Different kickstart files:

Now we have the cobbler infrastructure in place it is easy to use different kickstart files to install different operating system configurations. We will see when we configure Puppet that we can install the minimal configuration with only minor changes, and then let Puppet configure a host for different functionality. The benefit of starting with a minimal installation is that we can install just the software that the host needs for the functionality we desire.

Symbolic links:

Symbolic links are a special file that points to another file. These are very useful when we want to change which file is used. On the Cobbler server we can create a number of different kickstart files such as:

|  |
| --- |
| htcXXX-minimal.ks - Minimal installation  htcXXX-gui.ks - Full GUI installation  htcXXX-puppet-agent.ks - Installation with Puppet client installed |

You can find these files on the class server at:

[http://htc180.najah.edu/software/AnNajah-Files/](http://htc180.najah.edu/software/NaNajah-Files/)

You can copy these to your Cobbler server using:

|  |
| --- |
| curl -o /var/lib/cobbler/kickstarts/htcXXX-minimal.ks \ <http://htc180.najah.edu/software/AnNajah-Files/htcXXX-minimal.ks>  htcXXX-mininal.ks |

After you have copied them to your **Cobbler Server** you can modify them for your particular **Cobbler Client.**

|  |
| --- |
| **WARNING**: The kickstart file **htcXXX-puppet-agent.ks** contains an additional value that needs to be updated for your **Cobbler Server**. Looks for the line:  echo " server = htcYYY.najah.edu "  and replace **YYY** with the **IP value** for your **Cobbler Server**. This machine will also be your **Puppet Server**. |

Switching between kickstart files:

In **/var/lib/cobbler/kickstarts** you should now have files such as:

|  |
| --- |
| htc194-gui.ks  htc194-mininal.ks  htc194-puppet-agent.ks |

You can now switch which kickstart file is used for the next installation using the following commands:

|  |
| --- |
| cd /var/lib/cobbler/kickstarts  rm htc194.ks  ln -s htc194-puppet-agent.ks htc194.ks |

The **“ln -s”** commands makes symbolic link from htc194.ks to htc194-puppet-agent.ks

Try running:

|  |
| --- |
| ls -al htc194.ks |

and notice the output:

|  |
| --- |
| htc193> rm htc194.ks  rm: remove symbolic link 'htc194.ks'? y  htc193> ln -s htc194-puppet-agent.ks htc194.ks  htc193> ls -al htc194.ks  lrwxrwxrwx 1 student student 22 Mar 19 16:07 htc194.ks -> htc194-puppet-agent.ks |

Recall you can set your **Cobbler Client** to re-install on the next reboot by running the commands similar to the following on the **Cobbler Client**:

|  |
| --- |
| koan --server=htc193.najah.edu --replace-self --profile=htc194  koan --server=htc193.najah.edu --replace-self --system=htc194 |

|  |
| --- |
| **WARNING**: Do not run the above kaon commands on the Cobbler Server!!! |

|  |
| --- |
| That’s it.  The next time the Cobbler Client is rebooted it will use the kickstart file: **htc194-puppet-agent.ks** |