

Re: How to transfer X11 auth across sudo invocation

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.unix.aix/2008-02/msg00263.html>

- *From:* dsharp <sharp.doug@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 28 Feb 2008 10:19:13 -0800 (PST)
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On Feb 28, 9:31 am, "david.karr" <davidmichaelk...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Feb 28, 4:11 am, dsharp <sharp.d...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Feb 27, 3:47 pm, "david.karr" <davidmichaelk...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

I connect from my Windows box to a AIX 5.3 box using SecureCRT, which allows the transfer of X11 packets to my local box.

When I log in as myself into the box, with my local Cygwin-provided X server running, I can display windows perfectly fine.

However, if after logging in, I then "sudo" to an administrative account and then try to run something that tries to display windows, it says that it can't connect.

I tried doing "env | sort" from both my user account and the administrative account, to compare the differences. On the admin shell, I set the following env vars from their value on my user account:

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DISPLAY, SSH_AUTH_SOCK, SSH_CLIENT,
SSH_CLIENT, SSH_CONNECTION,
SSH_TTY

However, it still fails to connect. I imagine that one of these variables is "tied" to my user account somehow, and won't work if I just copy the value over (probably a good idea :).

So, what can I do to facilitate this connection from the admin account to my local box's X server?

When you say you sudo to an admin account, do you mean "su - root" (or "su -") ? If so, have you tried omitting the dash in the su command so you don't replace the DISPLAY variable established by SecureCRT with root's DISPLAY variable? On my AIX box, if I have a working X tunnel via SSH to my user account and do "su - " then I get the same results you get, but if I just "su" then I can run x in the root shell.

Doug

Well, that was promising for a moment.

Apparently my company restricts the non-"-" form more than the "-" form. I have permission to sudo using "-", but when I do it without it, it says:

Sorry, user <me> is not allowed to execute '/usr/bin/su <admin>' as root on <hostname>.

There is a setting in the sudoers config file that controls how env variables are passed when you run sudo. Maybe the person that manages your sudoers file can change it for you. See the info about env_keep and related env info here: <http://www.gratisoft.us/sudo/man/sudoers.html> or the comments in the sudoers file itself. I've used env_keep to manage unusual env variables for non-root users using sudo on Linux. I manage sudo on

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AIX but I haven't used this feature there, so it's possible the AIX impl doesn't support it. On Linux, for example, the following is a default:

```
Defaults env_reset
Defaults env_keep = "COLORS DISPLAY HOSTNAME HISTSIZE INPUTRC
KDEDIR \
LS_COLORS MAIL PS1 PS2 QTDIR USERNAME \
LANG LC_ADDRESS LC_CTYPE LC_COLLATE
LC_IDENTIFICATION \
LC_MEASUREMENT LC_MESSAGES LC_MONETARY LC_NAME
LC_NUMERIC \
LC_PAPER LC_TELEPHONE LC_TIME LC_ALL LANGUAGE
LINGUAS \
_XKB_CHARSET XAUTHORITY"
```

Doug

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