

Data Analysis Applications Group (DAAG) Update: SSH

Justin Burruss
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SSH is better than telnet

- It's common to use telnet to connect to remote computers
- But SSH is better!
- It encrypts your password
 - telnet does not encrypt your password—anyone can see it!
- You don't need to set your \$DISPLAY variable
 - SSH will forward your X traffic for you
- It's fewer letters to type
 - Just type “ssh” at the UNIX prompt

SSH keys can be used to save time

- SSH can be configured to use public key authentication
 - An alternative to username/password
- The idea is to generate a public key and a private key
 - Public key is world-readable
 - Private key is readable only by the user
- Then add your public key to the list of “authorized keys”
- Since you have a common home directory in the LSF cluster, you can then ssh around between machines without typing your password
- A secure alternative to the .rhosts file
- The setup details are tricky because we have different versions of the underlying SSL software installed on different systems