Introduction to Red Hat Linux

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Red Hat Linux

- Red Hat Linux
  - Fedora
    - Testing grounds
    - Quick release schedule, short support window
  - Red Hat Enterprise Linux
    - Stable, production release
    - Long-term support
    - Red Hat Network/up2date
Fedora Installation

• Supports dual booting
  – Install 2 OS's in separate disk partitions
    • bootit
    • partitionmagic
  – Configure Master Boot Record to recognize both

• Boot from install CD

• Follow GUI menu through installation process
Help!

- Linux is generally very well documented (if you know where to look)

- Local Linux Documentation
  - `man` pages
    - `man -k`
    - `apropos`
  - `info` command
  - KDE help
  - `/usr/share/doc` directory

Next -> Online resources
Online Linux Help Resources

- mailing lists and newsgroups
  - The Linux Documentation Project
    - www.tldp.org
  - google
    - www.dejanews.com
  - www.redhat.com/docs
  - www.gnu.org/manual
X-Windows

- Gnome desktop
- KDE desktop
- Login screen *Session* button
- *Switchdesk* command
  - System Settings->More System Settings->Desktop Switching Tool
Konqueror

- Multi-purpose desktop tool
- Web browser, file manager, FTP client, etc.
- Internet->More Internet Applications->Konqueror
OpenOffice

• Writer
  – Word processor

• Impress
  – Slide presentation tool

• Calc
  – Spreadsheet application
Ximian Evolution

- E-mail
  - POP
  - IMAP
- Calendaring
Mozilla

- Web browser
  - Available in main menu or via launcher on desktop
- Email (POP/IMAP) client
- Newsgroup (nntp) client
- Sister browser Firefox
gaim

- Gnu clone of AOL Instant Messenger
Printing

- Printer Configuration
  - Configures print queues for local and remote printers
  - System Settings->Printing
- Print Manager
  - Controls configured printers
  - System Tools-> Print Manager
- Configures local and remote printers
CUPS Web Interface

- localhost:631
- Configure new printers
- Manage existing printers
- Configure and manage printer classes
  - A printer class is a group of printers defined as a class
  - Print jobs sent to a class of printers are printed on the first available member printer of the class.
Logging in Remotely

- Telnet is deprecated except on extremely secure networks
- Secure shell (ssh) is the preferred method of remote login access
  - Connections are encrypted
  - `scp` utility (secure version of `rcp`
  - X-11 forwarding
  - Compatibility with other remote-access programs (e.g., `rsync`)
Passwords

- No dictionary words
- No common names
- 6+ characters
- The best passwords combine alphabetic, numeric, and special characters.
  - Avoid control characters which may have special meanings in Linux.
Good Practices

- Choose good for passwords for administrative accounts.
- Check root's mailbox regularly, or forward root's mail to yourself at another account.
- Monitor system logs frequently.
  - logwatch
Best Practices

Principle of Least Privilege:
Never do as root what you can do as a less-privileged user.
up2date

- Up2date is Red Hat's package updating facility
- Red Hat Network
  - Very well-supported for Advanced and Enterprise customers.
  - Free support for Fedora is overworked.
  - URI TOPS runs a mirror site for Fedora updates
**URI Fedora Update Mirror**

- In order to use URI's mirror for getting updates for Fedora distributions, make the following changes to the file `/etc/sysconfig/rhn/sources`.
  - Comment out the lines beginning with "yum" by putting a "#" character at the beginning of the line.
  - Add the following 2 lines:
    - `yum URI-FC2-Base ftp://rsync.uri.edu/fedora/2/i386/os/`
    - `yum URI-FC2-Updates ftp://rsync.uri.edu/fedora/updates/2/i386`