

ThinkPad T430 Homelab Setup Recap

1. Initial System Preparation

- Installed Linux on the ThinkPad T430.
- Ran system updates and upgrades (apt update && apt upgrade).
- Verified network interfaces using 'ip a' and 'ip route'.
- Confirmed WiFi interface (wlp3s0) and DHCP-assigned IP address.

2. Monitor + Lid Configuration

- Connected external monitor via VGA.
- Configured system to ignore lid close event.
- Verified system remains running with lid closed.
- Confirmed monitor can be turned off independently without shutting down system.

3. SSH Server Setup

- Enabled SSH service using systemctl.
- Verified SSH is enabled at boot (systemctl is-enabled ssh).
- Prepared system for remote management from desktop machine.

4. Networking & Static IP Strategy

- Accessed Xfinity router settings via xFi app.
- Reviewed LAN settings (Gateway 10.0.0.1 / Subnet 255.255.255.0).
- Identified DHCP range (10.0.0.2 – 10.0.0.253).
- Identified server IP (10.0.0.229).
- Located server MAC address for future DHCP reservation.
- Decided router-level DHCP reservation is preferred over OS-level static IP.

5. Power Management Decisions

- Decided to keep server mostly always-on.
- Confirmed physical power button required for cold boot.
- Discussed Wake-on-LAN as future option (not implemented today).
- Performed clean shutdown using 'sudo shutdown now'.

Summary

Today focused on foundational infrastructure setup rather than service deployment. The system is now prepared for remote management, stable operation with a closed lid, and future service deployment (Docker, media server, Pi-hole, etc.). This establishes the base layer of the homelab environment.