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Activity 3: Install SSH server on CentOS or RHEL 8

1. Objectives:

- 1.1 Install Community Enterprise OS or Red Hat Linux OS
- 1.2 Configure remote SSH connection from remote computer to CentOS/RHEL-8

2. Discussion:

CentOS vs. Debian: Overview

CentOS and Debian are Linux distributions that spawn from opposite ends of the candle.

CentOS is a free downstream rebuild of the commercial Red Hat Enterprise Linux distribution where, in contrast, Debian is the free upstream distribution that is the base for other distributions, including the Ubuntu Linux distribution.

As with many Linux distributions, CentOS and Debian are generally more alike than different; it isn't until we dig a little deeper that we find where they branch.

CentOS vs. Debian: Architecture

The available supported architectures can be the determining factor as to whether a distro is a viable option or not. Debian and CentOS are both very popular for x86_64/AMD64, but what other archs are supported by each?

Both Debian and CentOS support AArch64/ARM64, armhf/armhfp, i386, ppc64el/ppc64le. (Note: armhf/armhfp and i386 are supported in CentOS 7 only.)

CentOS 7 additionally supports POWER9 while Debian and CentOS 8 do not. CentOS 7 focuses on the x86_64/AMD64 architecture with the other archs released through the AltArch SIG (Alternate Architecture Special Interest Group) with CentOS 8 supporting x86_64/AMD64, AArch64 and ppc64le equally.

Debian supports MIPSel, MIPS64el and s390x while CentOS does not. Much like CentOS 8, Debian does not favor one arch over another —all supported architectures are supported equally.

CentOS vs. Debian: Package Management

Most Linux distributions have some form of package manager nowadays, with some more complex and feature-rich than others.

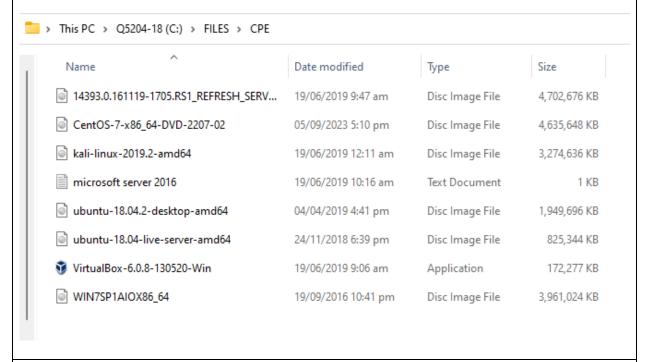
CentOS uses the RPM package format and YUM/DNF as the package manager.

Debian uses the DEB package format and dpkg/APT as the package manager.

Both offer full-feature package management with network-based repository support, dependency checking and resolution, etc.. If you're familiar with one but not the other, you may have a little trouble switching over, but they're not overwhelmingly different. They both have similar features, just available through a different interface.

Task 1: Download the CentOS or RHEL-8 image (Create screenshots of the following)

- 1. Download the image of the CentOS here: http://mirror.rise.ph/centos/7.9.2009/isos/x86-64/
- 2. Create a VM machine with 2 Gb RAM and 20 Gb HD.
- 3. Install the downloaded image.
- 4. Show evidence that the OS was installed already.



Task 2: Install the SSH server package openssh

1. Install the ssh server package *openssh* by using the *dnf* command: \$\\$dnf\ install\ openssh-server\$

```
Laxamana@localhost:~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
[root@localhost ~]# sudo yum -y install opensshe-server
Loaded plugins: fastestmirror, langpacks
Loading mirror speeds from cached hostfile
* base: mirror.aktkn.sg
* extras: mirror.aktkn.sg
* updates: mirror.aktkn.sg
No package opensshe-server available.
Error: Nothing to do
[root@localhost ~]# sudo yum -y install openssh-server
Loaded plugins: fastestmirror, langpacks
Loading mirror speeds from cached hostfile
* base: mirror.aktkn.sg
* extras: mirror.aktkn.sg
* updates: mirror.aktkn.sg
Resolving Dependencies
--> Running transaction check
---> Package openssh-server.x86 64 0:7.4p1-22.el7 9 will be updated
---> Package openssh-server.x86 64 0:7.4p1-23.el7 9 will be an update
--> Processing Dependency: openssh = 7.4p1-23.el7 9 for package: openssh-server-7.4p1-2
3.el7 9.x86 64
--> Running transaction check
---> Package openssh.x86_64 0:7.4p1-22.el7_9 will be updated
--> Processing Dependency: openssh = 7.4p1-22.el7 9 for package: openssh-clients-7.4p1-
22.el7 9.x86 64
---> Package openssh.x86 64 0:7.4p1-23.el7 9 will be an update
--> Running transaction check
   2. Start the sshd daemon and set to start after reboot:
      $ systemctl start sshd
      $ systemctl enable sshd
[Laxamana@localhost ~]$ systemctl start sshd
[Laxamana@localhost ~]$
[Laxamana@localhost ~]$ systemctl enable sshd
   3. Confirm that the sshd daemon is up and running:
      $ systemctl status sshd
[Laxamana@localhost ~]$ systemctl status sshd

    sshd.service - OpenSSH server daemon

  Loaded: loaded (/usr/lib/systemd/system/sshd.service; enabled; vendor preset: enable
  Active: active (running) since Thu 2023-09-07 05:30:30 EDT; 45min ago
    Docs: man:sshd(8)
           man:sshd config(5)
Main PID: 3525 (sshd)
  CGroup: /system.slice/sshd.service
           └3525 /usr/sbin/sshd -D
   4. Open the SSH port 22 to allow incoming traffic:
       $ firewall-cmd --zone=public --permanent --add-service=ssh
```

\$ firewall-cmd --reload [Laxamana@localhost ~]\$ firewall-cmd --zone=public --permanent --add-service=ssh Warning: ALREADY_ENABLED: ssh success [Laxamana@localhost ~]\$ firewall-cmd --reload

5. Locate the ssh server man config file <code>/etc/ssh/sshd_config</code> and perform custom configuration. Every time you make any change to the <code>/etc/ssh/sshd-config</code> configuration file reload the <code>sshd</code> service to apply changes:

\$ systemctl reload sshd

success

[Laxamana@localhost ~]\$ systemctl reload sshd

Task 3: Copy the Public Key to CentOS

1. Make sure that *ssh* is installed on the local machine.

```
laxamana_ubuntu@workstation:~$ systemctl status sshd
ssh.service - OpenBSD Secure Shell server
   Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/ssh.service; enabled; vendor preset: ena
   Active: active (running) since Thu 2023-08-17 18:19:36 PST; 3 weeks 0 days a
  Process: 7228 ExecReload=/bin/kill -HUP $MAINPID (code=exited, status=0/SUCCE
  Process: 7224 ExecReload=/usr/sbin/sshd -t (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
 Main PID: 957 (sshd)
    Tasks: 1 (limit: 4656)
  CGroup: /system.slice/ssh.service

—957 /usr/sbin/sshd -D
Aug 24 17:43:00 workstation systemd[1]: Reloading OpenBSD Secure Shell server.
Aug 24 17:43:00 workstation systemd[1]: Reloaded OpenBSD Secure Shell server.
Aug 24 17:43:00 workstation sshd[957]: Received SIGHUP; restarting.
Aug 24 17:43:00 workstation sshd[957]: Server listening on 0.0.0.0 port 22.
Aug 24 17:43:00 workstation sshd[957]: Server listening on :: port 22.
Aug 24 17:43:00 workstation systemd[1]: Reloading OpenBSD Secure Shell server.
Aug 24 17:43:00 workstation systemd[1]: Reloaded OpenBSD Secure Shell server.
Aug 24 17:43:00 workstation sshd[957]: Received SIGHUP; restarting.
Aug 24 17:43:00 workstation sshd[957]: Server listening on 0.0.0.0 port 22.
Aug 24 17:43:00 workstation sshd[957]: Server listening on :: port 22.
lines 1-20/20 (END)
```

2. Using the command *ssh-copy-id*, connect your local machine to CentOS.

```
laxamana_ubuntu@workstation:~$ ssh-copy-id Laxamana@192.168.56.110

The authenticity of host '192.168.56.110 (192.168.56.110)' can't be established

.

ECDSA key fingerprint is SHA256:5FmXvFA9TzZxvUep1mC/W92r0uzciWKizq68XsaPAEM.

Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)? yes
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: attempting to log in with the new key(s), to filter out any that are already installed
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: 1 key(s) remain to be installed -- if you are promp ted now it is to install the new keys
Laxamana@192.168.56.110's password:

Number of key(s) added: 1

Now try logging into the machine, with: "ssh 'Laxamana@192.168.56.110'"
and check to make sure that only the key(s) you wanted were added.
```

3. On CentOS, verify that you have the *authorized keys*.

```
[Laxamana@localhost ~]$ cd .ssh
[Laxamana@localhost .ssh]$ cat authorized_keys
ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaClyc2EAAAADAQABAAACAQC8S8iNhzDuqBfEi4NGZUuFlmK9jYWfrRGVA7hBb7L6WQeNSaD
joZ7QGkcTrVUq+fqyzQNU3A+pkZzTi/hwWRLWT41KKSDA1AAcoWH1uvTdC8ZSn/EW7hA01FcxiPKoP8m0tbrJFy
gRnemfkDCib7wqRi020H5C+U587Rut49i6jbA7ksAfmD8zEmbjLNB2ucnUEKbTtPXG0b1tU2VDMm+VsSu21RDr+
iUAMlyVkwLf61RjaUGM4Tvs54mHQLdyFZzfN+QT4wNRhs7tTL9ZTNQETBGtcLwEe2rfKCFkkFWWNKR3RLmw8PwJ
mNTTTQplSGATI+L4+j85saTVCGTiirK7HyMoq6vG22WW9xwS0HwmQ1fhtqc24jcKEFEmHjSc7+z5pMQrPCxVD8R
xHlQmX80koN/VASPGr3EaIIIZhbDA0KY3w7hR4SbC30BeatD1rnFo6A8sXkDhXAEnebonbKT4zbENNjoh6DAhvo
MxKkj/MKbGVSApQq7e8WqboGYOUUNN5pAZNxB1XY992zzxidTeuJzCfk2Vs3yDcBXOuDjrilD8/t6vhfz83mEXz
RT4vzF8JonjW5eAX8f1yvwbcNxuc39FlZLNR+N7jDERNhVxccd8p65g5bDZm90pvFvYBeJtjBjQRThkegDapXiy
b8Uy8sHLLempXLiCKK8ZKgBjuw== /home/laxamana_ubuntu/.ssh/id_rsa
```

Task 4: Verify ssh remote connection

1. Using your local machine, connect to CentOS using ssh.

```
laxamana_ubuntu@workstation:~$ ssh Laxamana@192.168.56.110
Last login: Thu Sep 7 05:15:05 2023
```

2. Show evidence that you are connected.

```
laxamana_ubuntu@workstation:~$ ping 192.168.56.110
PING 192.168.56.110 (192.168.56.110) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 192.168.56.110: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=0.893 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.56.110: icmp_seq=2 ttl=64 time=0.573 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.56.110: icmp_seq=3 ttl=64 time=0.428 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.56.110: icmp_seq=4 ttl=64 time=0.482 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.56.110: icmp seq=5 ttl=64 time=0.495 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.56.110: icmp seq=6 ttl=64 time=0.407 ms
[Laxamana@localhost .ssh]$ ping 192.168.56.102
PING 192.168.56.102 (192.168.56.102) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 192.168.56.102: icmp seq=1 ttl=64 time=0.169 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.56.102: icmp seq=2 ttl=64 time=0.383 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.56.102: icmp seq=3 ttl=64 time=0.569 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.56.102: icmp seq=4 ttl=64 time=0.386 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.56.102: icmp seq=5 ttl=64 time=0.369 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.56.102: icmp seq=6 ttl=64 time=0.393 ms
```

```
laxamana ubuntu@workstation:~$ sudo nano /etc/hosts
[sudo] password for laxamana_ubuntu:
laxamana_ubuntu@workstation:~$ ssh Laxamana@centos
The authenticity of host 'centos (192.168.56.110)' can't be established.
ECDSA key fingerprint is SHA256:5FmXvFA9TzZxvUep1mC/W92r0uzciWKizq68XsaPAEM.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)? yes
Warning: Permanently added 'centos' (ECDSA) to the list of known hosts.
Last login: Thu Sep 7 06:30:38 2023 from 192.168.56.102 [Laxamana@localhost ~]$ logout
Connection to centos closed.
                            laxamana ubuntu@workstation: ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
  GNU nano 2.9.3
                                       /etc/hosts
127.0.0.1
                workstation
192.168.56.103
                server1
192.168.56.104 server2
192.168.56.110 centos
        ip6-localhost ip6-loopback
```

Reflections:

Answer the following:

fe00::0 ip6-localnet
ff00::0 ip6-mcastprefix
ff02::1 ip6-allnodes
ff02::2 ip6-allrouters

1. What do you think we should look for in choosing the best distribution between Debian and Red Hat Linux distributions?

From my standpoint, we should choose the distribution that aligns with our specific use case, whether it's for personal use, development, or running critical business services. Several essential factors ought to affect your selection while choosing between the Debian and Red Hat Linux distributions. First, think about the compromise that exists between stability and the newest features: Red Hat-based distributions provide the latest software, more suitable for environments needing modern technologies, while Debian tends toward stability with additional time release periods, making it beneficial for servers where credibility is most important. Second, consider your support needs. While Debian mostly relies on support from the community, Red Hat offers commercial support through RHEL, which is essential for applications that are critically important. Your decision may be impacted by the license and philosophy, since Debian closely adheres to open-source ideals, whilst Red Hat provides more freedom in adding commercial software. Package management inclinations should also be taken into account, with Debian utilizing APT and Red Hat RPM.

2. What are the main difference between Debian and Red Hat Linux distributions?

The main differences between these two distributions are their release philosophies, where Debian favors stability and has longer release cycles while Red Hat leans toward offering the newest features and technologies, their support, where Debian relies on community support while Red Hat receives commercial support, their package management, where Debian's management system is APT (Advanced Package Tool) while Red Hat has RPM (Red Hat package manager), and their licensing with Debian being free to use and distribute while red hat requires a membership. Debian also offers free and open-source software, but red hat is more adaptable when it comes to adding proprietary software.