CS 159.5 Basic Systems and Network Administration

VNC

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VNC
- What is VNC?
- What can you do with VNC?
- Five files to remember

Running VNC
- Installation
- Running the server
- Connecting the viewer
- Ending a session

References
VNC
What is VNC?

- VNC stands for Virtual Network Computer
- A remote control software that allows for viewing and interaction of a remote computer
- Developed by AT&T
- Cross-platform
- Composed of a server and a client (Java streams anyone? =)
VNC in action
What can you do with VNC?

- Administer a computer remotely
- Use a remote computer for projects etc
- Look cool (subjective)
Five files to remember

- **vncserver** – starts or stops a vnc server; A wrapper for Xvnc
- **vncpasswd** – changes the password to connect to the server, runs automatically when the vncserver is ran at the first time
- **vncviewer** – runs the client/viewer
- **vncconfig** – configuration. Can also tell a VNC server to connect to a viewer aka reverse connect
- **Xvnc** – the real server
- Use the package management tool in Fedora 😊
- You also have to allow VNC connections to pass through your firewall
Type `vncserver:<display no.>` on the console to start the server

- You can run a lot of vnc servers on your computer
- You will be prompted for a password if it’s your first time to run a vnc server.
- All your servers on that machine would share that password
- To change your password, use the command `vncpasswd`
- You can also use the switch `--geometry` to set the size of the desktop
- Type `vncviewer_<name of the vnc server>`
- If the machine running the server doesn’t have a DNS entry, use its IP address instead
A configuration file named “xstartup” is located inside the “.vnc” folder inside your home directory.

You can put commands that you want to run when a viewer connects to a server.
Ending a Session

- If you are a server, type `vncserver_-kill_:<display no.>`
- If you are a viewer, you can just close a viewer
RealVNC: http://realvnc.com
TightVNC: http://tightvnc.com
Man pages
Desktop Guerrilla Tactics: a Portable Thin Client Approach
http://www.linuxjournal.com/article.php?sid=7109