

## SUMMARY: remote CDE logins

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To: Unix Managers <[tru64-unix-managers@ornl.gov](mailto:tru64-unix-managers@ornl.gov)>

This mailing list has proven to be a very valuable resource of information again, thanks to everyone who responded!

Below is a summary of replies I received. I hope someone else will find it as useful as I do.

Answer received from Peter Stern:

It is a little difficult to understand exactly what you are doing here, but if I understand correctly, you are mixing up the terminology of client and server. What you call your workstation (merlin) is in fact your Xserver and it is there that you need to run `xhost +` to allow access by any client (e.g. `xterm` running on what you call your server). In short, your "DISPLAY" is what is serving X to the X application (client, e.g. `xterm`) you are running on it.

Answer received from J.A. Gutierrez:

`xhost +` will disable access control, so anyone can access your X server. This means anyone can get a copy of your screen, snoop your keyboard, etc...

CDE/xdm login access is controlled by an Xaccess file, usually `/etc/dt/config/Xaccess`

`xhost` modifies the access list of current X server process.

Next time you start the Xserver (for instance by logging out) the access list is reset.

You should not use `xhost` at all unless:

- You are in a private network
- Without non trusted users

`xhost` -> host based (usually). Any user on that host can get access to your display. Is disabled by default.

`xauth` -> user based. Is enabled by default; `xdm` will create

the cookies when you log in your CDE session.

Answer received by Peter Wolfe:

Correct. xhost does not set things persistently. It's basically calling the X11 apis: XSetAccessControl, XEnableAccessControl, XDisableAccessControl, etc. These control the run-time behavior of the X server.

dxhosts is a SysMan application that helps to make the xhost settings persistent. If you run dxhosts at startup, then your "preferred hosts" will automatically be ""xhost +hostname" for you.

Do you want an entire CDE login session from the remote machine or just individual windows? For the entire session, you can start the X server in -query mode. See the CDE Advanced User's and System Admin Guide for details. Basically you do: X -query <remote host> it makes the local X server act like an X terminal. You get a session from the remote host. See the other XDCMP options in this section of the docs as well.

See the Xsecurity man page for gory details but you have the gist of it. Xhosts is user based access control and the other methods are user-based. These methods use the .Xauthority file and