows
  - "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
- Doesn't enable: magic

- 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/
  - 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

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The More You Know™

- 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?

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Courtesy XKCD

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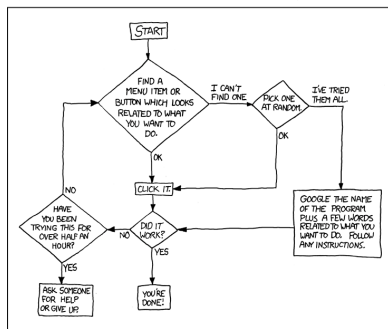
The More You Know™

- 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

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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 suites your situation and application requirements

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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 are the pros/cons of using Linux as your main OS?
  - 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…

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