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LECTURE 4: LINUX BASH SHELL COMMANDS I + LINUX FILE PERMISSIONS

Outline:

- Switching user
- Installation
- Information
- Communication
- Comparison
- File management and permissions
- Miscellaneous
- SSH keys

SWITCHING USER

- SU
 - Switch to a different user, e.g., su alice
 - Switch to the superuser (root): su or su –
- sudo
 - Switch to the superuser (root) without the need to enter the root password, if the user is listed in /etc/sudoers
 - To add a user to the sudoers list: usermod -aG sudo username
- Reminder: On your AWS EC2 VMs, set the root password through sudo passwd root
- whoami
 - Print the name of the current user

INSTALLATION

- sudo apt install: Install a new software package
- apt search: Search for a software package
- /etc/apt/sources.list
- Ubuntu sources have moved to /etc/apt/sources.list.d/ubuntu.sources

INSTALLATION

- /etc/apt/sources.list
 - Main Canonical-supported free and open-source software.
 - Universe Community-maintained free and open-source software.
 - Restricted Proprietary drivers for devices.
 - Multiverse Software restricted by copyright or legal issues.

UPGRADE

- sudo apt update
- sudo apt list --upgradable
- sudo apt upgrade

INFORMATION

- man: Get information on a command (You will need to read the man pages!)
 - E.g., man su
- info: The GNU info system for online documentation.
 - E.g., info su
- help: Information on built-in commands.
 - E.g., help echo
 - Write help to see a list of these commands!

COMMUNICATION

- ssh: Connect to another system securely via SSH
- ftp: Interactive file transfer program
- login: Sign on to Linux (open a new session)
- slogin: Sign on to remote Linux using secure shell (i.e., SSH)
- mailx: Read or send emails (if not installed, first run sudo apt install mailutils)
- wget: Download resources from the Internet
- curl: Transferring from/to a server)

COMPARISON

- cmp: Compare two files byte by byte (by default, reports the location of the first mismatch)
- comm: Compare items in two sorted files line by line
- diff: Compare two files line by line; or compare two directories
 - Options: --ignore-case, --ignore-blank-lines or -B, --ignore-space-change or -b, --ignore-all-space or -w
- *sdiff*: Compare two files side by side
- diff3: Compare three files

FILE MANAGEMENT AND PERMISSIONS

- chmod: Change access modes on files (Use the –R option for directories and their content)
 - User (u), group (g), others (o)
 - Read (r), write (w), execute (x)
 - -rwxrwxrwx

FILE MANAGEMENT AND PERMISSIONS - EXAMPLES

- E.g., chmod u-x -> -rw-rwxrwx
- E.g., chmod o-r -> -rw-rwx-wx
- E.g., chmod u+x -> -rwxrwx-wx

FILE MANAGEMENT AND PERMISSIONS

- Alternative to r, w, and x: Numeric codes:
 - 0 = No permission
 - 1 = Execute
 - 2 = Write
 - 4 = Read

FILE MANAGEMENT AND PERMISSIONS

• For example, for -rw-----

User: r and w, thus 4+2=6

Group: 0

Others: 0

Hence: 600

- chown: Change file owner (Use the –R option for directories and their content)
- chgrp: Change file group (Use the –R option for directories and their content)
- cksum: Print a file checksum, POSIX standard algorithm
- md5sum: Print a file's checksum using the Message Digest 5 (MD5) algorithm
- *cp*: Copy files (*cp* –*r* for copying directories)

- cd: Change directory (requires execution permissions in that directory)
- *file*: Determine a file's type (e.g., ASCII text)
- head: Show the first few lines of a file (use the –n option to specify the number of lines)
 - E.g., head –n 10
- tail: Show the last few lines of a file (use the -n option to specify the number of lines)
 - E.g., tail –n 10

- more: Display files by screenful
- less: Similar to more, but more sophisticated
- *ls*: List files or directories
 - Is -I
 - ls -a

- *In*: Create file name aliases
 - By default, a hard-link (must be on the same filesystem). Still works after moving the target!
 - If —s or —symbolic used, a separate file (sort of a "shortcut") created. Moving would break it!
- locate: locate or plocate is a fast way to find a file based on its name (matching pattern)
- mkdir: Create a directory

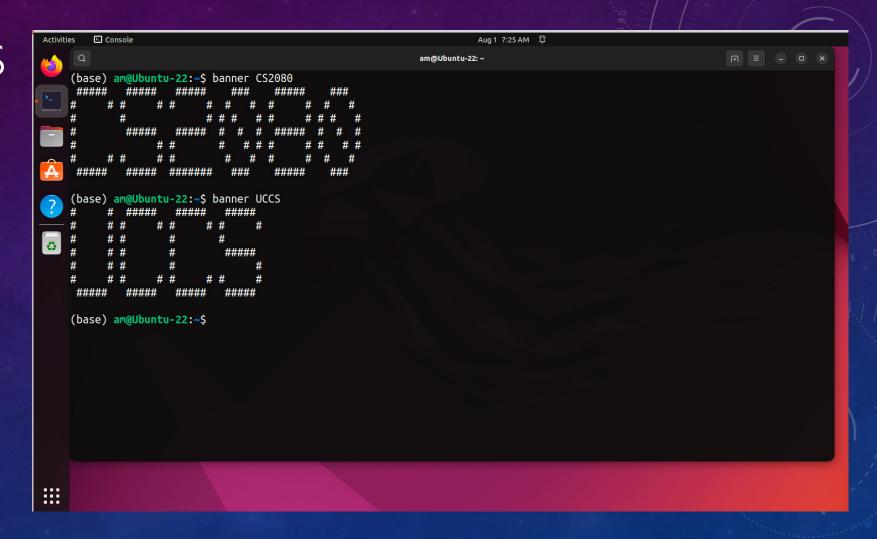
- mv: Move or rename files or directories
- rm: Remove files (use –r or rmdir for removing directories)
- pwd: Print the working directory's path

- scp: Copy files to a remote system securely using SSH
- csplit: Break files at specific locations
 - E.g., csplit f1.txt 2 (i.e., from line 2)
- *split*: Split files evenly
 - Default size: 1000 lines

- wc: Count a file's lines, words, and characters (use -m for characters, -w for words, and -l for lines) by default lines
- cat: Concatenate files or print the content (use >> to append or > to substitute content)
 - cat f1
 - cat f1 >> f2
 - cat f1 > f2
- nano: Simple text editor (We'll talk about editors in Lecture 7 and Lab 5)

MISCELLANEOUS

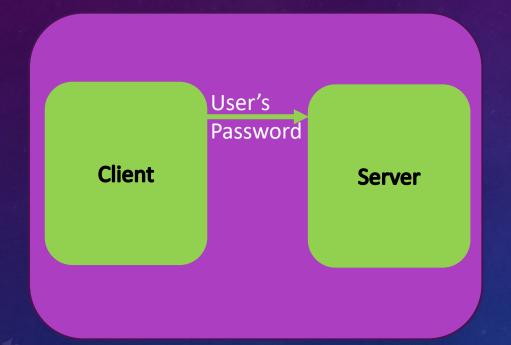
banner

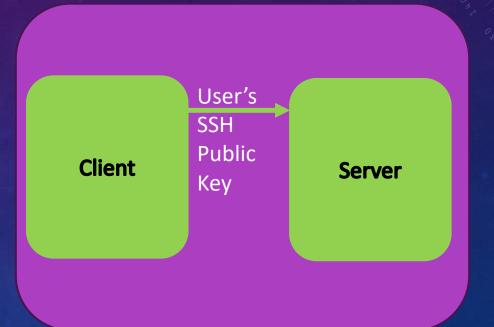


SSH KEYS

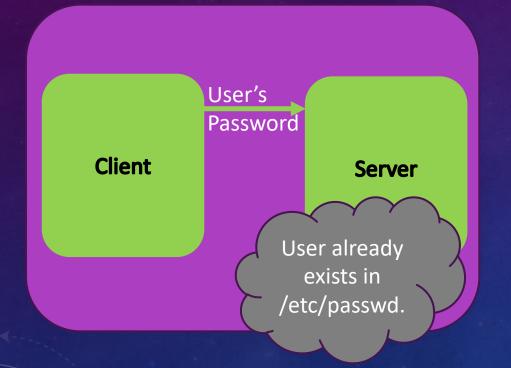
- A key pair: public key + private key for each machine
- Pairing enabled by a cryptographic algorithm
- Public key: To be shared globally
- Private key: To be kept secret (never share)
- The concept is known as asymmetric cryptography or public key cryptography
- Use cases: password-less (more secure) authentication and digital signatures (e.g., OpenPGP)
- Here, we focus on the former (authentication)

SSH KEYS: AUTHENTICATION WITH AND WITHOUT THEM





SSH KEYS: AUTHENTICATION WITH AND WITHOUT THEM



Client

Client

Server

Public Key

Public Key
already added to
/home/user/.ssh/
authorized_keys

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CREATING AN SSH KEY PAIR/IMPORTING A PUBLIC KEY

- Creating an SSH key pair
 - AWS Dashboard: We'll see how to do this in Lab 2.
 - The *ssh-keygen* command in the terminal
 - Other tools (e.g., PuTTY, see https://www.putty.org)
- Importing an existing SSH public key (We'll see how to do this in Lab 2)
 - AWS Dashboard
 - Append the public key to /home/user/.ssh/authorized_keys

QUESTIONS?

See you!

