Linux/Unix Basics for HPC

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Extended Support for Training, Education and Outreach

XSEDE

Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment

XSEDE Training Survey

- Make sure you sign the sign-in sheet!
- At the end of the module, we will ask you to please complete a short on-line survey about this module. The survey can be found at http://bit.ly/CSUXSEDE
- This URL will also be available on the last slide.



San Bernardino Peak – 10,649 ft. Photo Credit: www.summitpost.org



Goals of tutorial

- Motivate need to know linux basics
- Basic linux editing
- Linux filesystem capabilities
- Basic linux diagnostics
- Basic profiling and debugging
- Data issues
- Networking
- File operations



Credit, original material

- From Galen Arnold's tutorial at Florida International University
 - http://www.ncsa.illinois.edu/~arnoldg/FIU intro linux.html
- NB: I use a subset of the capabilities presented (ie, pick what you find useful)



Why Linux?

- Unix could not just get along: Solaris, HPUX,
 Irix, AIX, Mach, Unicos, Ultrix...
 - Each vendor extended and customized Unix based on either BSD, SystemV, or a combination of both
 - It was not free.
 - Updates and bug fixes we sporadic and access to them varied by your ability to pay
 - Moving an application from one vendor's Unix to another could be tricky (vendor lock-in)
- Community loves free stuff!



Where is Linux?

- All your phones belong to us:
 - Android
 - MacOS (mostly)
- Windows (!) (check out command prompt...)
- SOHO routers, networking equipment
- Sony Blu-ray player
- Refrigerator

Special Apps and Built-in LCD Screen

Keep your kitchen and family organized with special apps made for your refrigerator. Leave notes for your loved ones. Display photos from your Picasa library, mobile phone or SD card. Stay up to date with all your family activities with Google Calendar. Access hundreds of recipes from Epicurious. Plus, get the latest weather and news via Weather Bug and Associated Press. All through Samsung's brilliant, WiFi-enabled 8" LCD screen.







Proceed with caution

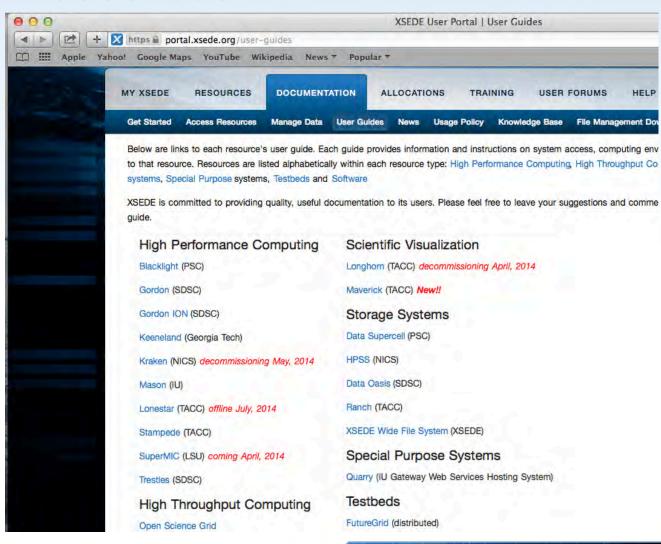
 Recommend using a password safe, eg, KeePass (http://keepass.info/)



You can nut all your passwords in one database, which is locked with one master key or a key file. So you only

XSEDE HPC Resources

All run linux



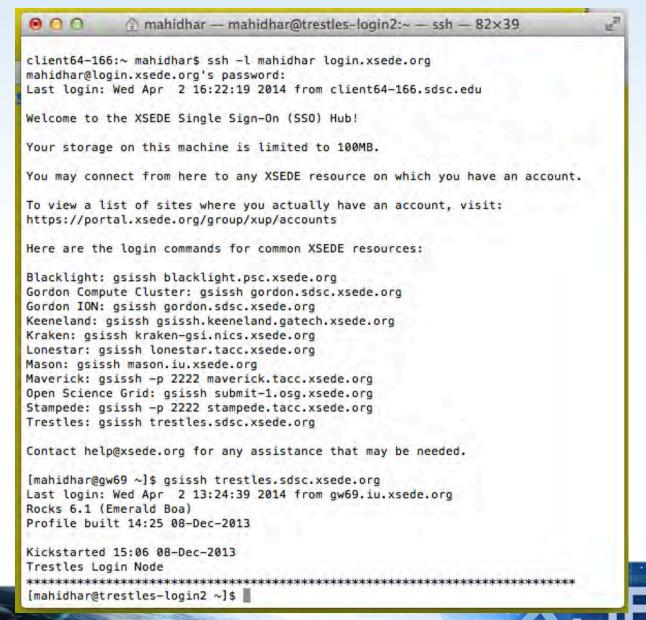


Login to XSEDE SDSC trestles cluster

- We will "hop" to trestles via the XSEDE single signon (SSO) hub.
- Use training logins provided today
- ssh –l username login.xsede.org
- Once on the SSO hub,
 - gsissh trestles.sdsc.edu
- We'll use the interactive session we establish to try out linux commands.



Snapshots illustrating login process



Learning more about (most) commands

 These command line options often work to help shed light on a command:

```
-v -help -v - help
```

 Log into trestles.sdsc.edu, and try some commands and see:

```
stat -help, Is -v, df -help, etc
```

Often, if one option does not succeed, suggest another option that may likely work:

[jalameda@submit ~]\$ whoami –help whoami: invalid option -- 'h ' Try `whoami --help' for more information.



Sample output (stat, ls, df)

```
mahidhar — xdtr1@trestles-login2:~ — ssh — 80×24
[xdtr1@trestles-login2 ~]$ stat ptp_job.o2011011
 File: 'ptp_job.o2011011'
 Size: 4285
                                         IO Block: 32768 regular file
                       Blocks: 16
Device: 1fh/31d Inode: 455262226 Links: 1
Access: (0600/-rw-----) Uid: (506339/ xdtr1) Gid: (6426/ uic157)
Access: 2014-04-01 06:07:02.000000000 -0700
Modify: 2014-04-01 06:04:36.000000000 -0700
Change: 2014-04-01 06:04:37.000000000 -0700
[xdtr1@trestles-login2 ~]$ ls -l ptp_job.o2011011
-rw---- 1 xdtr1 uic157 4285 Apr 1 06:04 ptp job.o2011011
[xdtr1@trestles-login2 ~]$ df /home/xdtr1
                                 Used Available Use% Mounted on
Filesystem
                    1K-blocks
10.2.254.176:/export/home2/xdtr1
                    13456290464 7488135904 5284614080 59% /home/xdtr1
[xdtr1@trestles-login2 ~]$ df /oasis/scratch/trestles
Filesystem
                                Used Available Use% Mounted on
                    1K-blocks
172.25.33.252@tcp:172.25.33.124@tcp:/puma
                    437223093248 341585779344 73756871220 83% /oasis/scratch/t
restles
[xdtr1@trestles-login2 ~]$
```



Good on-line resources:

- Introduction to Linux (Cornell Virtual Workshop)
 - https://www.cac.cornell.edu/VW/Linux/
- Also nice list at NCSA:
 - http://www.ncsa.illinois.edu/UserInfo/ GettingStarted/tutorials.html



Linux editors

- Ubiquitous: vi (or vim) hard not to find this editor in your path
 - One nice resource:http://www.cs.fsu.edu/general/vimanual.html
- Not so ubiquitous: pico or nano (nano is on trestles)
 - http://www.nano-editor.org/



Brief vi demo

- Open file: vi filename
 - Two modes: command (where you start) and input
- Some commands:
 - dd (delete current line)
 - x (delete current character), can pre-pend with number
- hjkl: arrow keys (most reliable!)
 - h left, l right, j down, k up



More commands

- Shift-G go to last line in file
- 0 go to beginning of line, \$ go to end of line
- Shifting to insert mode:
 - Insert text before cursor: I
 - Insert text after cursor: a
 - "o"open blank line below current line (o)
 - "O"open blank line above current line (O)
- "esc" ends insert mode



vi : command and input modes (screenshots)

mahidhar - xdtr1@gordon-ln2:~ - ssh - 80×24 This human mind wrote history, and this must read it. The Sphinx must solve her own riddle. If the whole of history is in one man, it is all to be explained from individual experience. There is a relation between the hours of our life and the centuries of time. As the air I breathe is drawn from the great repositories of nature, as the light on my book is yielded by a star a hundred millions of miles distant, as the poise of my body depends on the equilibrium of centrifugal and centripetal forces, so the hours should be instructed by the ages and the ages explained by the hours. Of the universal mind each individual man is one more incarnation. All its properties consist in him. Each new fact in his private experience flashes a light on what great bodies of men have done, and the crises of his life refer to national crises. Every revolution was first a thought in one man's mind, and when the same thought occurs to another man, it is the key to that era. Every reform was once a private opinion, and when it shall be a private opinion again it will solve the problem of the age. The fact narrated must correspond to something in me to be credible or intelligible. We, as we read, must become Greeks, Romans, Turks, priest and king, martyr and executioner: must fasten these images to some reality in our secret experience, or we shall learn nothing rightly. What befell Asdrubal or Caesar Borgia is as much an illustration of the mind's powers and depravations as what has befallen us. Each new law and political movement has meaning for you. Stand before each of its tablets and say, 'Under this mask did my "emerson.txt" 29L, 1973C 1,1 Top

> 0 0 0 mahidhar - xdtr1@gordon-ln2:~ - ssh - 80x24

This human mind wrote history, and this must read it. The Sphinx must solve her own riddle. If the whole of history is in one man, it is all to be explained from individual experience. There is a relation between the hours of our life and the centuries of time. As the air I breathe is drawn from the great repositories of nature, as the light on my book is vielded by a star a hundred millions of miles distant, as the poise of my body depends on the equilibrium of centrifugal and centripetal forces, so the hours should be instructed by the ages and the ages explained by the hours. Of the universal mind each individual man is one more incarnation. All its properties consist in him. Each new fact in his private experience flashes a light on what great bodies of men have done, and the crises of his life refer to national crises. Every revolution was first a thought in one man's mind, and when the same thought occurs to another man, it is the key to that era. Every reform was once a private opinion, and when it shall be a private opinion again it will solve the problem of the age. The fact narrated must correspond to something in me to be credible or intelligible. We, as we read, must become Greeks, Romans, Turks, priest and king, martyr and executioner; must fasten these images to some reality in our secret experience, or we shall learn nothing rightly. What befell Asdrubal or Caesar Borgia is as much an illustration of the mind's powers and depravations as what has befallen us. Each new law and political movement has meaning for you. Stand before each of its tablets and say, 'Under this mask did my -- INSERT --

11,1

Top

Something extra: Eclipse Parallel Tools

- We've been using an ssh terminal view available in Eclipse Parallel Tools Platform
- Full Integrated Development Environment for parallel application development
- Available at <u>www.eclipse.org/PTP</u>
- Tutorials (including how to add SSO capability, see NCSA module) at http://wiki.eclipse.org/PTP/tutorials; see
 XSEDE13 tutorial for latest content!



Saving (or not) and exiting

- In command mode, type colon
 - Cursor drops to status line
 - -: w -- writes file out
 - :q -- quits vi
 - :q! quits vi without saving
 - :wq writes file, then quits



Getting to know your filesystem

- df –h (volume), df –i (inodes)
 - ("display filesystem")

```
[jalameda@submit ~]$ df -h
Filesystem
                   Size Used Avail Use% Mounted on
/dev/sda1
                     20G 5.8G
                                136 31% /
                    7.9G 80K 7.9G 1% /dev/shm
tmpfs
                    74G 6.5G 64G 10% /opt
/dev/sda6
/dev/sda3
                    30G 474M
                               28G 2% /tmp
/dev/sda5
                    9.7G 733M 8.5G
                                     8% /var
panfs://storage.local:global
                    234T 169T 66T 73% /panfs
export-60-14.storage.hpc.fsu.edu:/lustre
                    344T 147T 198T 43% /lustre
[jalameda@submit ~]$ df -i
Filesystem Inodes IUsed IFree IUse% Mounted on
/dev/sda1
                   1310720 178197 1132523 14% /
tmpfs
                  2049189
                               36 2049153 1% /dev/shm
/dev/sda6
                 4874240 146509 4727731 4% /opt
/dev/sda3
                  1966080
                              881 1965199 1% /tmp
/dev/sda5
                   640848
                            10545 630303
                                            2% /var
panfs://storage.local:global
                   244876955 176559489 68317466 73% /panfs
export-60-14.storage.hpc.fsu.edu:/lustre
                                                  3% /lustre
                   1309881124 30189927 1279691197
[jalameda@submit ~]$
```



"display usage"

- du try this on your own
- du -s
 - Summary of usage in directory
- Size can be confusing be careful
 - (from du -help)

Display values are in units of the first available SIZE from --block-size, and the DU_BLOCK_SIZE, BLOCK_SIZE and BLOCKSIZE environment variables. Otherwise, units default to 1024 bytes (or 512 if POSIXLY_CORRECT is set).



File listing and status

- Listing: Is
 - Is –a (show all files)
 - Is –I (long listing)
 - Is –t (sort by time stamps)
- Status: stat detailed file status

```
[jalameda@submit shallow]$ stat shallow
File: `shallow'
Size: 49903 Blocks: 320 IO Block: 16384 regular file
Device: 12h/18d Inode: 128654194 Links: 1
Access: (0775/-rwxrwxr-x) Uid: (2654/jalameda) Gid: (2654/jalameda)
Access: 2013-09-25 20:30:14.697511669 -0400
Modify: 2013-09-25 20:30:14.694712000 -0400
Change: 2013-09-25 20:30:14.697511669 -0400
[jalameda@submit shallow]$
```



Symbolic links

Can be convenient to jump from one filesystem to another

```
[jalameda@submit ~]$ 1s -la
total 1376
drwxr-xr-x
          7 jalameda jalameda 4096 Sep 26 16:25 .
drwxr-xr-x 457 root
                      root
                               65536 Sep 23 04:13 ...
-rw----- 1 jalameda jalameda 2542 Sep 26 18:58 .bash history
            1 jalameda jalameda 18 Apr 23 2012 .bash logout
-rw-r--r--
-rw-r--r- 1 jalameda jalameda 176 Apr 23 2012 .bash profile
-rw-r--r-- 1 jalameda jalameda 124 Apr 23 2012 .bashrc
-rw-r--r-- 1 jalameda jalameda
                               500 Feb 27 2012 .emacs
drwxr-xr-x 2 jalameda jalameda 4096 Jul 14 2010 .gnome2
                                 548 Sep 26 18:58 .history
-rw----- 1 jalameda jalameda
drwxr-xr-x 4 jalameda jalameda 4096 Jun 2 2011 .mozilla
-rw----- 1 jalameda jalameda
                                  36 Sep 23 04:13 .mpd.conf
                                  37 Sep 23 04:13 scratch -> /panfs/storage.local/scratch/jalameda
lrwxrwxrwx 1 jalameda jalameda
drwxrwxr-x 4 jalameda jalameda 4096 Sep 26 09:21 shallow
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jalameda jalameda 237 Sep 26 09:22 shallow-batch.sh
-rw----- 1 jalameda jalameda 252 Sep 25 23:22 shallow-test.o6661105
-rw----- 1 jalameda jalameda 4340 Sep 26 09:23 shallow-test.o6661462
-rw----- 1 jalameda jalameda 4340 Sep 26 16:25 shallow-test.o6663422
drwx----
            2 jalameda jalameda
                               4096 Sep 25 20:23 .ssh
drwxr-xr-x 4 jalameda jalameda 4096 Sep 26 15:14 trainingSC12 C
            1 jalameda jalameda 1940 Sep 26 09:24 .viminfo
[jalameda@submit ~]$
```



Symbolic links

- Try following the link
 - cd scratch
 - cd .. (return to parent directory)
- Make another symbolic link: In –s
 - In-s /home/ux400689/shallow-SR1_kepler_try2/shallow shallow_works

```
-bash-4.1$ ls -lat
total 60
drwxr-xr-x 37 root root 0 Mar 31 10:17 ...
-rw----- 1 ux400689 sdsc 4619 Mar 31 10:13 .bash history
drwxr-xr-x 10 ux400689 sdsc 4096 Mar 31 10:13 .
lrwxrwxrwx 1 ux400689 sdsc 46 Mar 31 10:13 shallow works -> /home/ux400689/shallow-SR1 kepler try2/shallow
drwxr-xr-x 4 ux400689 sdsc 4096 Mar 31 10:10 shallow-SR1 kepler try2
-rw----- 1 ux400689 sdsc 5043 Mar 31 10:10 .viminfo
drwxr-xr-x 14 ux400689 sdsc 4096 Mar 6 09:24 .eclipsesettings
drwxrwxr-x 4 ux400689 sdsc 4096 Mar 6 06:44 shallow
drwxr-xr-x 4 ux400689 sdsc 4096 Jan 23 11:39 shallow-SR2-RC1-23jan2014
drwxr-xr-x 3 ux400689 sdsc 4096 Jan 23 10:50 shallow-sr1-kepler-jan2014
-rw-r--r-- 1 ux400689 sdsc 410 Dec 20 14:02 .bash profile
-rw----- 1 ux400689 sdsc 70 Dec 13 06:43 .Xauthority
drwxr-xr-x 3 ux400689 sdsc 4096 Sep 27 2013 .visit
drwx----- 2 ux400689 sdsc 4096 Sep 26 2013 .ssh
drwxr-xr-x 4 ux400689 sdsc 4096 Jul 21 2013 trainingSC12 C
-bash-4.1$ ^C
-bash-4.15
```

Symbolic links pitfalls

- Be careful when
 - Navigating
 - Deleting
 - Not so fast all the time!



Special files

- /dev/null: infinite black hole for data
 - Can redirect unwanted IO to /dev/null
- Eg, cat filename > /dev/null
- /dev/zero: source of null characters, eg, can use to fill file with zeros
 - Example: dd if=/dev/zero of=filename count=1024
 bs=1024 (create 1 MB file filled with zeros)
- /dev/random: source of psuedo-random numbers

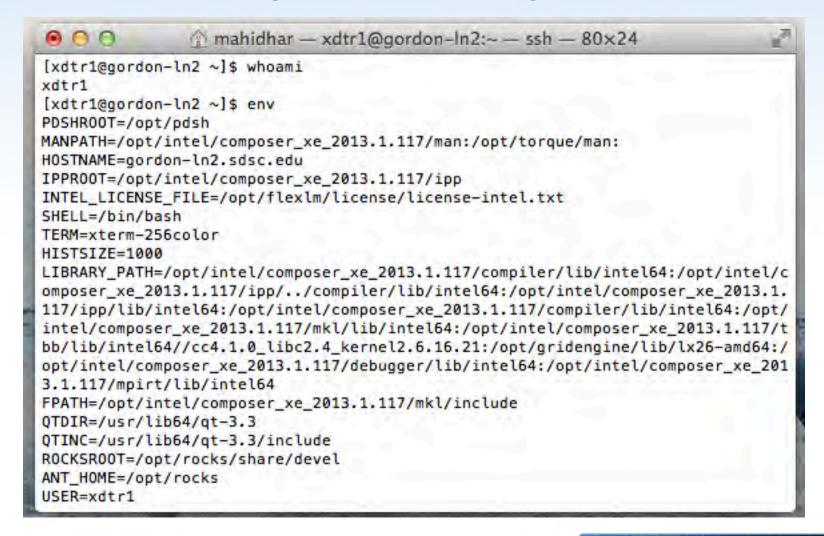


Checking out your environment

- What is my login?:
 - whoami
- What is my environment?
 - env
- What options do I have to augment my environment with (modules system):
 - module avail
- What is actually in my environment?
 - module list



Environment (screenshots)





Environment (screenshots)

```
@ O O
                mahidhar — xdtr1@gordon-ln2:~ — ssh — 80x24
[xdtr1@gordon-ln2 ~]$ module li
Currently Loaded Modulefiles:
                                              3) gnubase/1.0
  1) intel/2013.1.117 2) myapich2 ib/1.9
[xdtr1@gordon-ln2 ~]$ module av
                          /opt/modulefiles/mpi/.intel -
mpich2_ib/1.5(default)
                            mvapich2_ib/1.9(default)
mv2profile ib/2.0a(default) openmpi ib/1.6.5(default)
                      /opt/modulefiles/applications/.intel -----
eigen/3.1.3(default)
                         lapack/3.4.2(default)
                                                  petsc/3.3.p5(default)
fftw/2.1.5
                         mxml/2.7(default)
                                                  scalapack/2.0.2(default)
fftw/3.3.3(default)
                         netcdf/3.6.2
                                                  sprng/2.0b(default)
                         netcdf/4.3.0(default)
qsl/1.15(default)
                                                  sundials/2.5.0(default)
hdf4/2.9(default)
                         papi/5.0.1(default)
                                                  superlu/3.2(default)
hdf5/1.8.11(default)
                         parmetis/4.0.2(default) tau/2.22.p1(default)
ipm/2.0.0(default)
                         pdt/3.18.1(default)
                                                  trilinos/11.0.3(default)
                         /opt/modulefiles/applications -----
R/3.0.1(default)
                          garli/2.01(default)
                                                    namd/2.10
amber/12(default)
                          qaussian/09.D.01(default) namd/2.9(default)
                                                    nwchem/6.3(default)
apbs/1.3(default)
                          gdal/1.9.2(default)
beagle/1.1(default)
                          geos/3.3.8(default)
                                                    octave/3.6.2(default)
beagle/2.1
                          alobus/5.2.5
                                                    phylobayes/1.4e(default)
```

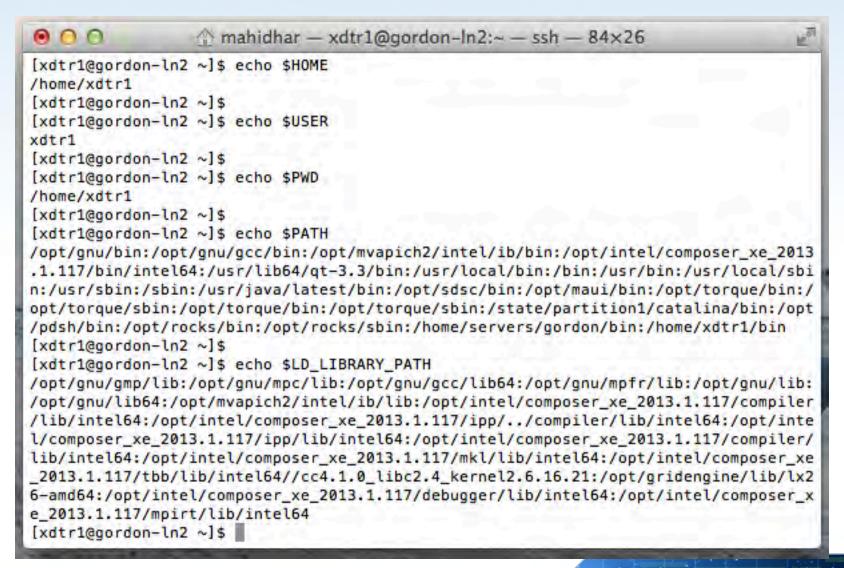


And helpful environment variables

- What is my home directory?
 - \$HOME
- What is my login?
 - \$USER
- What is my current working directory?
 - \$PWD
- Can inspect these with the echo command, eg
 - echo \$HOME
 - Try it out!



Environmental Variables (screenshot)





Learning about your system

- /proc directory with special files (inspect via "more filename)
 - cpuinfo, meminfo
- Inspecting your PCI bus architecture –
 especially useful with GPGPUS, etc
 - Ispci (and check out options for interesting variants)
- How long has the system been up, who is on, etc: uptime, users, who, w



System info - screenshot

```
0 A
                 mahidhar — xdtr1@gordon-ln2:~ — ssh — 84×26
[xdtr1@gordon-ln2 ~]$ more /proc/cpuinfo
processor
vendor_id
                : GenuineIntel
cpu family
                : 6
model
                : 45
model name
               : Intel(R) Xeon(R) CPU E5-2670 0 @ 2.60GHz
stepping
cpu MHz
                : 1200.000
cache size
                : 20480 KB
physical id
siblings
core id
cpu cores
apicid
initial apicid
fpu
                : ves
fpu exception
                : yes
couid level
                : 13
WP
                : ves
                : fpu vme de pse tsc msr pae mce cx8 apic sep mtrr pge mca cmov pat
flags
pse36 clflush dts acpi mmx fxsr sse sse2 ss ht tm pbe syscall nx pdpe1qb rdtscp lm c
onstant_tsc arch_perfmon pebs bts rep_good xtopology nonstop_tsc aperfmperf pni pclm
ulqdq dtes64 monitor ds_cpl vmx smx est tm2 ssse3 cx16 xtpr pdcm pcid dca sse4_1 sse
4_2 x2apic popent tsc_deadline_timer aes xsave avx lahf_lm ida arat xsaveopt pln pts
dts tpr_shadow vnmi flexpriority ept vpid
                : 5187.29
bogomips
```



What is my system doing

- Static process listing: ps
 - ps private to you
 - ps –efl global view of processes
- Dynamic listing top
 - Typing h while displaying shows options
 - Try typing "m" to toggle memory view
- Inspect virtual memory vmstat
- Am I running out of memory: free
- Do I need to kill processes?
 - kill PID, kill -9 PID, killall: be careful!



Learning about the process I'm running

- Timing a command:
 - time cmd
 - real (wall clock time)
 - user cpu time (process in user space)
 - system cpu time (process in kernel space)
- Learning about system calls strace
 - Strace cmd, or attach with strace –p PID
- Learning about shared library calls Itrace
 - Not in path on trestles system



Trying to learn about IO

- dd command is helpful
 - Reads and then writes a file with the –if and –of flags
 - Can change block sizes, do data conversions, do direct IO (bypass buffer cache)
 - See
 http://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/manual/
 http://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/manual/
 http://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/manual/
 - Can learn about IO characteristics of system



Getting a little tricky on IO

 Want to pass (small amounts) of data quickly between programs: consider /dev/shm

```
[jalameda@submit ~]$ df
Filesystem
                    1K-blocks
                                   Used Available Use% Mounted on
/dev/sda1
                     20642428
                                6022764 13571088 31% /
tmpfs
                     8196756
                                    80 8196676 1% /dev/shm
/dev/sda6
                     76744752 6752144 66094192 10% /opt
/dev/sda3
                     30963708
                               483140 28907704
/dev/sda5
                     10079084
                                750832 8816252
panfs://storage.local:global
                    250754002400 181208247024 69545755376 73% /panfs
export-60-14.storage.hpc.fsu.edu:/lustre
                    369089829984 157459695392 211629820512 43% /lustre
[ialameda@submit ~]$
```

- And, to learn about your processors memory bandwidth capabilities: STREAM benchmark
 - http://www.streambench.org/



What about my data

- Globus Online powerful utility to move (lots)
 of data www.globusonline.org
- Combining files into a single archive
 - tar
 - Can compress on the fly (try some experiments to see if this makes sense)
 - tar –cvf filename (list of items to combine)
 - Create archive "filename", verbosely



More on tar

- Listing contents of archive
 - tar –tvf
- Extract archive
 - tar –xvf
 - (I like the verbose option)
- Compression
 - tar –czf uses gzip compression
 - Experiment compare tar –cvf (twice) against tar–cf (use time command)



More on tar, and data

- Why compression?
 - Limited link speed, limited data space
 - Not an obvious choice always
- Tar alternatives
 - zip package and compress archive file
 - man zip
 - gzip compress files
 - gz extension is a clue
 - man gzip



Directories, and directory policies

- Take the time to learn your site local policies
 - SHOME small files, not purged usually, sometimes (but not always!) backed up
 - SCRATCH large files, large quota, usually purged, never backed up
 - Other directories

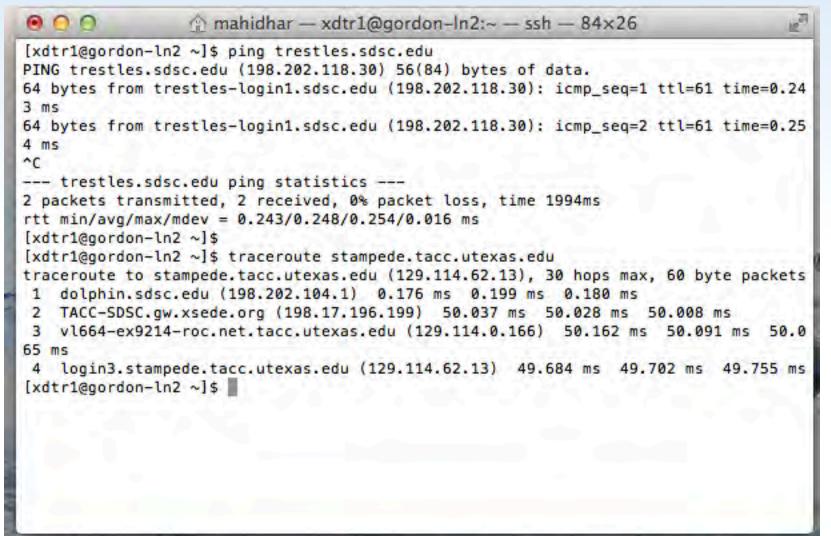


Learning about your network

- Not all of these work everywhere, but if you suspect problems, they are worth a try
 - ping hostname measures latency to host, packet loss, etc
 - traceroute hostname shows path to host
 - netstat learn who is connected, from where, to your system!
 - ifconfig learn about status of your physical network devices (low-level)



Network info - screenshot





Higher level networking tools

- ssh securely connect to another host
- scp -- securely copy files between hosts
 - Gsi variants useful in XSEDE
- wget retrieve files via URL (http, https, ftp)
 - http://www.gnu.org/software/wget/
- curl retrieve files via URL (lots of protocols!)
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CURL



wget - example

 Download "Pride and Prejudice" from Project Gutenberg:

wget http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/1342/pg1342.txt

```
0 0
                mahidhar — xdtr1@gordon-ln2:~ — ssh — 84×26
[xdtr1@gordon-ln2 ~]$
[xdtr1@gordon-ln2 ~]$ wget http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/1342/pg1342.txt
--2014-04-03 17:50:16-- http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/1342/pg1342.txt
Resolving www.gutenberg.org... 152.19.134.47
Connecting to www.gutenberg.org | 152.19.134.47 |: 80... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 200 OK
Length: 717569 (701K) [text/plain]
Saving to: "pg1342.txt"
                  ======>] 717,569
                                                           1.06M/s
2014-04-03 17:50:17 (1.06 MB/s) - "pg1342.txt" saved [717569/717569]
[xdtr1@gordon-ln2 ~]$
```

File operations

- sort, uniq, wc, grep, cat, cut, paste
- Nice quick reference: http://wtuto.com/redhat/tpt.html
 - grep: search for strings in a file
 - Simple example: grep string filename
 - sort can use as command (on a file), or have output from other commands piped to it
 - Eg grep bash /etc/passwd | sort
 - Vertical bar pipes output from grep into sort



More file operations

- uniq find unique lines in a file (many options, including counting duplicates
 - Eg, uniq –c file will give you a list of all the unique lines in a file,
 with a count prepended for the number of times a line is repeated
- wc "word count" but counts lines, words, characters and can be restricted to any of those
- cat lists file to stdout (simple, easy!)
- Cut, paste: not as familiar with, cut extracts text from a file based on position in file, paste merges data from one file into another
 - See http://www.techrepublic.com/article/lesser-known-linuxcommands-join-paste-and-sort/



Redirection

- Incredibly useful
- Slightly different syntax for different shells
- Command > file redirects stdout of a command into a file
- Command >& file redirects stdout and stderr from command into a file (csh, tcsh)



Peeking at files

- head show beginning of file
- tail -- show end of file
 - tail –f list file dynamically as it grows (really useful)
 - Command > file &
 - (ampersand stuffs command into the background)
 - tail -f file
- more browse file, page by page
 - more file or cat file | more



Stream editing

- sed powerful, but underused by me (!)
- Can get a glimpse of its capabilities at the end of http://wtuto.com/redhat/tpt.html



File operations - screenshot



So you have a binary file...

- Some ways to gain insight
 - objdump –S disassemble, display source with assembly
 - size- learn about size of various components of a file
 - nm –l list line numbers and symbols in a file
 - od octal dump of file (if you need it!)
 - strings -- list ascii strings in a binary file
 - Idd (useful!) displays dynamic link libraries



Other nice utilities

- tee takes stdin, and redirects it to stdout and files
- script -- makes typescript of terminal session
 useful for capturing complex worksession
- screen –s allows you to make detachable (and reattachable) interactive session



Beyond the scope of this tutorial

- Shell scripting utility programming for use on linux systems
- Different syntax for your shell of choice
 - Popular shells csh (tcsh), sh (bash)
 - Some critical differences and similarities in their syntax
 - One tutorial to get started
 - http://www.freeos.com/guides/lsst/ch02sec01.html



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