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## MYSIDEBAR

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## FAQ:

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

## Answer:

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Cygwin can be installed using the installer program `setup.exe` available at [www.cygwin.com](http://www.cygwin.com). Just download and run `setup.exe`.

Here is some advice on the installation process and Please add to this advice if you have any tips. The advice was last updated for Cygwin version 1.7 on Windows 7

## Installation

- Choose a reliable and near mirror. If it goes slow or fails, try a different one.
- For a minimal installation that will just give you a terminal, ssh and X-windows, select:

```
bash, openssh, rxvt, vim (or emacs), xinit, xorg-server
```

. Other packages they depend on to be selected automatically.

## After installation

Essential:

- Add to `~/.ssh/config`:

```
ForwardAgent yes
ForwardX11 yes
ForwardX11Trusted yes
```

- When starting X for first time on Windows XP, tell windows firewall to "keep blocking".

Some optional tips:

- If you prefer, change your home dir in `/etc/passwd` to `/cygdrive/C/Documents and Settings/<yourwindowsusername>` (Windows XP) or `/cygdrive/C/Users/<yourwindowsusername>` (Windows 7). Then start a new rxvt and copy the files from the `/home/<yourwindowsusername>` that it made for you, e.g. `cp /home/Simon/.[a-zA-Z]* ~/`
- Create `~/.startxwinrc` to stop it starting an xterm along with X windows. You can list and X-windows programs in here that you do want to start automatically.
- Rxvt-native and XWin Server will be on your start menu, under Cygwin and Cygwin-X respectively.
- You may wish to copy the XWin Server shortcut to your `Programs\Startup` folder so it starts automatically.

Testing

- From the start menu, you can now run XWin Server and Rxvt-native), and issue ssh commands from the rxvt command line.
- Check you can `ssh <your_user_name>@linappserv0.pp.rhul.ac.uk` and run `xeyes`. Some eyes should appear that follow your cursor. If instead you get an error message like "Error: Can't open display: ", check you completed the essential post-installation steps above and try again. If you moved your home directory (as in optional tips) check files like `.ssh` are not left in your old home directory, and start a new rxvt.

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

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