IT 341: Introduction to System Administration

Project I (*REMOTE-Summer 2020-Present*): Initial Setup and Using a LAN

Due to the unique situation with the Summer 2020 session -- instruction being completely remote -- the first project for this course will be structured very differently than it would be during a standard session where class is conducted in-person. Normally, students would:

- 1. Create their own virtual machines (VMs) on the Windows workstations in the IT Lab, using the program **VMWare Workstation Pro 15**.
- 2. Install **Ubuntu LTS Server 18.04** on those VMs. (*Recently, <mark>20</mark>.04!*)
- 3. Prepare VMs for local network connection, including the installation of **ifupdown** and alteration of virtual hardware configuration.

However, because instruction is remote, this usual progression is not possible. Accordingly, I have created VMs for everyone, with those VMs "developed" and "configured" to the point that each student can access theirs remotely. As such, you will completely the remainder of the preliminary setup using...

- The login credentials that I have e-mailed to you
 - Administrative account username: sysadmin
 This is the same for every student's VM
 - The name of your VM, of the following form: This is different for each student (see my e-mail)
- The steps that follow in the sections below

The following section constitutes **Part A** of **Project I**. In order to expedite the process of creating VMs, I created one template -- and then copied that template to the various physical workstations, with minor modification specific to each individual VM. You will carry out the remaining steps to set up your own VM's unique configuration.

<u>Project I, Part A</u>

In the steps that follow below, I am using the non-existent "placeholder" name **itvm28-8a** in the examples. Please replace said placeholder with the name of your own VM, as provided in my recent e-mail to you.

1. Log into your Linux account for the *command line*, using the utility of your choice --PuTTY, PowerShell, Command Prompt, Mac OS X Terminal, etc.

\$ ssh cs110ck@users.cs.umb.edu cs110ck@users.cs.umb.edu's password: _

You will, of course, replace **cs110ck** with your own Linux username!

2. From there, log into it20 using the indicated command



3. SSH into your VM as **sysadmin**. Replace **itvm28-8a** with your VM name. For your first login as **sysadmin**, right now, you will use this password: **template**

it341@it20:/\$ ssh sysadmin@itvm28-8a

```
Could not create directory '/home/it341/.ssh'.
```

The authenticity of host 'itvm28-8a (10.0.0.91)' can't be estable ECDSA key fingerprint is 0d:7c:a0:58:de:e8:fd:e9:55:ae:87:76:c1:a Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)? yes Failed to add the host to the list of known hosts (/home/it341/.s

sysadmin@itvm28-8a's password:

You will <u>change</u> the **sysadmin** password <u>shortly</u>!

 When you first login, you will see that your VM's <u>internal</u> hostname is currently template, which is the case for <u>all</u> student VMs, in the beginning.



This, too, will be changed very soon! This is part of the initial setup for all students in the class. Your job, as you will soon see, will include changing your VM's internal hostname.

For now, run the command **mkdir sessions** to create a directory inside **sysadmin**'s home, followed by the **ls** command, to confirm directory creation



5. Run the **script** command, with the **--flush** option, to preserve your command-line interaction for later use.

```
sysadmin@template:~$ script --flush $HOME/sessions/$(date +"%Y%m%d_%H%M%S").txt
Script started, file is /home/sysadmin/sessions/20200616_020552.txt
```

Here it is again, with selectable text in this PDF:

script --flush \$HOME/sessions/\$(date +"%Y%m%d_%H%M%S").txt

Notice how this creates an output file with a *unique* filename! Later on, we will see how you can upload these files *from* your VM *to* your Linux account.

6. First, we want to change sysadmin's password from template to the unique VM name. In the example, the hypothetical VM name is itvm28-8a, but in <u>your</u> case, it will be the name I provided to you. Use the appropriate passwords, as indicated below the image....



[sudo] password for sysadmin: template Enter new UNIX password: itvm28-8a Retype new UNIX password: itvm28-8a

Henceforth, **sysadmin**'s password on your VM will be the VM name...

 Use the hostnamectl command to confirm your VM's <u>current</u> hostname, which will still be template, at this point.

sysadmin@template:~\$ hostnamectl Static hostname: template Icon name: computer-vm 8. Now, change your VM's hostname to the appropriate name. In the example, the VM name is **itvm28-8a**, but in *your* case, it will be the name I provided to you.

sysadmin@template:~\$ sudo hostnamectl set-hostname itvm28-8a

 Use the hostnamectl command <u>again</u> to confirm your VM's <u>new</u> hostname, which should now be the one specified in Step #8, at this point.

sys	admin@template:~	<pre>\$ hostnamect1</pre>
	<pre>Static hostname:</pre>	i <mark>t∨m28-8a</mark>
	Icon name:	computer-vm
	Chassis:	Vm
	Machine TD:	3ae743eh48164h2aac7948558e0f7hed

10. Look at your VM's **/etc/hosts** file, as it currently exists. Notice that **template** is still listed as the host name here, which will be changed in the next step.



11. Use the following command to make this small edit in /etc/hosts

sysadmin@template:~\$ sudo sed -i 's/template/itvm28-8a/' /etc/hosts

Be sure you are typing the command correctly, substituting your own VM name in place of itvm28-8a

12. Look at **/etc/hosts** again, to confirm the change took place:



Eventually, you will need to make some more extensive edits to this file...

13. Exit from **script**



At this point, you will be automatically dropped back at your **it341@it20** prompt

15. After a couple minutes, try to ping your VM to confirm it has finished rebooting



Replace **itvm28-8a** with your <u>own</u> VM name, naturally.

16. Sign into your VM as **sysadmin** again, this time using your VM name as the password



17. On login, you will probably notice your prompt now reflects your VM's unique name, as in the image below. Run **1s** to see the **sessions** directory within **sysadmin**'s home



18. Run the **script** command again with **--flush** to preserve your CLI session interaction

sysadmin@itvm28-8a:~\$ script --flush \$HOME/sessions/\$(date +"%Y%m%d_%H%M%S").txt Script started, file is /home/sysadmin/sessions/20200616_021118.txt

script --flush \$HOME/sessions/\$(date +"%Y%m%d %H%M%S").txt

19. Run **hostnamectl** again to see your VM's current hostname

sysadmin@itvm28-8a:	~\$ hostnamectl
Static hostname:	itvm28-8a
Icon name:	computer-vm
Chassis:	∨m
Machine TD.	3ae743eh48164h2aac7948558e

20. View the contents of /etc/network/interfaces

sysadmin@itvm28-8a:~\$ cat /etc/network/interfaces

ifupdown has been replaced by netplan(5) on this system # /etc/netplan for current configuration. # To re-enable ifupdown on this system, you can run: # sudo apt install ifupdown auto lo iface lo inet loopback auto ens33 iface ens33 inet dhcp

21. Run **ip addr show** to see your current network configuration, especially **ens33**

sysadmin@itvm28-8a:~\$ ip addr show ens33: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTI inet 10.0.0.91 netmask 255.255.255. inet6 fe80::20c:29ff:fe8f:ffff pref ether 00:0c:29:8f:ff:ff txqueuelen RX packets 1071 bytes 87517 (87.5 K RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 TX packets 117 bytes 16735 (16.7 KB TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 c lo: flags=73<UP,LOOPBACK,RUNNING> mtu 65536

- 22. Use the following **ping** commands, one after the other:
 - ping -c 5 www.google.com ping -c 5 www.cs.umb.edu ping -c 5 10.0.0.1 ping -c 5 10.0.0.91 sysadmin@itvm28-8a:~\$ ping -c 5 www.google.com PING www.google.com (172.217.11.4) 56(84) bytes of 64 bytes from lga25s60-in-f4.1e100.net (172.217.11. sysadmin@itvm28-8a:~\$ ping -c 5 www.cs.umb.edu PING vm54 cs umb edu (158 121 106 224) 56(84) bytes sysadmin@itvm28-8a:~\$ ping -c 5 10.0.0.1 PING 10.0.0.1 (10.0.0.1) 56(84) bytes of da sysadmin@itvm28-8a:~\$ ping -c 5 10.0.0.91 PING 10.0.0 91 (10.0.0.91) 56(84) bytes of da

We would expect *successful* results for all four.

23. View contents of **/etc/hosts** again:



24. Exit from script



25. Open /etc/hosts for editing

sysadmin@itvm28-8a:~\$ sudo nano /etc/hosts [sudo] password for sysadmin:

a. First, edit the *second* line, as indicated here:

127.0.0.1 localhost 127.0.1.1 itvm28-8a → 127.0.1.1 itvm28-8a.it.cs.umb.edu itvm28-8a

b. After the second line, add the two lines indicated below, exactly:



c. After those two lines, add a block of <u>64</u> lines, taken from **it20**'s **/etc/hosts**

```
file, corresponding to IP addresses 10.0.0.128 through 10.0.0.191 : 10.0.0.91 cktest.it.cs.umb.edu cktest
```



(The ... are just a *<u>placeholder</u>!*)

NOTE: You <u>need not</u> type in all those lines. In class, I can demonstrate how to accomplish this **more easily!**

d. After that, add the block of 8 lines for the physical hosts, **it21** through **it28** 10.0.0.191 itvm28-4b.it.cs.umb.edu itvm28-4b

```
# Inside real clients
10.0.0.240 it21.it.cs.umb.edu it21
10.0.0.241 it22.it.cs.umb.edu it22
...
10.0.0.247 it28.it.cs.umb.edu it28
# The following lines are desirable for IPv6 ca
(The ... are just a placeholder!)
```

 e. Save your work and exit the nano utility. When you are back at the command line, restart the networking service:

```
sysadmin@itvm28-8a:~$ sudo /etc/init.d/networking restart
```

f. When finished, you may log out of your VM (which will remain running), bringing you back to **it20**:



g. Log out of **it20**, bringing you back to your Linux account:

```
it341@it20:/$ exit
logout
Connection to 10.200.6.76 closed.
cs110ck@itserver6:~$
```

<u>Project I, Part B</u>

(Implementing **NIS**)

The Network Information Service (NIS), formerly known as Yellow Pages or YP, provides a flat (unstructured) database for keeping track of users and hosts on a local area network. It works best for hundreds of users and/or hosts; Enterprises that have thousands of users and/or hosts might be better off with a more hierarchical database such as DNS or LDAP. In this exercise, we will set up NIS on our little network and use it to keep track of users and (initially) hosts.

On the Server, it20

(This is what previous admins have already done, along with some config changes I will make to set up your personal accounts on the local network. You **DO NOT** do this but you need to read it, look at it on *iteo*, understand it and *address it in your lab report entries*.)

 Download and install NIS¹. When asked, say that the NIS domain is <u>it.cs.umb.edu</u>. The domain name can be anything, so long as it is the same on the <u>server</u> and <u>all clients</u> on the network.

```
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install nis
sudo apt-get install sysv-rc-conf (Needed later on)
```

2. The installation of NIS includes attempting to start it up. It may not be successful.

We need to look in /etc/default/nis . Here, admins made a small change (again, in **boldface**) to say, yes we are the NIS master. Admins did not make any other changes to the file at that time.

```
sysadmin@it20:/etc$ cat /etc/default/nis
#
# /etc/defaults/nis Configuration settings for the NIS
# daemons.
#
# Are we a NIS server and if so what kind (values: false, slave,
# master)?
NISSERVER=master
# Are we a NIS client?
NISCLIENT=true
# Location of the master NIS password file (for yppasswdd).
# If you change this make sure it matches with /var/yp/Makefile.
```

```
<sup>1</sup>A good NIS reference is <a href="http://www.server-world.info/en/note?os=Ubuntu_20.04&p=nis">http://www.server-world.info/en/note?os=Ubuntu_20.04&p=nis</a>
```

```
YPPWDDIR=/etc
   # Do we allow the user to use ypchsh and/or ypchfn? The
   # YPCHANGEOK fields are passed with -e to yppasswdd,
   # see it's manpage.
   # Possible values: "chsh", "chfn", "chsh,chfn"
   YPCHANGEOK=chsh
   # NIS master server. If this is configured on a slave server
   # then ypinit will be run each time NIS is started.
  NISMASTER=master
   # Additional options to be given to ypserv when it is started.
   YPSERVARGS=
3. Look at /etc/nsswitch.conf . Nothing needs to change for now.
   # Example configuration of GNU Name Service Switch functionality.
   # If you have the `glibc-doc-reference' and `info' packages
   # installed, try:
   # `info libc "Name Service Switch"'
   # for information about this file.
  passwd: compat
  group: compat
  shadow: compat
  hosts: files dns
  networks: files
  protocols: db files
  services: db files
  ethers: db files
  rpc: db files
  netgroup: nis
4. Modify /etc/yp.conf to identify ourselves (it20) as the NIS server.
   # yp.conf Configuration file for the ypbind process. You can
   # define NIS servers manually here if they can't be found by
   # broadcasting on the local net (which is the default).
   # See the manual page of ypbind for the syntax of this file.
   # IMPORTANT: For the "ypserver", use IP addresses, or make sure
   # that the host is in /etc/hosts. This file is only interpreted
   # once, and if DNS isn't reachable yet the ypserver cannot
   # be resolved and ypbind won't ever bind to the server.
   # ypserver it20.it.cs.umb.edu
   ypserver 10.0.0.1
5. Check to make sure our default domain is it.cs.umb.edu:
```

```
sysadmin@it20:/etc$ cat defaultdomain
it.cs.umb.edu
```



The Clients²

Log into your VM as sysadmin. As a reminder, that means...
 From your Linux account, log into it20 as it341 OR as yourself:

```
cs110ck@itserver6:~$ ssh cs110ck@10.200.6.76
cs110ck@10.200.6.76's password:
```

From **it20**, log into your VM as **sysadmin**:

cs110ck@it20:/\$ ssh sysadmin@itvm28-8a
sysadmin@itvm28-8a's password:

sysadmin@itvm28-8a:~\$

2. Download and install NIS. To start with, we need to make sure you have the right apt repositories. Thus, on your VM, as **sysadmin**, enter the following command, though you can use your own username instead of **it341**:

sysadmin@itvm28-8a:~\$ [sudo] password for sy	<pre>sudo scp it341@10.0.0.1:/home/ckelly/it341_files/sources.list ysadmin:</pre>	/etc/apt/sources.list		
it341@10.0.0.1's passu Could not chdir to hor sources.list	word: me directory /home/it341: No such file or directory	100% 2739	1.3MB/s	00:00

²A good NIS reference is http://www.server-world.info/en/note?os=Ubuntu_20.04&p=nis&f=2

Command text below, though you can replace **it341** with your own username:

sudo scp it341@it20:/home/ckelly/it341_files/sources.list /etc/apt/sources.list

(*Notice that we can also use* it20 *in place of* 10.0.0.1, *since the hostname resolves!*)

Next, we use **apt-get** to perform a local database update – and then to obtain **NIS**.

sysadmin@itvm28-8a:~\$ sudo apt-get update

sysadmin@itvm28-8a:~\$ sudo apt-get install nis

When asked for a default domain, supply *it.cs.umb.edu*. It is just a name; any name would actually suffice; but, the **nis** server and all clients must have the same name.

2. The file, /etc/default/nis should not be changed. However, you should still open the file and look at it, just for informational purposes.

As mentioned on the project webpage, there will be something about this file on your VM that differs from the example here. Make a note of it, but it is okay to leave it as is.

sysadmin@itvm28-8a:~\$ cat /etc/default/nis

/etc/defaults/nis Configuration settings for the NIS daem

Are we a NIS server and if so what kind (values: false, s
master)?
NISSERVER=false

3. Edit the file **/etc/nsswitch.conf**

sysadmin@itvm28-8a:~\$ sudo nano /etc/nsswitch.conf

Add **nis** to the four indicated lines. (Notice that, on the **hosts** line, you will also need to change the <u>order</u> of some elements!)

<pre># /etc/nsswitch.conf # # Example configuration of GNU Name # If you have the `glibc-doc-referen # `info libc "Name Service Switch"'</pre>		<pre># /etc/nsswitch.conf # # Example configuration of GNU Name # If you have the `glibc-doc-refere # `info libc "Name Service Switch"'</pre>	
passwd: group: shadow: gshadow:	compat systemd compat systemd compat files	 <pre>passwd: group: shadow: gshadow:</pre>	compat systemd nis compat systemd nis compat nis files
hosts: networks:	files dns	<pre>hosts: networks:</pre>	dns files nis files

4. Modify **/etc/yp.conf** to identify **it20** as the NIS server. As the comment suggests, this should not be necessary as broadcasting ought to work, but NIS appears to work more smoothly when we explicitly identify the server...

sysadmin@itvm28-8a:~\$ sudo nano /etc/yp.conf

Note that the lines beginning	<pre># # # yp.conf Configuration file for the ypbind process. You can # define NIS servers manually here if they can't be found by # define NIS servers manually here if they can't be found by</pre>
with the #	# broadcasting on the local net (which is the default).
symbol are just	# See the manual page of ypbind for the syntax of this file.
<u>comments</u> ,	# # IMPORTANT, For the "unserver" use IP addresses or make sure
with no actual	# that the host is in /etc/hosts. This file is only interpreted
effect on	<pre># once, and if DNS isn't reachable yet the ypserver cannot</pre>
system	# be resolved and ypbind won't ever bind to the server.
functionality.	<pre># ypserver it20.it.cs.umb.edu</pre>
	ypserver 10.0.0.1

You may notice that we identify *it20* by its local IP address (10.0.0.1) rather than its hostname...

5. Check to make sure our default domain is *it.cs.umb.edu*

sysadmin@itvm28-8a:~\$ cat /etc/defaultdomain it.cs.umb.edu

6. On your virtual machine, add a home directory for yourself, using your cs.umb.edu login name; for example, if my username were cs110ck, the command would read:

sysadmin@itvm28-8a:~\$ sudo mkdir /home/cs110ck

(Both team members need this, if you're working in a team scenario!)

7. Do a restart of NIS on your client side

sysadmin@itvm28-8a:~\$ sudo systemctl restart ypbind.service

sysadmin@itvm28-8a;~\$ sudo systemctl enable nis.service

8. During a normal semester – conducted in the IT Lab – I would do this on <u>it20</u> for individual students, on an ongoing basis, as soon as they were ready.

On the server **it20**, I would add you with the same name you used for your home directory (e.g. I used **cs110ck**), that is, your **cs.umb.edu** user name. Then, you would define your new password.

ckelly@it20:~\$ sudo adduser --no-create-home cs110ck

We <u>do not</u> want a home directory created on <u>it20</u>, since yours will be hosted on your virtual machines. Of course, it exists <u>only</u> on the VM, at present, but that is fine for now – that is where we are working. There is an alternative to <u>adduser</u> – the command <u>useradd</u> – but the one we use allows us to suppress the creation of a home directory and prompts for a user password. During a remote semester, I have different process that I use to create individual student accounts on <u>it20</u>...

9. Again, on the server **it20**, as student individual user accounts are added, I would rebuild the NIS database and restart NIS, on an as-needed basis:

```
ckelly@it20:~$ cd /var/yp
ckelly@it20:~$ sudo make
ckelly@it20:~$ sudo sysv-rc-conf ypbind on
```

10. Then, back on your client, following the completion of <u>Step #7</u> above...

Logout of **sysadmin**, bringing you back to your **it20** prompt:



Log back in, using <u>your own</u> login name and password that we set up in a previous class session. Of course, you will want to use <u>your own</u> login name in place of cs110ck.

```
cs110ck@it20:/$ ssh cs110ck@itvm28-8a
cs110ck@itvm28-8a's password:
```

You may get a normal prompt...

```
cs110ck@itvm28-8a:~$
```

... or you may get something like *this*:

```
Could not chdir to home directory /home/cs110ck: No such file or directory cs110ck@itvm28-8a:/$
```

Whether you get one or the other, it would simply mean that you have no home directory on your own host. This is because you do not yet <u>own</u> it. (When you created the directory some steps ago, it was owned by user **root**.) We will fix this, but you will need to be (the **sudo**-er) **sysadmin** in order to do so.

However, you actually <u>do not</u> need to log out of your own session to become **sysadmin**! Instead, you can start a "nested" session, using the **su** command. (<u>What does "su" stand for?</u> <u>Look up this command, and be prepared to address it in your discussion questions.</u>) Please note that the password requested is that of **sysadmin** and <u>not</u> your own!



Perform a long listing on /home to see current ownership, group, and permissions on contents:

sysadmin@itvm28-8a:~\$ ls -1 /home
total 8
drwxr-xr-x 3 root root 4096 2011-02-07 11:04 cs110ck
drwxr-xr-x 4 sysadmin sysadmin 4096 2011-01-26 11:57 sysadmin

First, we can change your (<u>and</u>, if you're in a team, your partner's) home directory's <u>owner</u> using the **chown** command:

sysadmin@itvm28-8a:~\$ sudo chown cs110ck /home/cs110ck

Next, we can also change your (and your partner's) home directory's group using the chgrp command

sysadmin@itvm28-8a:~\$ sudo chgrp cs110ck /home/cs110ck

If you used **su sysadmin**, then you can exit from **sysadmin**'s session, and you will land back in your session with your <u>individual</u> account. Use the **1s** command as indicated below, and you will see the user <u>owns</u> it, and it is also in their <u>group</u>:

11. Now, if you log out, and log in again (as <u>vourself</u>), you should end up in <u>vour</u> home directory. You should be able to log into any Linux host on the <u>it.cs.umb.edu</u> network –<u>assuming that</u> <u>host machine has also implemented NIS correctly!</u> – but for now, you will have a home directory on your own client.

It would be nice if *all* of our home directories were available on *all of the hosts in our network*. We will use the **Network File System (NFS)** to accomplish that in the next project.

Discussion questions are <u>next page</u>!

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What does **LTS** *stand for*, and what does that *mean*? Please explain.
- 2. What is an **LVM**? (It stands for "logical volume manager".) Please explain
 - What a *logical volume* is
 - And what a *logical volume manager* does.
- 3. Please explain what the **sudo** command is, how it is used, and why we need it.
- 4. Please explain what <u>APT</u> and apt-get are and why we use them.
- 5. What is the IP address of...
 - Your virtual machine?
 - Your virtual machine's *gateway server*?

(You should be able to do the first using a command we already used in class! The second will likely require a bit of research for how to find that information...)

- 6. Explain how you found out both of these things for the previous question. (<u>NOTE:</u> The <u>/etc/hosts</u> file is not a valid source for answering <u>either</u> part of the preceding question! The <u>hosts</u> file only tells us what IP address a hostname <u>should</u> resolve to; whether the host is <u>actually</u> at that IP is another matter entirely.)
- 7. What is *DHCP*, and why do we use DHCP? Please explain.
- 8. What is the **/etc/hosts** file, and what does it do?
- 9. What is <u>NAT</u> (Network Address Translation), and why do we use it? Please explain.
- 10. Please define and explain the networking settings of "NAT" and "bridged" *in VMWare*. In a previous question, you discussed NAT more generally, but now you need to discuss it in the context of VMs in VMWare, specifically.
- 11. Take a little time to read about and experiment with these tools for network troubleshooting:
- a. **ping** (again)
- b. **ifconfig** (and the **ip** cmd, too)
- c. <mark>route</mark>
- d. traceroute
- e. **netstat**

Write about these, based upon

- ✤ Your reading
 - The Petersen textbook
 - The **man** pages for each utility
 - Sources found by searching Google
- ✤ Your tests/experiments during the project.
- 12. The **su** command: What does <u>"su"</u> stand for, and what is the command's purpose?
- *13.* Why do we often need to <u>restart</u> the VM or at least restart some specific service after installing some software or making some change to config files?

This is <u>probably</u> the final version, but check back for updates to PDF, just in case!