

My OpenSim Journey

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2020-010-15

Contents

1	Introduction:	1
1.1	Synopsis:	1
1.2	About this Book:	2
2	Background Story	4
2.1	Episode: Hacker Girl Discovers Second Life	4
3	Hacker Girl Begins her Training	4
3.1	Episode: unixFU Basics	4
3.2	Episode: Self Hosting 101	4
3.2.1	Step One: Create DigitalOcean Account	4
3.2.2	Step Two: Install Dev Tools and Learn unix command line	5
3.2.3	Step Three: Install and configure SSH on your local machine	6
4	New Chapter	6
4.1	Episode: - <replace w/ episode title>	6

1 Introduction:

1.1 Synopsis:

A hacker girl grows up all alone in the meta universe using her natural octopus wits to survive while developing mesh design super powers within a secret octopus hideout. Her developing skills alone were not enough to fight off mesh pirates who eventually discover her hideout and steal everything she owns, leaving her at the end of a dark ally, in Second Life, in the rain,

crying, and bleeding to death... but... then a (rather handsome) warrior, mentor, mesh master, appears out of nowhere, saves her life, nurses her back to health, and teaches her the way of the "light mesh".

Everything seems to be going smoothly for a few years... Hacker Girl, (now known as Sirenă has almost completed her training, but then one dark and stormy evening Sirena and her mentor are separated from each other after the evil dark mesh lord discovers their grid location and launches a brutal attack, killing her mentor, and leaving Sirenă badly wounded. Sirenă managed to escape to an old hiding place to recover however... Will she make a plan and come back later and face the evil mesh lord? Will Sirenă save the day for independent mesh designers everywhere?

Find out by reading this book... And also discover how Sirenă learned how to Self Host her own OpenSim Cyberworlds on disposable commodity Virtual Private Servers, running in fast data centres around the globe! Now You too can break free of your shackles and no longer bow to the mercy of the mesh pirates. Learn how to host your own regions within NeverWorld Grid!!!

1.2 About this Book:

This book serves as the official Harmonic Alchemy Productions (HAP) procedure outlining all best practice steps to manually create a new VPS (droplet) on **DigitalOcean**, and provision it to get the it ready for a web-app or generic web-app skeleton to be installed on it for any purpose: (e.g., client or personal, business or pleasure, git server, web tool, mail server, doc-sever, notes server, personal cloud, wiki, Wordpress, OpenSim server, or most any other internet server related process.)

Rather than write yet another dry manual that only geeks can tolerate, I decided to let my fiction pen loose and write this up as a classic "Hero's Journey" with real characters.. Characters you will identify with immediately... Maybe you know some of them already living in your regions!

Trying to marry these two dynamically opposed concepts is going to take a lot of digging and plotting... lol... But we will grow a beautiful garden here... I am sure of it... Now that nasty viruses are out there... We can build beautiful vistas with clear blue skies here! The sky's the limit too! Hooray!!! Not to hide from the virus, but to team up here in our bunkers and come up with a real-world solution... OK? We got our grid jedi training to do now... Lets get on it...

For now we are using Digital Ocean and I recommend at least starting with that as I currently use them for all my servers now. There may be

other providers who offer services for less, and later I will investigate those options as it is important to have many options when it comes to hosting companies...

This tutorial assumes you have access to a Linux/BSD/or other unix platform as your local DevOps / SysAdmin machine which you will be using to connect securely via SSH on the command line (within a terminal app) in order to create and manage your remote servers within the data centres where they are hosted...

If your normal user platform is Windows I cannot help you much with that. I have been a unix/Linux/BSD/Mac OS person for over 15 years, (after leaving IBM to start my own company) so my Windows knowledge is vastly limited. I do know there is Cygwin: <https://www.cygwin.com/> and if you install that on your windows box, you should be able to do most of the things within this tutorial... But I cannot really help beyond that... I need a windows/unix wizard to step up and help out here... I know that Microsoft has made lots of changes as of late... Thanks!

If you are completely new to the unix command line... Take a look at this great tutorial: <https://www.openbookproject.net/tutorials/getdown/unix/lesson1.html>

Depending on your platform, you may need to install and/or configure your systems "unix Terminal" application which you will use to practice the commands etc. from the above tutorial... Having this basic unix command line knowledge under your belt will help you tremendously while following the steps outlined in this tutorial...

In addition to a Terminal Application, you also need a Text Editor... Not a word processor, but a true coder's text editor, (like Vi or Emacs which are the grandparents of all the rest)...

I use Emacs which is not only a text editor but also the gateway app to a world (a secret cult) of computer science wizards who are able to make their machines do amazing things without ever touching a mouse! Amazing things that most GUI apps never dreamed of being able to do! The mainstream has suppressed your knowledge of the command line... You could become a hacker! OMG! No don't let them have that kind of power... (sorry I got carried away there... lol)...

Enough introduction already.. Lets get on with this Self Hosting 101 course...

2 Background Story

2.1 Episode: Hacker Girl Discovers Second Life

<insert chapter / episode text here>

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3 Hacker Girl Begins her Training

3.1 Episode: unixFU Basics

3.2 Episode: Self Hosting 101

3.2.1 Step One: Create DigitalOcean Account

First thing to do is open an account with Digital Ocean... This is a free account starting out and you are not charged for setting it up...

If you don't yet have a Digital Ocean account, sign up using my affiliate link here:

<https://m.do.co/c/449bba2e8a2d>

By clicking the link above both You and I will get credit from Digital Ocean. You will get \$10 credit after signing in... (about 2 months worth of server time on a basic VPS)... btw, you do not incur any fees or charges until you actually fire up your first VPS droplet. Fees are based on metered time your droplet is running, not the resources it uses which are guaranteed

up to the limits stated on the droplet package you choose. If you shut down your machine that metered charge/minute goes way down...

After signing up with your account, you will be given an affiliate link just like the one above... With your affiliate link, you will receive a bonus when a friend or referral sign's up using your referral link. (standard marketing games eh? lol) Use your affiliate link to pay it forward...

If you are doing this job for a client, or someone else paying the bill? Fantastic! First sign up for a Free Digital Ocean Account yourself... Then ask your client to get an account with DigitalOcean using your affiliate link... Once they have their account set up, help them create a team account. (easy instructions on Digital Ocean website) Have them set you up as System Admin (i.e., the tech person to manage VPS servers etc.)

Your client will be the owner of their own Digital Ocean account, and you are an outside 3rd party invited (given sysAdmin access) to manage servers on that account... This keeps business between you and the hosting company separate from you and your client and also gives them full control over final decisions about their account... Better more flexible arrangement for all parties IMHO.

Once you get you access credentials for working in a client's DO account, it would be wise to store your account access credentials in a strong encrypted password-vault like KeePassXC <https://keepassxc.org/> (under your client's name).

Destroy any non secure copies of that information elsewhere... You are responsible for things you don't own... Protect those things as if they belonged to your Mother! After that you are ready to log into their new account to manage VPS droplets for them...

3.2.2 Step Two: Install Dev Tools and Learn unix command line

For this step you need to install an X Windows compliant Terminal App. If you are already using Linux you are all set with several choices from the package managers as well as the default Terminal package that comes already installed on your particular flavor of Linux.. On Fedora I use the Xfce Terminal which gets installed using Fedora Linux standard DNF package manager. on Debian you can also install this same terminal using Debian's APT package manager... On Mac OS, use ITerm2 (awesome open-source terminal and all you ever need on a Mac)...

If you use Windows, in the old days, we used putty but that must for sure have changed by now in 2020... I cannot help with Windows platforms and need someone to step up here and help me out... Thanks!

If you are a total newbie and have no idea what I am talking about, first of all... all of the tools/package things mentioned above are all things done on the command line... Not in a GUI app running in a fancy window with buttons, menus, etc.

You need to learn how to use the unix command line which is fairly universal across all systems! GUI apps are all different and can be quite confusing... At least to an old dog like me who has been comfortable using the command line with total wizard power for over 25 years!!!

You too will become a wizard once you learn how to break free of your mouse and touch pad shackles... Power on the command line is unlimited... Power within a GUI is limited to the GUI designer's whims... Get it now? Spread the word... This is secret geek wizard knowledge...

Wait till I start talking about the Emacs Text Editor / parallel universe where the real hackers live! OMG! btw, as you may have guessed by now... The word "hacker" in my dictionary is a good thing... "Someone who can figure out how to do things with out consulting docs... Someone good at fixing bugs when everyone else fails..." etc. etc. etc...

Not someone who criminally breaks into software systems... I call those people "Crackers" enough said about that...

3.2.3 Step Three: Install and configure SSH on your local machine

4 New Chapter

4.1 Episode: - <replace w/ episode title>

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