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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 autossh 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
```

- If Rxvt starts with a very large window and odd, spaced-out font, edit `/etc/X11/app-defaults/Rxvt` and comment out the lines beginning `Rxvt*font:` and `Rxvt*boldfont:` by inserting an exclamation mark at the start of each line.
- 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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Campus Connect • Campus Intranet • Staff Directory Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey TW20
0EX Tel/Fax +44 (0)1784 434455/437520

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