Lab - Install a Web Based System Administration Control Panel for Linux

Overview

Webmin is an open source web based system configuration application for Linux system administration. With the help of this tool we can manage internal system configuration such as setting up user accounts, disk quotas, services configuration like Apache, DNS, PHP or MySQL, file sharing and much more. Webmin applications is based on Perl module and it uses TCP port 10000 with OpenSSL library for communicating via browser.

```
                    ckrahenbill@localhost:/home/ckrahenbill                    ×
 File  Edit  View  Search  Terminal  Help
[ckrahenbill@localhost ~]$ su
Password:
[root@localhost ckrahenbill]#
```

Flush the firewall rules. We need to make sure no port is blocked:

```
iptables -F
```

```
                    ckrahenbill@localhost:/home/ckrahenbill                    ×
 File  Edit  View  Search  Terminal  Help
[ckrahenbill@localhost ~]$ su
Password:
[root@localhost ckrahenbill]# iptables -F
[root@localhost ckrahenbill]#
```

Install Perl and its necessary modules:

```
yum -y install wget perl perl-Net-SSLeay openssl perl-IO-Tty
```
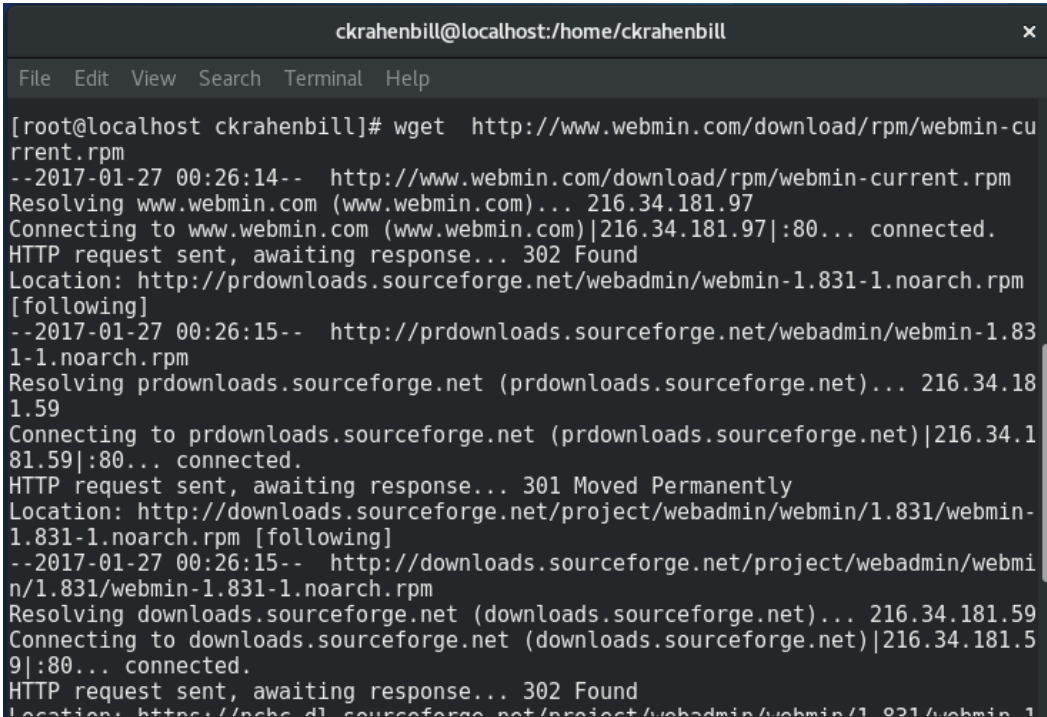
```
                    ckrahenbill@localhost:/home/ckrahenbill                    ×
 File  Edit  View  Search  Terminal  Help
[root@localhost ckrahenbill]# yum -y install wget perl perl-Net-SSLeay openssl p
erl-IO-Tty
Redirecting to '/usr/bin/dnf -y install wget perl perl-Net-SSLeay openssl perl-I
O-Tty' (see 'man yum2dnf')

Last metadata expiration check: 1:44:44 ago on Thu Jan 26 22:34:36 2017.
Package wget-1.18-2.fc25.x86_64 is already installed, skipping.
Package perl-4:5.24.1-382.fc25.x86_64 is already installed, skipping.
Package perl-Net-SSLeay-1.78-1.fc25.x86_64 is already installed, skipping.
Package openssl-1:1.0.2j-3.fc25.x86_64 is already installed, skipping.
Dependencies resolved.
================================================================================
 Package          Arch           Version            Repository       Size
================================================================================
Installing:
 perl-IO-Tty      x86_64         1.12-6.fc25         fedora          46 k

Transaction Summary
================================================================================
Install  1 Package

Total download size: 46 k
Installed size: 79 k
Downloading Packages:
```
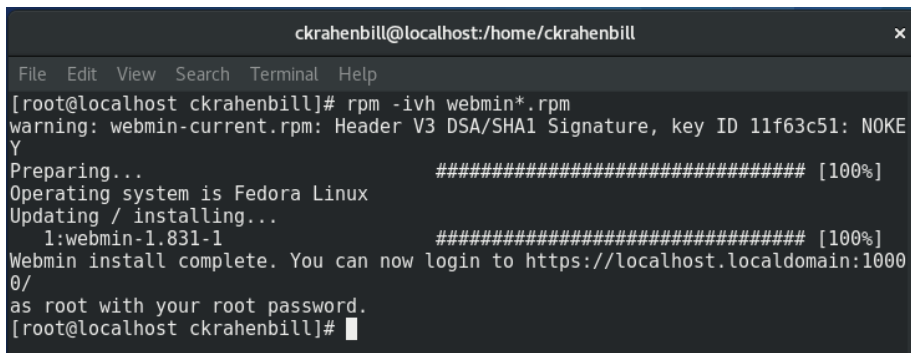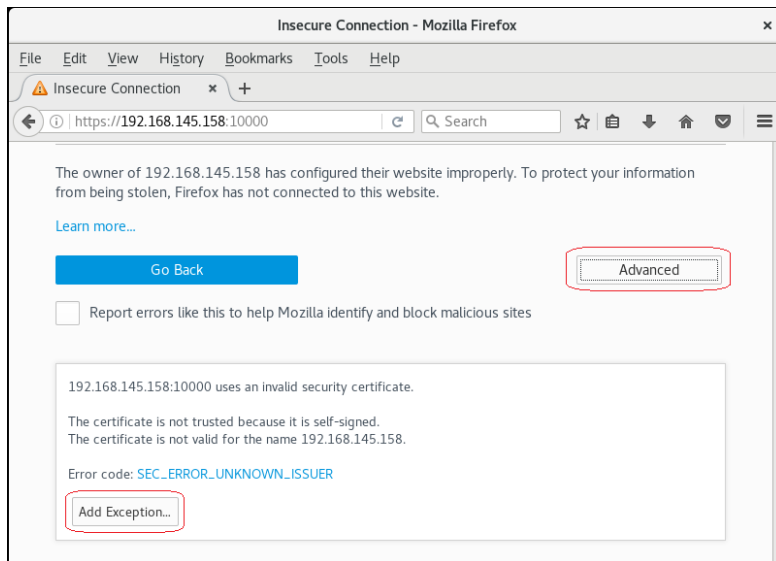
Download and install webmin package:

```
wget http://www.webmin.com/download/rpm/webmin-current.rpm
```


Complete the install:

```
rpm -ivh webmin*.rpm
```
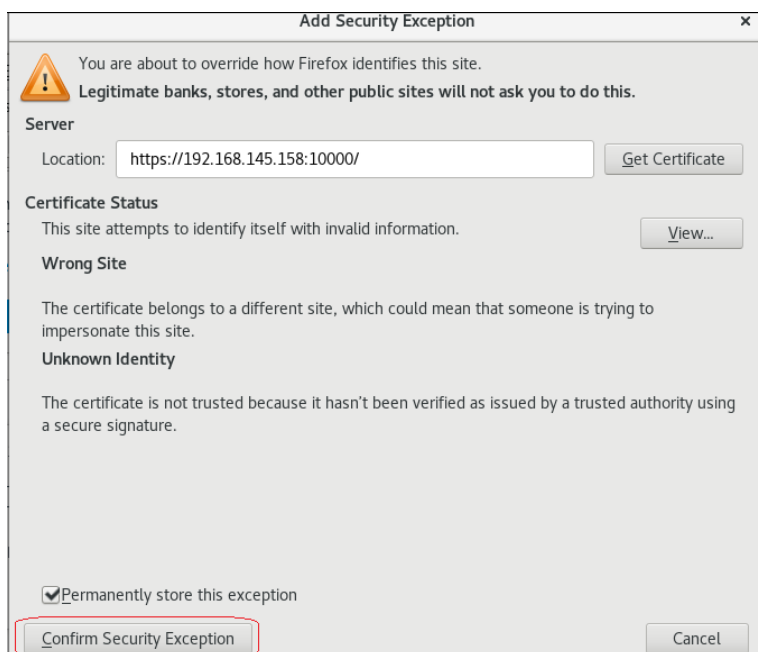

Log into Webmin using Firefox using:

```
https://<your_server_ip_address>:10000
```

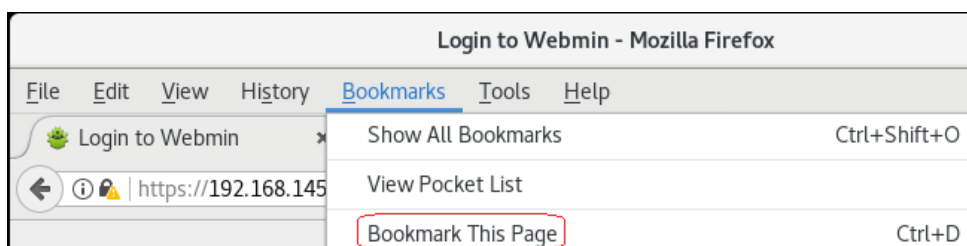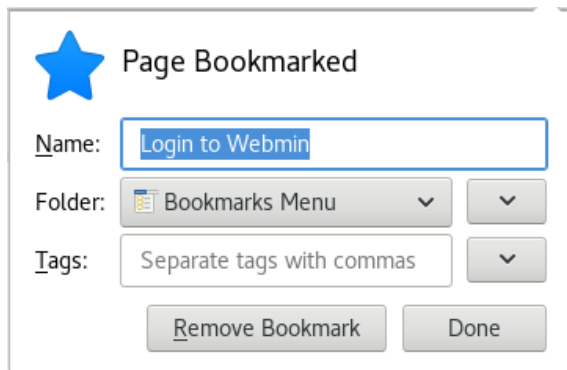Click on advance and then click on Add Exception.

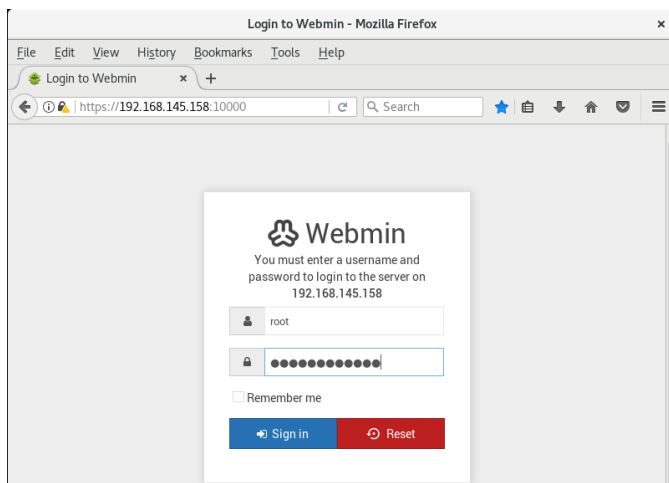Click, Confirm Security Exception

Login using root and the root password:
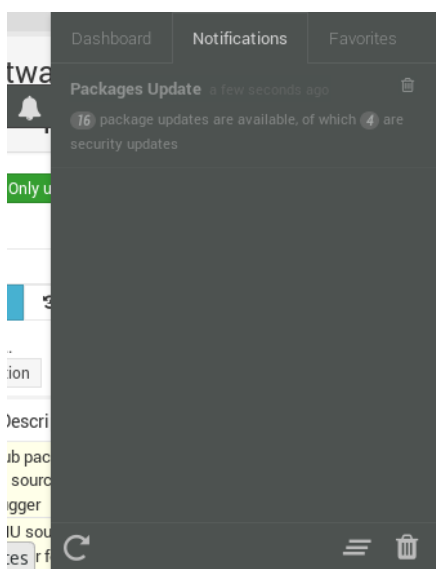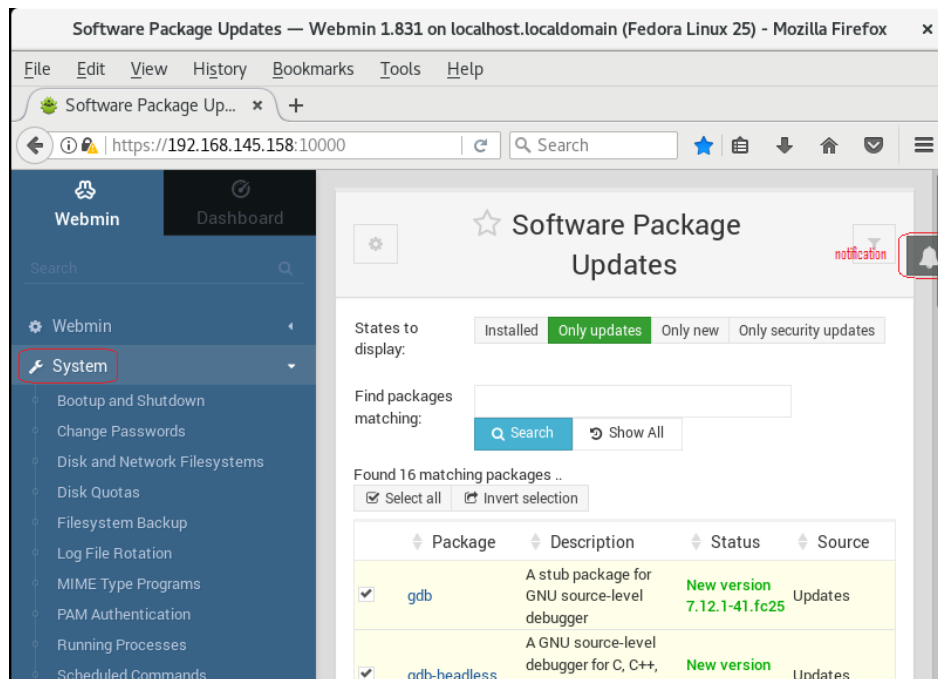
Add the web page to your Firefox bookmarks.

Logon as root.

In this example, Webmin notifies me as soon as I login, there are updates available.

Updates are located under the system in the left window menu. Here I can view installed packages, only updates and only security updates.

I can click on the alert for update and it takes me to the update page. Here I can view, select, and install the updates at my leisure. If we scroll to the bottom of the updates page, I have the option to update the selected packages.
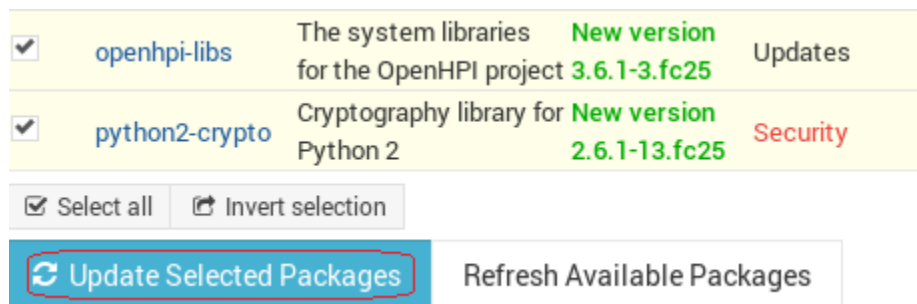
As I run the updates I can monitor the progress using the terminal view provided.
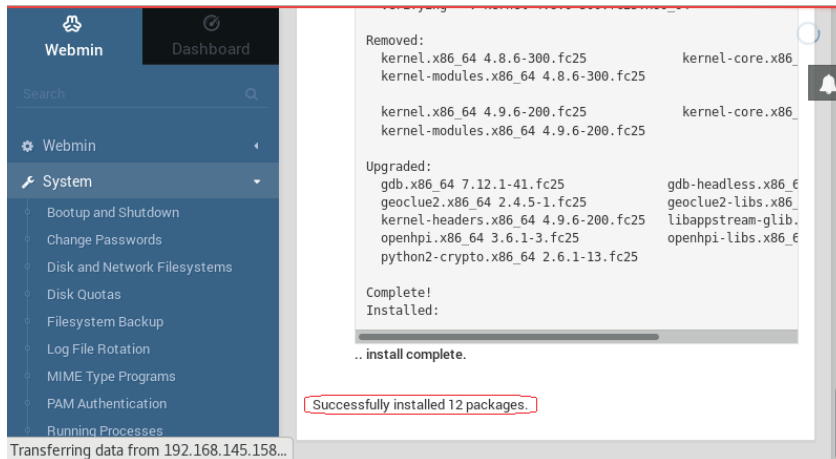
Don't be shy with looking around and using the Webmin console.
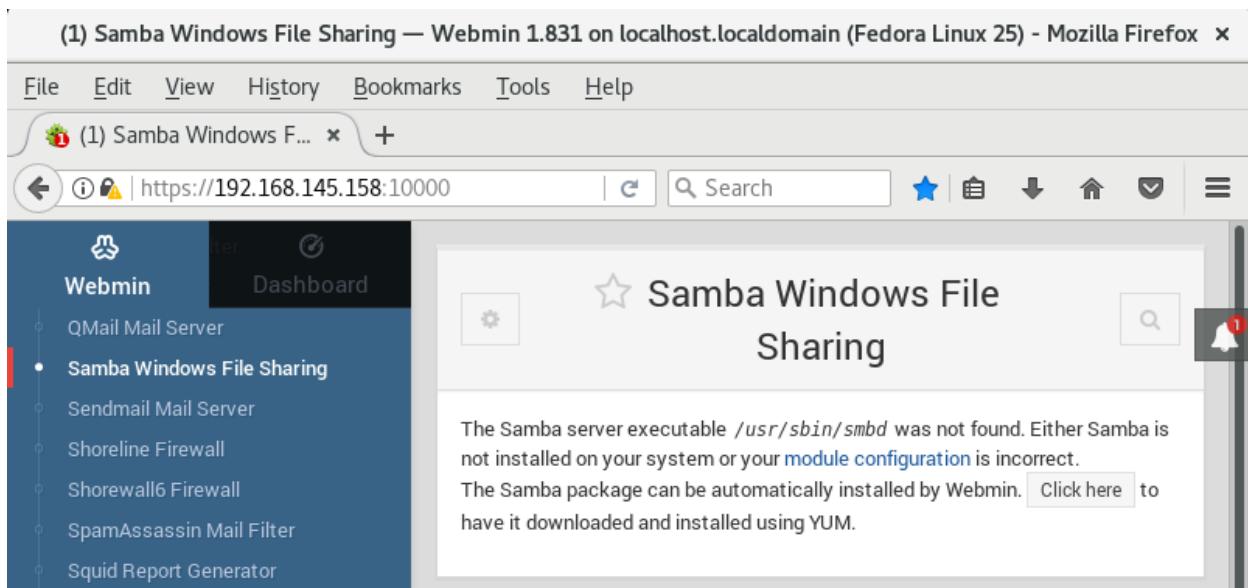
In this next example, under the Un-used modules, we find Samba Windows File sharing module. Webmin will download and install the module for us. We will then be able to manage Windows file sharing from this console.

We can make this Fedora server a mail server, a spam filter, a voice mail server and install many other features. Google some of the un-used modules using Google to see if these would be something you would be interested in installing.

Summary

Using a front-end GUI for Linux administration does not replace the granularity of using the CLI but having options is never a bad thing. The more you know about how to manage a Linux server, the more you make yourself marketable. Linux is like Cisco, no one wants to deal with either because of the command line. They both have GUI front ends available. You mention

you do Cisco or Linux administration and the conversion changes to sports or the news. How about them damn Yankees?

Take the Usermin module, here's what Google says about it:

Usermin is a web-based interface for webmail, password changing, mail filters, fetchmail and much more. It is designed for use by regular non-root users on a Unix system, and limits them to tasks that they would be able to perform if logged in via SSH or at the console.

Hmmm…. think I'll pass on this one. Before randomly installing any unused module, I want to do my homework and see if it is something the business needs or will help reduce my administrative burden.

End of lab!