

Introduction to RedHatLinux

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Technical and Operational

Services

Office of Information

Services



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
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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)

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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>

