Using Xmanager 2.0 to Connect to UTD

Xmanager is a popular program package that allows Microsoft Windows to connect to UNIX X-windows systems and display graphical applications. The software can be downloaded from the **Xmanager** website:

`http://www.xmanager.com/`

Using **Xmanager**, one can display an `xterm` window from the UTD system as follows:

After installing **Xmanager**, run `Xconfig`:

There will be a window with several icons. Double-click the "`Default Profile`" to bring up the properties.

Under the "`General`" tab, select "`Multiple Window Mode`" and then click the `[ Settings ]` button.
Set "`Background`" to "`MS Windows Background`".
Set "`Window Manager`" to "`Local Only`".
Click `[ OK ]`.

(This is important because when you try to start X-windows programs, **Xmanager** will try to "switch" to using the window manager running on the UNIX system. As there is no window manager running, this will cause the applications to not function correctly.)

For users trying to access the **Cadence** engineering tools, under the "`Color`" tab, be sure that "`Choose Default Visual`" is set to "`PseudoColor`". This is only necessary for people using the **Cadence** engineering tool.

Click `[ OK ]`

Run `Xstart`.

Rename the `Session` to "`UTD Connection`".
Set `Host` to "`apache.utdallas.edu`" (or, a departmental UNIX server or desktop workstation)
Set `Protocol` to "`SSH`".
Click the `[ Setup... ]` button:
Set "`Preferred Version`" to "`SSH2, SSH1`".
Click `[ OK ]`
Set the `Username` and `Password`.
Make sure the checkbox "`Save Password`" is unchecked.

Set the "Execution Command" to the following:

For Solaris: /usr/local/bin/xterm
For Linux: /usr/X11R6/bin/xterm

Click [Save] to save these settings permanently.

Now, Click [Run] to test the connection.

Click [Accept & Save] when asked about session key. (Basically, SSH keeps a local copy of the encryption key, and **Xmanager** is asking if you would like to store a copy of the key locally.)

At this point, if a window pops up asking you to enter a registration key, click Cancel. This applies only for the Trial copy of the software. If you have the registration key, you can put in it here. If you are going to use **Xmanager** regularly after the 30 day trial period, it will continue to work, but please register the software!

If all goes well, you should have an xterm pop up on your display. At this point, try running a simple program like xcalc to check that the ports are being forwarded correctly. If the program starts correctly, then the software is working. Try other software packages and see if they run correctly. matlab can be difficult to use when off-campus, as it will run, but slowly, and will report problems with installed fonts. emacs and other applications seem to work without difficulty.

This procedure works whether or not VPN is running on the system. Although using VPN is recommended, the connection through SSH is already encrypted, and thus VPN is not necessary. Running **Xmanager** through VPN may, however, protect from some users from "Connection Reset by Peer" problems that all off-campus TCP connections suffer from.

Although XDMCP is blocked at UTD's firewall, it is not blocked with the VPN connection. That said, there have been no reports of users being able to establish an XDMCP connection remotely. Even if the protocol functioned correctly from off campus, the connection speed would be so slow that it would unusable. As XDMCP is not an encrypted protocol, using it is highly discouraged. Please understand that the XDMCP protocol and the Xbrowser application that comes with **Xmanager** are unsupported.

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