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FAQ:

Is there any advice on how to install and set up cygwin to get ssh and X-windows on my Windows laptop?

Answer:

Cygwin can be installed using the installer program available at www.cygwin.com. Here is some advice on the installation process and Please add to this advice if you have any tips.



Installation

- Choose a reliable and near mirror. Those at German universities seem to work quite well.
- For a minimal installation that will just give you a terminal, ssh and X-windows, select:

`bash, openssh, rxvt, vim and xorg-x11-base`

Other packages they depend on to be selected automatically.

- For a fuller installation, following packages are recommended:

alternatives ash aspell aspell-en autossb base-files base-passwd bash bzip2 coreutils crypt ctags curl cygrunsrv
cygutils cygwin cygwin-doc diffutils ed editrights emacs emacs-el emacs-X11 expat file findutils fontconfig
freetype2 gawk gdbm gettext ghostscript ghostscript-base ghostscript-X11 gnupg gnuplot grep groff gv gzip less
lesstif (lots of lib packages not directly selected) login lynx man minires mktemp more ncurses openssh openssl
openssl097 pcre pcre-devel pcre-doc perl perl-libwin32 perl_manpages pine ping python rsync run rxvt sed
sharutils tar tcsh termcap terminfo tetex-bin texinfo time unzip vim wget which X-startup-Scripts Xaw3d
xorg-x11-base xorg-x11-bin xorg-x11-bin-dlls xorg-x11-bin-Indir xorg-x11-etc xorg-x11-fenc xorg-x11-fnts
xorg-x11-libs-data xwin xpdf xterm zip zlib zsh

After installation

- Change your home dir in `/etc/passwd` to `/cygdrive/C/Documents and Settings/<yourwindowsusername>`
- Make a shortcut on the desktop (or start menu if you prefer) with:

Name: rxvt

Target: `C:\cygwin\bin\rxvt.exe -sl 500 -e /usr/bin/bash --login -i`

Start in `C:\cygwin\bin`

- Edit `C:\cygwin\usr\x11r6\bin\startxwin.bat` and comment out the line that starts an xterm, by writing REM at the start of it.
- Make shortcut to `C:\cygwin\usr\x11r6\bin\startxwin.bat` in `C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Start Menu\Programs\Startup`. If you prefer not to start it automatically, put the shortcut somewhere handy like the start menu or desktop instead.
- When starting X for first time, tell windows firewall to "keep blocking".
- Add to `/etc/ssh_config`:

ForwardAgent yes
ForwardX11 yes
ForWardX11Trusted yes

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-- [SimonGeorge](#) - 27 Jul 2006

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