

Cygwin/XFree86 Contributor's Guide

Harold L Hunt, II

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by Harold L Hunt, II

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Chapter 1. Overview

The Cygwin/XFree86 project can use your help! We will do everything we can to make experienced contributors productive as soon as possible. We also want to make it as easy as possible for new contributors to make Cygwin/XFree86 their first open source project.

Cygwin/XFree86 is part of the vast number of open source/free software programs that provide compatibility with closed source/commercial software products. Cygwin/XFree86 enables the coexistence of closed software and open software during the period of transition from an almost completely closed software market to an almost completely open software market.

Join in the excitement of opening your Windows machine to the X Window System.

We need programmers, documentation writers, and website maintainers.

Chapter 2. Programming

Overview

This chapter provides a consolidated overview of all of the information needed to begin making source code contributions to Cygwin/XFree86. Creating a source code contribution for Cygwin/XFree86 requires an amazingly small amount of information; however, prior to this document that tiny amount of information was difficult to obtain, as it was scattered across several documents and source code files. New programmers with no open source project experience, as well as programming gurus, will be able to make source code contributions to Cygwin/XFree86 after reading this chapter. Programming gurus are great; our intention is to create more of them.

You will want to start downloading the XFree86 source code tree immediately after reading the section called *Obtaining the Source Code*, if you have an active network connection at your disposal, as downloading the source code tree can take anywhere from 10 minutes to 10 hours, depending upon the speed of your connection. You will find it advantageous to have a source code tree as you read the later sections.

Native Compiling

Obtaining the Source Code

Cygwin/XFree86 source code is contained in, and distributed with, the XFree86 source code tree. Read-only CVS access to the XFree86 source tree (<http://xfree86.org/cvs/>) is also available from the XFree86 project.

The XFree86 CVS tree is not always buildable on Cygwin, as the XFree86 CVS tree is modified frequently, and sometimes those modifications cause building on Cygwin to fail; however, there are a few developers monitoring the build state of the XFree86 CVS tree on Cygwin, and they quickly fix build problems as they appear. It is unlikely that you will experience problems building XFree86 on Cygwin; in the event that you do experience build problems, you may wish to drop a note to cygwin-xfree@cygwin.com to let the developers there know that the tree is not building correctly.

Periodically the Cygwin/XFree86 project releases a snapshot of the XFree86 source code that is known to compile. It is perfectly acceptable, though rarely necessary, to do your independent development work from a stable source code snapshot, rather than from the XFree86 CVS tree. Developing from a stable source code snapshots minimizes the scope of problems that you may encounter, which can greatly ease debugging of new features and other code modifications.

It is highly recommended to get the XFree86 CVS tree by using the CVS *pserver* method. CVS *pserver* is the easiest CVS method to use for anonymous access to public CVS trees, as you need only type in a well-known password to download the CVS tree. CVS *pserver* is rarely used to control checkins to CVS trees, as the passwords are stored and sent as plain text; thus, *pserver* is extremely insecure. However, security does not matter for a public read-only CVS tree.

Follow these steps to checkout the XFree86 CVS tree:

1. Open a Cygwin **bash** shell by double clicking the Cygwin icon on your desktop, or by selecting **Start**, then **Programs**, followed by **Cygnus Solutions**, and finally **Cygwin Bash Shell**. You will see output similar to the following:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~
$
```

2. Create a directory in which to store your XFree86 CVS tree and your builds; `~/x-devel` is recommended:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~
$ mkdir x-devel
```

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~
$
```

3. Change the current directory to your new XFree86 development directory:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~
$ cd x-devel
```

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel
$
```

4. Set the CVSROOT environment variable to point to the XFree86 CVS repository:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel
$ CVSROOT=:pserver:anoncvs@anoncvs.xfree86.org:/cvs
```

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel
$ export CVSROOT
```

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel
$
```

5. Login to the CVS server, using password “anoncvs”:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel
$ cvs login
(Logging in to anoncvs@anoncvs.xfree86.org)
CVS password:

Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel
$
```

6. Checkout the `xc/` directory from the XFree86 CVS tree:

Tip: The `-zn` parameter specifies the compression level to use, from 1 to 9, with 9 being maximum compression.

Note: As of 2001-06-12, a checked out XFree86 CVS source code tree contains 16,199 files in 3,021 folders, which is 242 MB of data, but requires 285 MB of storage space on a file system using 4 KB allocation units.

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel
$ cvs -z4 checkout xc
cvs server: Updating xc

...
```

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel
$
```

You may preserve a logfile for the checkout session by instead using the following command:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel
$ cvs -z4 checkout xc > xc-cvs-checkout.log 2>&1

Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel
$
```

Compiling the Source Code

Compiling Cygwin/XFree86 doesn't have to be hard, although the XFree86 source code tree contains over 250 MB of data. There are a few simple techniques that make building the source code, keeping the source code up to date, and keeping the source code organized much easier.

Compiling Overview

Compiling the XFree86 source code tree is a lot easier when you keep your builds in directories separate from the source code directory. Keeping the source code and builds in separate directories allows you to have many builds for different configurations, allows you to easily delete a build, and keeps the source code tree clean and manageable.

A small utility, `lndir.exe`, is needed to keep your builds directories separate from your source directory; `lndir.exe` works just like the standard `ln` on UNIX, but `lndir.exe` creates links recursively for all files and directories in the specified directory. The `lndir.exe` utility is included with the XFree86 source code tree; but the catch is that you need to build the tree before you get `lndir.exe`. `lndir.exe` has been compiled and is available at <http://www.msu.edu/~huntharo/xwin/lndir.exe.bz2> (8 kB). Download the file, saving it to your Cygwin root directory (e.g. `c:\cygwin`), then follow the simple instructions below to install the utility:

1. Launch a Cygwin **bash** prompt. You should see a screen similar to the following:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~
$
```

2. Change to your Cygwin root directory:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~
$ cd /

Harold@MyWindowsHost /
$
```

3. Uncompress `lndir.exe.bz2`:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost /
$ bunzip2 lndir.exe.bz2

Harold@MyWindowsHost /
$
```


4. Copy `lndir.exe` to `/bin`:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost /
$ cp lndir.exe /bin
```

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost /
$
```

5. Verify that **lndir** is working:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost /
$ lndir
usage: lndir.exe [-silent] [-ignorelinks] fromdir [todir]
```

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost /
$
```

6. The **lndir** utility is now installed.

Standard Build

Follow these steps to create a standard, non-debug, build:

1. Change the current directory to your XFree86 development directory:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~
$ cd x-devel
```

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel
$
```

2. Create a directory to house your builds, `~/x-devel/build` is recommended:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel
$ mkdir build
```

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build
$
```

3. Change the current directory to your build directory:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel
```

```
$ cd build
```

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build
$
```

4. Create a directory for your standard build, `std` is recommended:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build
$ mkdir std
```

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build
$
```

5. Change the current directory to your standard build directory:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build
$ cd std
```

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build/std
$
```

6. Create symlinks to your source tree, using **`ln -s`**, in your standard build directory:

Note: As of 2001-06-12, creating symlinks to the source tree creates 11,664 files in 1,510 folders, which is only 2.24 MB of data, but requires 45.5 MB of storage space on a file system using 4 KB allocation units.

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build/std
$ ln -s ../../xc/
../../xc/config:
../../xc/config/cf:
...

```

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build/std
$
```

7. Run a standard build of the entire tree, which takes between 30 minutes and 5 hours, saving the output of the build commands to `World.log`:

Note: As of 2001-06-12, a standard build of the entire tree requires 255.5 MB of storage space on a file system using 4 KB allocation units; that is in addition to the 45.5 MB of previously generated symlinks.

As a benchmark, a standard build runs for 71 minutes on a machine with a 1.2 GHz Athlon, 256 MB DDR RAM, and a 7200 RPM ATA/100 HD.

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build/std
$ make World > World.log 2>&1
```

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build/std
$
```

Debug Build

Follow these steps to create a build with debugging information:

1. Change the current directory to your XFree86 development directory:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~
$ cd x-devel
```

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel
$
```

2. If you have not already done so, create a directory to house your builds, `~/x-devel/build` is recommended:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel
$ mkdir build
```

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build
$
```

3. Change the current directory to your build directory:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel
$ cd build
```

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build
```

\$

4. Create a directory for your debug build, debug is recommended:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build
$ mkdir debug

Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build
$
```

5. Change the current directory to your debug build directory:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build
$ cd debug

Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build/debug
$
```

6. Create links to your source tree, using **ln**dir, in your standard build directory:

Note: As of 2001-06-12, creating symlinks to the source tree creates 11,664 files in 1,510 folders, which is only 2.24 MB of data, but requires 45.5 MB of storage space on a file system using 4 KB allocation units.

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build/debug
$ ln -s ../../xc/
../../xc/config:
../../../xc/config/cf:

...

Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build/debug
$
```

7. Run a debug build of the entire tree, which takes between 30 minutes and 5 hours, saving the output of the build commands to `World.log`:

Note: As of 2001-06-12, a debug build of the entire tree requires 566.5 MB of storage space on a file system using 4 KB allocation units; that is in addition to the 45.5 MB of previously generated symlinks.

As a benchmark, a debug build runs for 71 minutes on a machine with a 1.2 GHz Athlon, 256 MB DDR RAM, and a 7200 RPM ATA/100 HD. You may have noticed that the standard build time and the debug build time are identical.

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build/debug
$ ./config/util/makeg.sh World > World.log 2>&1

Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build/debug
$
```

Installing a local build

Installing a local build enables you to verify that a build of the entire source tree is operational. It is wise to verify the operation of full builds of the source tree from time to time, as full builds will occasionally be broken by changes that other developers are making to the XFree86 source code tree.

Installing a local build on top of an existing build is not a good idea, as this can mask problems that occurred during the build process, or it can cause problems that are unrelated to the build process; either situation is undesirable. It is generally a good idea to move your old installation out of the way before installing a local build, and these instructions will assume that you desire to do so. Follow the instructions below to install a local build:

1. Move the `/etc/X11` directory to `/etc/X11_build-prefix_date_time`:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~
$ mv /etc/X11 /etc/X11_build-prefix_date_time

Harold@MyWindowsHost ~
$
```

2. Move the `/usr/X11R6` directory to `/usr/X11R6_build-prefix_date_time`:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~
$ mv /usr/X11R6 /usr/X11R6_build-prefix_date_time

Harold@MyWindowsHost ~
$
```

3. Change the current directory to your desired XFree86 build directory:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~
$ cd ~/x-devel/build/build-prefix

Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build/build-prefix
$
```

4. Make the **install** target, which installs binaries, fonts, libraries, and configuration files; in short, **install** installs everything except the **man** pages:

Note: As of 2001-06-12, the **install** target copies 5,074 files in 83 folders into `/usr/X11R6`, requiring 89.2 MB of storage space for a standard build or 177 MB of storage space for a debug build, and 276 files in 39 folders into `/etc/X11`, requiring 2.57 MB of storage space. All stated storage requirements are for a file system using 4 KB allocation units.

As a benchmark, **install** runs for 20 minutes on a machine with a 1.2 GHz Athlon, 256 MB DDR RAM, and a 7200 RPM ATA/100 HD. Standard and debug installs both complete in the stated time.

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build/build-prefix
$ make install > install.log 2>&1

Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build/build-prefix
$
```

5. Make the **install.man** target, which only installs the **man** pages:

Note: As of 2001-06-12, the **install.man** target copies 541 files in 3 folders into `/usr/X11R6/man`, requiring 4.22 MB of storage space, and 544 files in 1 folder into `/usr/X11R6/lib/X11/doc`, requiring 4.76 MB of storage space. All stated storage requirements are for a file system using 4 KB allocation units.

As a benchmark, **install.man** runs for 2 minutes on a machine with a 1.2 GHz Athlon, 256 MB DDR RAM, and a 7200 RPM ATA/100 HD.

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build/build-prefix
$ make install.man > install.man.log 2>&1

Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/build/build-prefix
$
```

Keeping your source code tree updated

CVS makes keeping your source code tree up to date easy. You may update your entire source code tree at once, or you can update individual directories or files, if you so choose.

Update the entire source code tree

1. Change the current directory to your XFree86 development directory:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~
$ cd x-devel

Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel
$
```

2. Change the current directory to the root of the XFree86 source code tree, `xc/`:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel
$ cd xc

Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/xc
$
```

3. To update your entire XFree86 source code tree, run the following command:

Tip: The `-zn` parameter specifies the compression level to use, from 1 to 9, with 9 being maximum compression.

The `-d` parameter instructs **cv**s to rebuild the directory list, which causes new directories in the source code tree to be downloaded (new directories are skipped if you do not specify `-d`).

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/xc
$ cvs -z4 update -d

Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/xc
$
```

Update a single file or directory

1. Change the current directory to your XFree86 development directory:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~
$ cd x-devel

Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel
$
```

2. Change the current directory to the directory that contains the file you wish to update, or change the current directory to the directory that you wish to update:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel
$ cd xc/directory_to_update

Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/xc/directory_to_update
$
```

3. To update a single file, or a set of specified files, run the following command:

Tip: The `-zn` parameter specifies the compression level to use, from 1 to 9, with 9 being maximum compression.

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/xc/directory_to_update
$ cvs -z4 update filename_1 [filename_2 ...]

Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/xc/directory_to_update
$
```

4. To update a single directory, and its subdirectories, run the following command:

Note: The `-zn` parameter specifies the compression level to use, from 1 to 9, with 9 being maximum compression.

The `-d` parameter instructs **cvs** to rebuild the directory list, which causes new directories in the source code tree to be downloaded (new directories are skipped if you do not specify `-d`).

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/xc/directory_to_update
```



```
$ cvs -z4 update -d
```

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~/x-devel/xc/directory_to_update
$
```

Cross Compiling

Obtaining binutils and gcc Source

binutils and gcc source code releases that are known to compile on Cygwin and distributed by the Cygwin project. Therefore, it is highly recommended that you obtain the binutils and gcc sources from the Cygwin mirror network (<http://cygwin.com/mirrors.html>).

Follow these steps to download Cygwin/XFree86 binaries:

1. Create a directory to store the binutils and gcc sources in, such as `/cygwin/src/`
2. Visit the Cygwin mirrors page (<http://cygwin.com/mirrors.html>) to find your closest mirror
3. The ftp url for your mirror site should take you to the `cygwin/` directory on the mirror
4. Download the following files from `cygwin/`, saving them to `/cygwin/src/` The compressed file size appears after each file in the list below.

Downloading with a Web Browser: Some web browsers automatically decompress saved files when you use the left mouse button to follow the link to a file; bunzip2 will report, "Data integrity error when decompressing.", when attempting to decompress a file that has been decompressed by your web browser. Prevent your files from being automatically decompressed by clicking the right mouse button on a file link and choosing a command such as Save Target As... or Save Link As... from the context sensitive menu. Better yet, download your files with a stand alone ftp client.

- `binutils/binutils-20010425-2-src.tar.gz` (9.1 MB; required, necessary to build gcc and Cygwin/XFree86)
- `gcc/gcc-2.95.3-5-src.tar.bz2` (8.1 MB; required, necessary to build Cygwin/XFree86)

Obtaining Cygwin Headers and Libs

The simplest method of building a cross compiler for Cygwin requires that you have the Cygwin headers and libraries available at the time of building the cross compiler. Cygwin headers and libraries are installed when Cygwin is installed, so the headers and libraries can be obtained from an existing Cygwin installation.

Don't simply copy the headers and libraries: Some of the headers and libraries are symbolic links to other headers or libraries. Copying these files using a program that is not aware of Cygwin's symlink emulation will result in some of the header and library files being broken. The method described below will preserve the symbolic links used by the header and library files.

1. Launch your Cygwin environment, using either the icon on your Desktop, the icon in your Start Menu, or by running `cygwin.bat` from your Cygwin directory (e.g. `c:\cygwin`); you should see a window like the following:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~
$
```

2. Change the current directory to Cygwin root directory:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost ~
$ cd /

Harold@MyWindowsHost /
$
```

3. Create an archive of the contents of the `/lib` directory:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost /
$ tar -czf cygwin-lib.tgz lib/

Harold@MyWindowsHost /
$
```

4. Change the current directory to the `usr` directory in your Cygwin root directory:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost /
$ cd /usr

Harold@MyWindowsHost /usr
$
```

5. Create an archive of the contents of the `/usr/include` directory:

```
Harold@MyWindowsHost /usr
$ tar -czf cygwin-include.tgz include/

Harold@MyWindowsHost /usr
$
```

6. Transfer `cygwin-lib.tgz` and `cygwin-include.tgz` to your build host using any method that you have available (e.g. ftp, samba, diskette, etc.). Save the files in the `/cygwin/i686-pc-cygwin/` directory.

7. Open a shell on your cross compiling build host; you should see a window like the following:

```
[harold@MyCrossHost harold]$
```

8. Change the current directory to the `/cygwin/i686-pc-cygwin/` directory in your build host root directory:

```
[harold@MyCrossHost harold]$ cd /cygwin/i686-pc-cygwin/
[harold@MyCrossHost /cygwin/i686-pc-cygwin/]$
```

9. Extract the `cygwin-lib.tgz` and `cygwin-include.tgz` archives:

```
[harold@MyCrossHost /cygwin/i686-pc-cygwin/]$ tar -xzf cygwin-lib.tgz
[harold@MyCrossHost /cygwin/i686-pc-cygwin/]$ tar -xzf cygwin-include.tgz
```

Building binutils and gcc

1. Open a shell on your cross compiling build host; you should see a window like the following:

```
[harold@MyCrossHost harold]$
```

2. Change the current directory to the `/cygwin/src/` directory in your build host root directory:

```
[harold@MyCrossHost harold]$ cd /cygwin/src/
[harold@MyCrossHost src]$
```

3. Extract the `binutils-20010425-2-src.tar.gz` and `gcc-2.95.3-5-src.tar.bz2` archives:

```
[harold@MyCrossHost src]$ tar -xzf binutils-20010425-2-src.tar.gz
[harold@MyCrossHost src]$ bunzip2 gcc-2.95.3-5-src.tar.bz2
[harold@MyCrossHost src]$ tar -xf gcc-2.95.3-5-src.tar
```

4. Change the current directory to the `/cygwin/src/binutils-20010425-2` directory:

```
[harold@MyCrossHost src]$ cd /cygwin/src/binutils-20010425-2
[harold@MyCrossHost binutils-20010425-2]$
```

5. Create a build directory and change the current directory to that directory:

```
[harold@MyCrossHost binutils-20010425-2]$ mkdir build
[harold@MyCrossHost binutils-20010425-2]$ cd build
[harold@MyCrossHost build]$
```

6. Configure `binutils`:

```
[harold@MyCrossHost build]$ ../configure --prefix=/cygwin --exec-prefix=/cygwin
--target=i686-pc-cygwin --host=i686-pc-linux > configure.log 2>&1
[harold@MyCrossHost build]$
```

7. Build `binutils`:

```
[harold@MyCrossHost build]$ make all > all.log 2>&1
[harold@MyCrossHost build]$
```

8. Install `binutils`:

```
[harold@MyCrossHost build]$ make install > install.log 2>&1
[harold@MyCrossHost build]$
```

9. Modify the `PATH` environment variable to include the directories that the `binutils` executables were installed in:

```
[harold@MyCrossHost build]$ PATH=$PATH:/cygwin/bin:/cygwin/i686-pc-cygwin/bin
```

```
[harold@MyCrossHost build]$
```

10. Change the current directory to the /cygwin/src/binutils-20010425-2 directory:

```
[harold@MyCrossHost src]$ cd /cygwin/src/gcc-2.95.3-5
[harold@MyCrossHost gcc-2.95.3-5]$
```

11. Create a build directory and change the current directory to that directory:

```
[harold@MyCrossHost gcc-2.95.3-5]$ mkdir build
[harold@MyCrossHost gcc-2.95.3-5]$ cd build
[harold@MyCrossHost build]$
```

12. Configure gcc:

```
[harold@MyCrossHost build]$ ../configure -prefix=/cygwin -exec-prefix=/cygwin
-target=i686-pc-cygwin -host=i686-pc-linux
-enable-haifa > configure.log 2>&1
[harold@MyCrossHost build]$
```

13. Build gcc:

```
[harold@MyCrossHost build]$ make all > all.log 2>&1
[harold@MyCrossHost build]$
```

14. Install gcc:

```
[harold@MyCrossHost build]$ make install > install.log 2>&1
[harold@MyCrossHost build]$
```

Building Cygwin/XFree86

Download host.def (<http://www.msu.edu/~huntharo/xwin/host.def>), and place the file in xc/config/cf.

Modify host.def/PostIncDir to reflect the actual version of gcc compiled, such as #define PostIncDir /cygwin/lib/gcc-lib/i686-pc-cygwin/2.95.3-5/include. The version number in the path will change depending on which version of gcc you built and installed.

```
make World BOOTSTRAPCFLAGS="-D__CYGWIN__ -Ulinux -DCrossCompiling=1"
IMAKE_DEFINES="-D__CYGWIN__ -Ulinux" > World.log 2>&1
```

Chapter 3. Documentation

Foo!

Chapter 4. Web Site Maintenance

Foo!

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Glossary

C

Concurrent Versions System

CVS is an open source version control system used by the majority of open source projects. More information can be found at the CVS project homepage (<http://www.cvshome.org>).

F

firewall

Firewall software attempts to protect an internal network from intrusions originating from an external network.

P

pserver

CVS pserver, short for “password server”, is one of the user authentication methods supported by CVS. CVS pserver is not secure, as passwords are transmitted and stored as plain text. However, CVS pserver is desirable for read-only anonymous access to open source CVS trees, as CVS pserver is by far the easiest method to use.

V

Virtual Private Network

Virtual Private Networks are encrypted tunnels through which private data can be safely transmitted

over a private network (e.g. the Internet).

X

X Display Manager

An X Display Manager presents a graphical login screen to X users. Often an XDM will allow the user to select a desktop environment or window manager to be for their login session. Some X Display Managers are xdm, gdm (Gnome Display Manager), and kdm (KDE Display Manager).

X Display Manager Control Protocol

XDMCP allows XDM to process logins for users remote to the machine that XDM is running on; login sessions will be run on the machine running XDM. For example, at a university you may use XDMCP to login to an X session running on an engineering department computer from your dorm room.

See Also: X Display Manager.

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