


Search [Go](#)

[Ubuntu Forums](#) > [The Ubuntu Forum Community](#) >
[Other Community Discussions](#) > [Tutorials & Tips](#)
HOWTO: Set up VNC server with resumable sessions

User Name ☐ Remember Me?
 Password [Log in](#)

[Register](#) [Reset Password](#) [Forum Help](#) [Forum Council](#) [Today's Posts](#) [Search](#)

Tutorials & Tips

The place to find Ubuntu related Tips & Tricks.

[New Reply](#)

Page 1 of 56 [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [11](#) [51](#) [>](#) [Last »](#)
[View First Unread](#)
[Thread Tools](#) [Display Modes](#)

January 27th,
 2006

Tichondrius

Way Too Much
Ubuntu



Join Date: Jan 2005
 Posts: 229
 Thanks: 0
 Thanked 4 Times in
 3 Posts

HOWTO: Set up VNC server with resumable sessions

So here's the complete list of steps that are required to set the VNC server that any user can session. It is also persistent, meaning that even if you disconnect the VNC client your X session (unless you explicitly log out) and you can reconnect to the same session again. The VNC server display (:1) than your regular X server, which works with your physical display (:0). So two sessions at the same time (one person sitting at the physical display and another remotely connecting).

1. Enable XDMCP

System->Administration->Login Screen Setup

Tab **Security->Enable XDMCP**

Tab **XDMCP**--> You can disable "Honor Indirect Requests"

Note: Before doing the next step, you need to make sure the extra repositories (e.g. universe) are enabled
http://easylinux.info/wiki/Ubuntu#How_to_add_additional_repositories

2. Install required packages (vncserver and xinetd)

Code:

```
sudo apt-get install vnc4server xinetd
```

Note to AMD64 users: The current version of vnc4server in the repositories has a bug, so you need to compile and install the fixed vnc4 packages as shown below:

Code:

```
wget http://qt1.iq.usp.br/download/vnc4server_4.0-7.3_amd64.deb
wget http://qt1.iq.usp.br/download/xvnc4viewer_4.0-7.3_amd64.deb
sudo dpkg -i vnc4server_4.0-7.3_amd64.deb
sudo dpkg -i xvnc4viewer_4.0-7.3_amd64.deb
```

3. Set the VNC passwd

Code:

```
sudo vncpasswd /root/.vncpasswd
```

4. Add vnc service to xinetd:

Code:

```
sudo gedit /etc/xinetd.d/Xvnc
```

Enter this into the new file:

Code:

```
service Xvnc
{
    type = UNLISTED
    disable = no
    socket_type = stream
    protocol = tcp
    wait = yes
    user = root
    server = /usr/bin/Xvnc
    server_args = -inetd :1 -query localhost -geometry 1024x768 -depth 16 -once -fp /usr/share/
    port = 5901
}
```

5. Restart xinetd (usually there is no need to reboot, but occasionally it might be required)

Code:

```
sudo /etc/init.d/xinetd stop
sudo killall Xvnc
sudo /etc/init.d/xinetd start
```

6. That's it! To test that this is working first try to connect from the same machine (the machine the VNC server on):

Code:

```
vncviewer localhost:1
```

You should be prompted for the VNC password, and then see the GDM login screen where you

a new X session. If that works, you can now go ahead and try to connect from remote machi VNC client (remember to first close the local vncviewer we started above). Remember to use machine's domain name or IP address, followed by :1 (e.g. 192.168.0.100:1). If connecting works, but connecting remotely fails, then this means you have a problem with a firewall whic ports. See the notes below about how to deal with that.

Note about ports: The VNC server set up as shown uses TCP port 5901. If you are using fire firestarter) on that machine, you need to allow incoming connections on this port. If you are assigns your machine a private address (e.g. 192.168.0.100) which is not accessible from tl need to forward TCP port 5901 from the router to this machine.

Note about security: This setup allows any user to start an X-session remotely by logging in password (after starting the VNC connection using the VNC password), so if the user discon out, any other user which knows the VNC password can connect afterwards and resume the first user started. So if you do not want to log out before disconnecting, it's advisable to at le X-session screen. Also note that while a remote user is connected thru VNC, no other connec An idle VNC client will be disconnected after one hour, but this can be changed by using the in the server_args line in /etc/xinetd.d/Xvnc. For example, you can add "-IdleTimeout 300" t minutes.

Last edited by Tichondrius; February 20th, 2006 at 02:44 PM..



January 27th, 2006

#2

arnieboy
Guest

Posts: n/a

Re: HOWTO: Set up VNC server with resumable sessions

u are all set.. the other howto on VNC to GDM stands defunct from now on.

QUOTE

January 28th, 2006

#3

mssm

Just Give Me the Beans!



Join Date: Apr 2005
Posts: 54
Thanks: 0
Thanked 0 Times in 0 Posts

Re: HOWTO: Set up VNC server with resumable sessions

Tichondrius, Thanks a lot for the update. As I understand, I should remove the old /etc/xinted.conf file which the old how-to told us to create, right? I also found that XDMCP uses port 177 with UDP protocol. So this port should be taken in the router's config.(i.e. firewall and port forwarding)?

Can it be used to let a specific user login via vnc?

Update : This is the output I got after I borught back /etc/xinited.conf to its original form and then following Tichondrius how-to. I have an AMD chipset, so I installed vncserver(instead of vnc4server). Moreover, I have opened port 177 in my router's firewall with UDP protocol and forwarded this port to my machine's internal LAN IP address. Also port 5901 is open in my firewall and forwarded to my laptop's LAN IP.

From the old how-to I still have this line in /etc/services

vnc1024 5901/tcp # VNC & GDM

Should I remove it? I am confused. I got this response by issuing the

following command :

```
$ vncviewer localhost:1
VNC viewer version 3.3.7 - built Sep 27 2005 11:12:00
Copyright (C) 2002-2003 RealVNC Ltd.
Copyright (C) 1994-2000 AT&T Laboratories Cambridge.
See http://www.realvnc.com for information on VNC.
ReadFromRFBServer: rdr::SystemException: read: Connection reset by
peer (104)
```

Last edited by mssm; January 28th, 2006 at 04:44 AM..



► QUOTE

January 28th,
2006

Tichondrius

Way Too Much
Ubuntu



Join Date: Jan 2005
Posts: 229
Thanks: 0
Thanked 4 Times in
3 Posts

Re: HOWTO: Set up VNC server with resumable sessions

You only need to do the steps in this howto. All other steps mentioned in the old howto (like /etc/xinetd.conf or /etc/services) are not required and may in fact interfere with this setup.

You need to have the original file /etc/xinetd.conf (from the xinetd package) which looks like i

Code:

```
# Simple configuration file for xinetd
#
# Some defaults, and include /etc/xinetd.d/

defaults
{

}

includedir /etc/xinetd.d
```

Notice how it instructs xinetd to load all the file in directory /etc/xinetd.d which is were we put service configuration file. So restore the original /etc/xinetd.conf if you made a backup copy, like shown above.

After you've restarted the xinetd as shown in the step 5, you can check that xinetd is listening doing this:

Code:

```
sudo netstat -tap | grep xinetd
```

And you should see a line like this: (your process ID doesn't have to be the same as mine 10

```
tcp 0 0 *:5901 *: LISTEN 10932/xinetd
```

Now you can try to connect with the local VNC client

Code:

```
vncviewer localhost:1
```

Let me know if this works.

Last edited by Tichondrius; January 28th, 2006 at 07:09 AM..



January 28th, 2006

#5

mssm
Just Give Me the Beans!


Join Date: Apr 2005
Posts: 54
Thanks: 0
Thanked 0 Times in 0 Posts

Re: HOWTO: Set up VNC server with resumable sessions

Hi,

I have followed your instruction in toto but this command yields nothing :

```
sudo netstat -tap | grep xinetd
```

It just stays there without giving any output. Also I think the last line of step 5 of your how-to should be `sudo /etc/init.d/xinetd start` instead of `sudo /etc/init.d/xinetd/start`. I have also commented the line I entered in `/etc/services` following the old how-to.

I am running kubuntu though the display manager for login is gdm. Should I reboot then? Also I installed vncserver and not vnc4server since I have AMD64 chipset. Should I install vnc4server instead of vncserver?

Last edited by mssm; January 28th, 2006 at 08:04 AM..

QUOTE

January 28th, 2006

Tichondrius
Way Too Much Ubuntu


Join Date: Jan 2005
Posts: 229
Thanks: 0
Thanked 4 Times in 3 Posts

Re: HOWTO: Set up VNC server with resumable sessions

Quote:

Originally Posted by **mssm**

Hi,

I have followed your instruction in toto but this command yields nothing :

```
sudo netstat -tap | grep xinetd
```

It just stays there without giving any output. Also I think the last line of step 5 of your sudo /etc/init.d/xinetd start instead of sudo /etc/init.d/xinetd/start. I have also commented the line I entered in /etc/services following the old how-to.

I am running kubuntu though the display manager for login is gdm. Should I reboot then? Also I installed vncserver and not vnc4server since I have AMD64 chipset. Should I install vnc4server instead of vncserver?

Yes, please reboot. And then check again if xinetd is listening on port 5901 using the comm:

Code:

```
sudo netstat -tap | grep xinetd
```

as I explained previously. If it still doesn't show anything, you should check the system log to read the Xvnc service file.

Code:

```
grep xinetd /var/log/syslog
```

And you should see a few lines showing xinetd activity. Look for a line mentioning xvnc, it shc

Quote:

```
Jan 27 03:42:32 localhost xinetd[10932]: Reading included configuration file: /etc/xine
[file=/etc/xinetd.conf] [line=11]
```

Look for any error messages, or if it loaded successfully you should see another line which loc

Quote:

```
Jan 27 03:42:32 localhost xinetd[10932]: Started working: 1 available service
```

btw, you are right about the spelling mistake in step 5, I corrected it. Also I understand you amd64, and if vnc4server package is not available for amd64, then vncserver (which is versik

Let me know if this works.

Last edited by Tichondrius; January 28th, 2006 at 08:39 AM..



January 28th, 2006

#7

mssm

Just Give Me the Beans!



Join Date: Apr 2005

Posts: 54

Thanks: 0

Thanked 0 Times in 0 Posts

Re: HOWTO: Set up VNC server with resumable sessions

Thanks Tichondrius. I rebooted and this time I got an answer from both the commands :

```
$ sudo netstat -tap | grep xinetd
tcp 0 0 *:5901 :*: LISTEN 8397/xinetd
```

```
$ grep xinetd /var/log/syslog
Jan 28 15:05:06 localhost xinetd[8397]: Reading included configuration
file: /etc/xinetd.d/Xvnc [file=/etc/xinetd.conf] [line=11]
Jan 28 15:05:06 localhost xinetd[8397]: Reading included configuration
file: /etc/xinetd.d/chargen [file=/etc/xinetd.d/chargen] [line=12]
Jan 28 15:05:06 localhost xinetd[8397]: Reading included configuration
file: /etc/xinetd.d/daytime [file=/etc/xinetd.d/daytime] [line=28]
Jan 28 15:05:06 localhost xinetd[8397]: Reading included configuration
file: /etc/xinetd.d/echo [file=/etc/xinetd.d/echo] [line=26]
Jan 28 15:05:06 localhost xinetd[8397]: Reading included configuration
file: /etc/xinetd.d/time [file=/etc/xinetd.d/time] [line=26]
```

Jan 28 15:05:06 localhost xinetd[8397]: removing chargen
Jan 28 15:05:06 localhost xinetd[8397]: removing chargen
Jan 28 15:05:06 localhost xinetd[8397]: removing daytime
Jan 28 15:05:06 localhost xinetd[8397]: removing daytime
Jan 28 15:05:06 localhost xinetd[8397]: removing echo
Jan 28 15:05:06 localhost xinetd[8397]: removing echo
Jan 28 15:05:06 localhost xinetd[8397]: removing time
Jan 28 15:05:06 localhost xinetd[8397]: removing time
Jan 28 15:05:06 localhost xinetd[8397]: Started working: 1 available service

Then
\$ vncviewer localhost:1
gives me the same msg. as before. After this again I issued :
\$ grep xinetd /var/log/syslog
which yielded
Deactivating service Xvnc due to excessive incoming connections.
Restarting in 10 seconds.
Jan 28 15:08:18 localhost xinetd[8397]: Activating service Xvnc

But there were many error msgs.

What exactly should I get after issuing vncviewer localhost:1?

Last edited by mssm; January 28th, 2006 at 09:20 AM..



QUOTE

January 28th, 2006

#8

kacheng

A Carafe of Ubuntu



Join Date: Dec 2005
Posts: 129
Thanks: 3
Thanked 0 Times in 0 Posts

Re: HOWTO: Set up VNC server with resumable sessions

I also get the following when issuing:

vncviewer localhost:1
VNC viewer version 3.3.7 - built Sep 27 2005 12:10:30
Copyright (C) 2002-2003 RealVNC Ltd.
Copyright (C) 1994-2000 AT&T Laboratories Cambridge.
See <http://www.realvnc.com> for information on VNC.
ReadFromRFBServer: rdr::SystemException: read: Connection reset by peer (104)

I am also running AMD64, with vncserver (not vnc4server) installed.



QUOTE

January 28th, 2006

#9

kacheng

A Carafe of Ubuntu



Join Date: Dec 2005
Posts: 129

Re: HOWTO: Set up VNC server with resumable sessions

I also get as mssm does:

grep xinetd /var/log/syslog
Jan 28 08:29:56 localhost xinetd[13968]: warning: can't get client address: Transport endpoint is not connected
:

Thanks: 3
 Thanked 0 Times in 0 Posts

```
:
:
Jan 28 08:29:57 localhost xinetd[14180]: warning: can't get client
address: Transport endpoint is not connected
Jan 28 08:29:57 localhost xinetd[14181]: warning: can't get client
address: Transport endpoint is not connected
Jan 28 08:29:57 localhost xinetd[14182]: warning: can't get client
address: Transport endpoint is not connected
Jan 28 08:29:57 localhost xinetd[14183]: warning: can't get client
address: Transport endpoint is not connected
Jan 28 08:29:57 localhost xinetd[14184]: warning: can't get client
address: Transport endpoint is not connected
Jan 28 08:29:57 localhost xinetd[14185]: warning: can't get client
address: Transport endpoint is not connected
Jan 28 08:29:57 localhost xinetd[14186]: warning: can't get client
address: Transport endpoint is not connected
Jan 28 08:29:57 localhost xinetd[14187]: warning: can't get client
address: Transport endpoint is not connected
Jan 28 08:29:57 localhost xinetd[10673]: Deactivating service Xvnc due
to excessive incoming connections. Restarting in 10 seconds.
Jan 28 08:30:07 localhost xinetd[10673]: Activating service Xvnc
```

What does this mean?

Last edited by kacheng; January 28th, 2006 at 09:44 AM..



► QUOTE

January 28th, 2006

#10

kacheng

A Carafe of Ubuntu



Join Date: Dec 2005
 Posts: 129
 Thanks: 3
 Thanked 0 Times in 0 Posts

Re: HOWTO: Set up VNC server with resumable sessions

I was just going through the HOWTO again and noticed that the Xvnc service doesn't seem to start:

```
$ sudo /etc/init.d/xinetd stop
Stopping internet superserver: xinetd.
$ sudo killall Xvnc
Xvnc: no process killed
$ sudo /etc/init.d/xinetd start
Starting internet superserver: xinetd.
$ sudo /etc/init.d/xinetd stop
Stopping internet superserver: xinetd.
$ sudo killall Xvnc
Xvnc: no process killed
$ sudo /etc/init.d/xinetd start
Starting internet superserver: xinetd.
```

I'll reboot and try again.



► QUOTE

New Reply

Page 1 of 56 **1** 2 3 11 51 > Last »

Bookmarks

Digg



del.icio.us



StumbleUpon



Google

[« Previous Thread](#) | [Next Thread »](#)**Posting Rules**

You **may not** post new threads
You **may not** post replies
You **may not** post attachments
You **may not** edit your posts

BB code is **On**
Smilies are **On**
[IMG] code is **On**
HTML code is **Off**

Forum Jump

Forum Rules

Tutorials & Tips

ubuntu forums - archive - top

vBulletin ©2000 - 2009, Jelsoft Enterprises Ltd. Ubuntu Logo, Ubuntu and Canonical © Canonical Ltd. Tango Icons ©
Tango Desktop Project.