RedHat XFCE XRDP Remote Desktop Configuration

Introduction

RedHat offers a few graphical desktop environments. From personal experience, XFCE seems to offer the best balance in functionality and easy integration with XRDP protocol. The Windows client X2Go works well on XFCE. All communication is tunnelled via SSH.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xfce

Step by Step Guide

SSH Configuration

It is recommended SSH communication be configured via a public-private key pair configuration. Example below uses RSA 4096 bit, this results in slower SSL handshake at start of connection and higher CPU usage during handshake.

Example:

ssh-keygen –t rsa –b 4096

** Passphrase should be a minimum 20 characters long.

More information here:

https://expeditedsecurity.com/blog/measuring-ssl-rsa-keys/

GUI Setup on RedHat

groups <groupname>

1. Install epel release # yum install epel-release –y 2. Install 'Server with GUI' # yum groupinstall "Server with GUI" -y 3. Install XFCE # yum groupinstall "Xfce" -y 4. Enable GUI # systemctl get-default Output: multi-user.target 5. Enable GUI # systemctl set-default graphical.target 6. Recheck GUI enabled # systemctl get-default Output: graphical.target 7. Create login user for remote login and set password and group membership # useradd <username> # passwd <password> # usermod -a -G wheel <username> 8. Check which groups use belongs to

Remote Access via GUI using X2Go Setup

1. Install X2Go service on Centos

- # yum install xrdp tigervnc-server
- # yum install x2goserver-xsession
- # systemctl enable xrdp.service
- # systemctl start xrdp.service
- # systemctl enable xrdp-sesman.service
- # systemctl start xrdp-sesman.service
- # firewall-cmd --permanent --add-port=3389/tcp
- # firewall-cmd --permanent --add-port=3389/udp

Note: For better security disable Linux firewall and use IPTables.

2. Install X2Go client on Windows



Browse to http://wiki.x2go.org/doku.php/download:start and locate Windows client

3. X2Go Server setup

Enable xfce for each user

cd /home/<username>

echo "exec /usr/bin/xfce4-session" >> .xinitrc

4. Reboot

A cogwheel should be visible next to the Sign In button to allow selection of GUI.