

Vino & VNC

Vino is a derivative of VNC and provides a means by which a user desktop may be shared and wraps itself around the Xserver. It always uses display :0 and you can only use this with one user enabled shared desktop. I have read that you can configure this but I have not determined the where it can be configured and interacts with Xserver, other than it uses XDamage to refresh the screen contents .
Vino seems to be work in progress. Vino requires the user be logged in to the desktop and that permission be given by the user before the desktop can be shared.

VNC and Vino appear to interact somewhat as it seemed that the permission screen would appear in the VNC session rather than on the user desktop but this may have been a result of running both Vino and VNC at the same time. I also observed that I could not “lock” my desktop while working on this project but once I stopped VNC and disabled Vino, the desktop lock worked once again.

VNC has been around a long time and is very mature. VNC is fully configurable and allows accessing users desktops without the user being logged on. Setting up VNC on FC5 is fairly straight forward. First off, you configure the vncservers file in /etc/sysconfig:

```
# The VNCSERVERS variable is a list of display:user pairs.

# Uncomment the lines below to start a VNC server on display :2
# as my 'myusername' (adjust this to your own). You will also
# need to set a VNC password; run 'man vncpasswd' to see how
# to do that.

# DO NOT RUN THIS SERVICE if your local area network is
# untrusted! For a secure way of using VNC, see
# <URL:http://www.uk.research.att.com/archive/vnc/sshvnc.html>.

# Use "-nolisten tcp" to prevent X connections to your VNC server via TCP.
# Use "-nohttpd" to prevent web-based VNC clients connecting.
# Use "-localhost" to prevent remote VNC clients connecting except when
# doing so through a secure tunnel. See the "-via" option in the
# `man vncviewer' manual page.

VNCSERVERS="2:root 3:tinsleyc"
VNCSERVERARGS[2]="-geometry 800x600"
VNCSERVERARGS[3]="-geometry 1280x1024"
# -nolisten tcp -nohttpd -localhost"
```

In the bottom section of this vncservers configuration file, I have setup to users, root and tinsleyc, as display sessions 2 and 3 and I have defined the resolution for each session. Tonight, I used the root session for presentation which I access via VNC:\192.168.0.100:2 where 2 is the display number.

2nd step in the process is to make sure that the hidden .vnc folder is created in the root of each of the users home directories that are going to be accessible via VNC.

3rd step is to create the following file in each of the /[userhome]/.vnc directories:

```
#!/bin/sh
# Uncomment the following two lines for normal desktop:
unset SESSION_MANAGER
exec /etc/X11/xinit/xinitrc

[ -x /etc/vnc/xstartup ] && exec /etc/vnc/xstartup
[ -r $HOME/.Xresources ] && xrdb $HOME/.Xresources
xsetroot -solid grey
vncconfig -iconic &
xterm -geometry 80x24+10+10 -ls -title "$VNCDESKTOP Desktop" &
startx &
```

This is a script which must be executable by vncserver but is owned by the desktop user:

```
-rwxrwxrwx 1 tinsleyc tinsleyc 337 May 16 17:46 xstartup
```

I slammed it with a 777 but you could be more granular in using the chmod command. (this is the 4th step).

5th step is to login as each user and set a vnc password for the sessions. This is unique from the user password. The command to do this is with vncpasswd [user]. As I recall, I did not use the user parameter but I was logged in as the user for which I was setting the vnc password. This step creates a passwd file in each of the users .vnc directory.

Step 6 is start the vncserver. You can do this at the command line with service vncserver start or you can use the graphical utility for services. You can start it from the command line but I do recommend that you set it up from the service utility so that it automatically starts in runlevel 5.

After starting and using vnc in accessing the user desktop, the .vnc directories should look like this (note the ownerships):

```
[tinsleyc@FC5 .vnc]$ ls -al
```

```
total 336
```

```
drwxr-xr-x  2 tinsleyc tinsleyc  4096 May 18 14:51 .
```

```
drwx----- 40 tinsleyc tinsleyc  4096 May 18 14:51 ..
```

```
-rw-rw-r--  1 tinsleyc tinsleyc 313182 May 18 14:51 FC5.mshome.net:3.log
```

```
-rw-rw-r--  1 tinsleyc tinsleyc     5 May 18 14:16 FC5.mshome.net:3.pid
```

```
-rw-----  1 tinsleyc tinsleyc     8 May 16 18:09 passwd
```

```
-rwxrwxrwx  1 tinsleyc tinsleyc   337 May 16 17:46 xstartup
```

```
[tinsleyc@FC5 .vnc]$
```