

Unix and Computer Science Skills Tutorial

Getting Started

January 22, 2016

1 Logging In

These workbooks are intended to help you get comfortable using the Linux workstations provided by the department. Therefore you need to start by finding a Unix workstation. If you're in the tutorial, then you should be sitting in front of one now, otherwise you can find one in the two long open areas of the lab or the two Linux teaching labs, Math Science 160 and Math Science 176 (so long as there's no tutorial going on in there).



Figure 1: A map of the lab. The red places are the Linux workstations. The orange place is the Help Desk. In case you'd like your own map (without the fancy overlays) take a look at <http://ucmapspro.ualgary.ca/RoomFinder>.

To log in you need a Computer Science User Account. To get one, you need to be registered in a CPSC course and talk to the Tech Support help desk in Math Science 151. They will get you set up with your account and your first password. You should also read the User Agreement http://www.cpsc.ualgary.ca/tech_support/agreement and their Getting Started Guide http://www.cpsc.ualgary.ca/tech_support/help/getting_started.

The workstation will ask you for your user name and password. If it doesn't you may need to swipe the waiting screen up from the bottom to get it to show you the log in screen. Once you're logged in you should be looking at the Fedora desktop, and you can then get started. (See Figure 2)

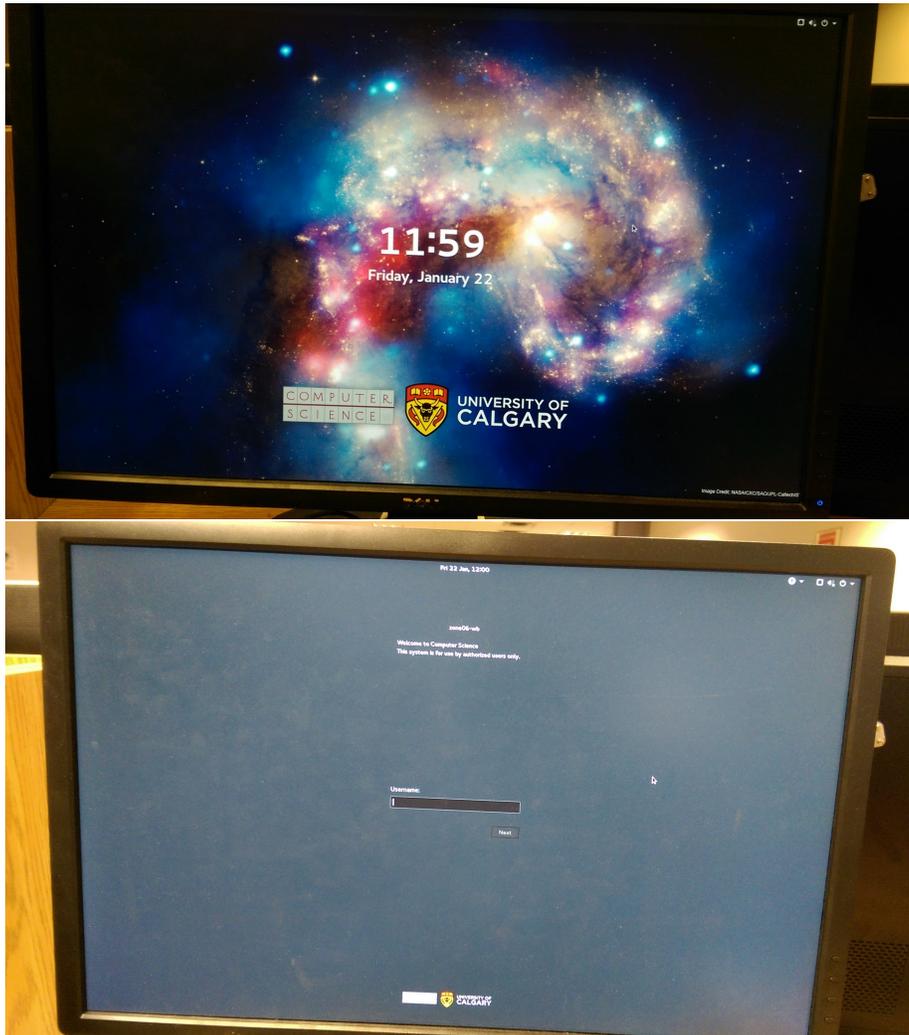


Figure 2: Login

2 Getting Started

You are going to need three things to get started. A web browser, to access the workbooks for the tutorial, a terminal to practice using your commands in, and

a text file to keep your answers in.

To launch all of these you need to take to use the Activities menu in the top left. Click there and then click on the grid of 9 squares halfway down the screen. This lists all programs, then you can search for “Firefox” for the web browser, “Terminal” for the terminal and “gedit” for the text file. (See Figure 3, 4, 5)

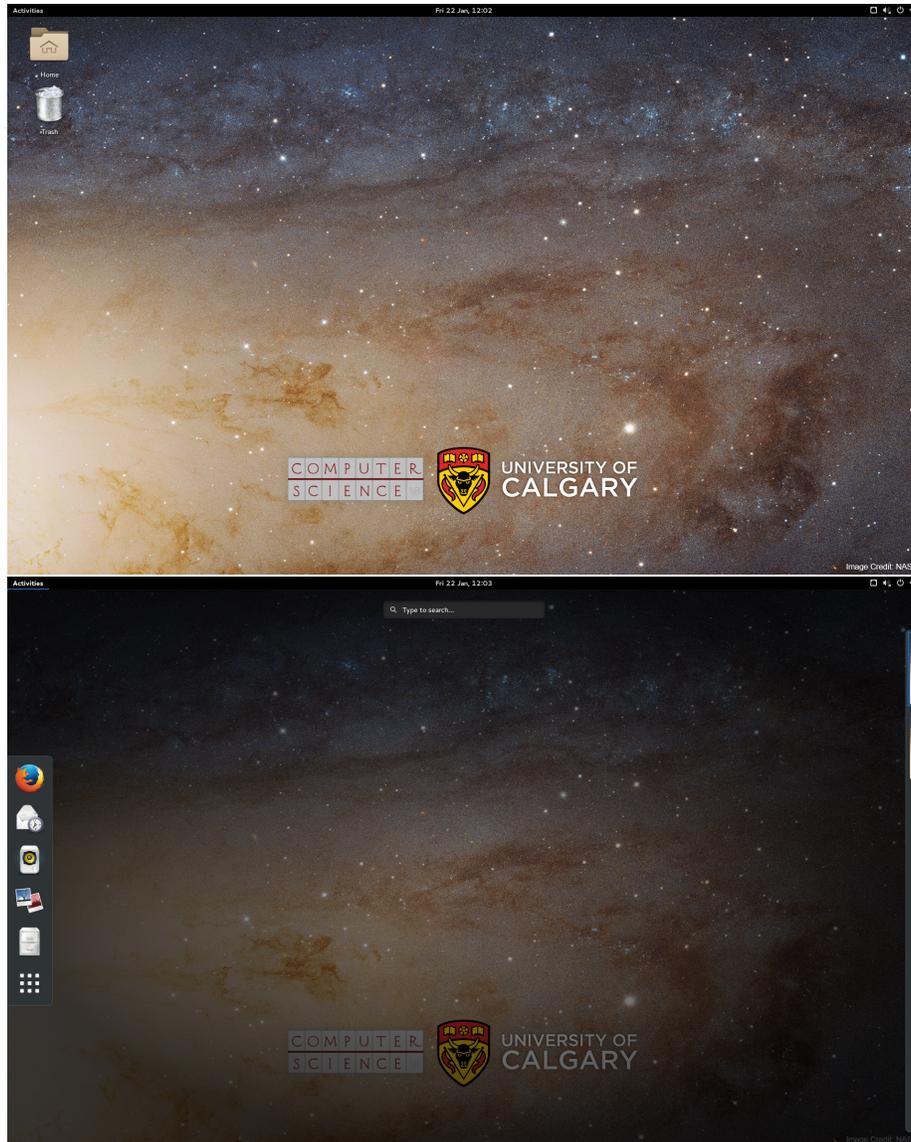


Figure 3: Finding the Activities

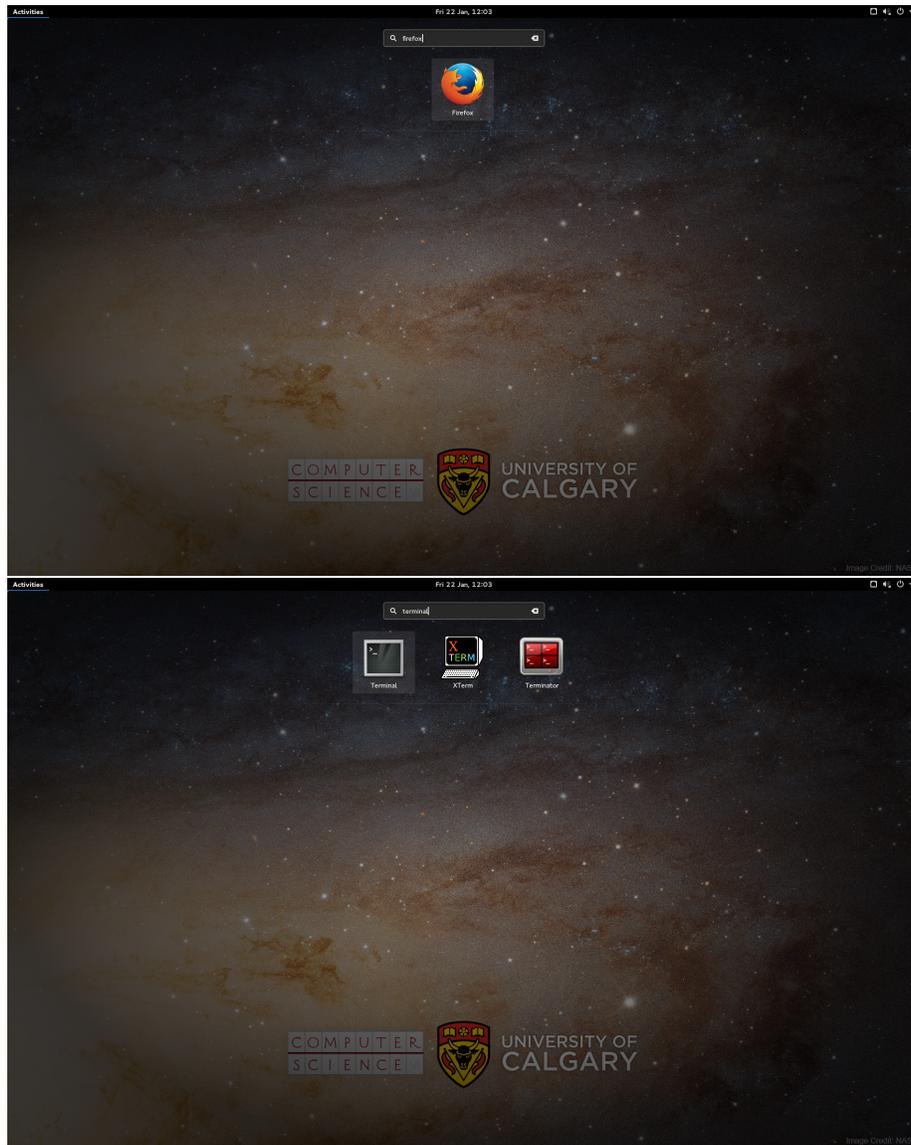


Figure 4: Finding Firefox and the Terminal

Once you have everything running you can find the first workbook on my page <http://pages.cpsc.ucalgary.ca/~tjkendon/ta/unix/f15>. Read through the workbook, practice the commands on the terminal (and play with your own) and record the answers to the questions in your plain text file. If you want me to check your answers later, you can send me your answers file.

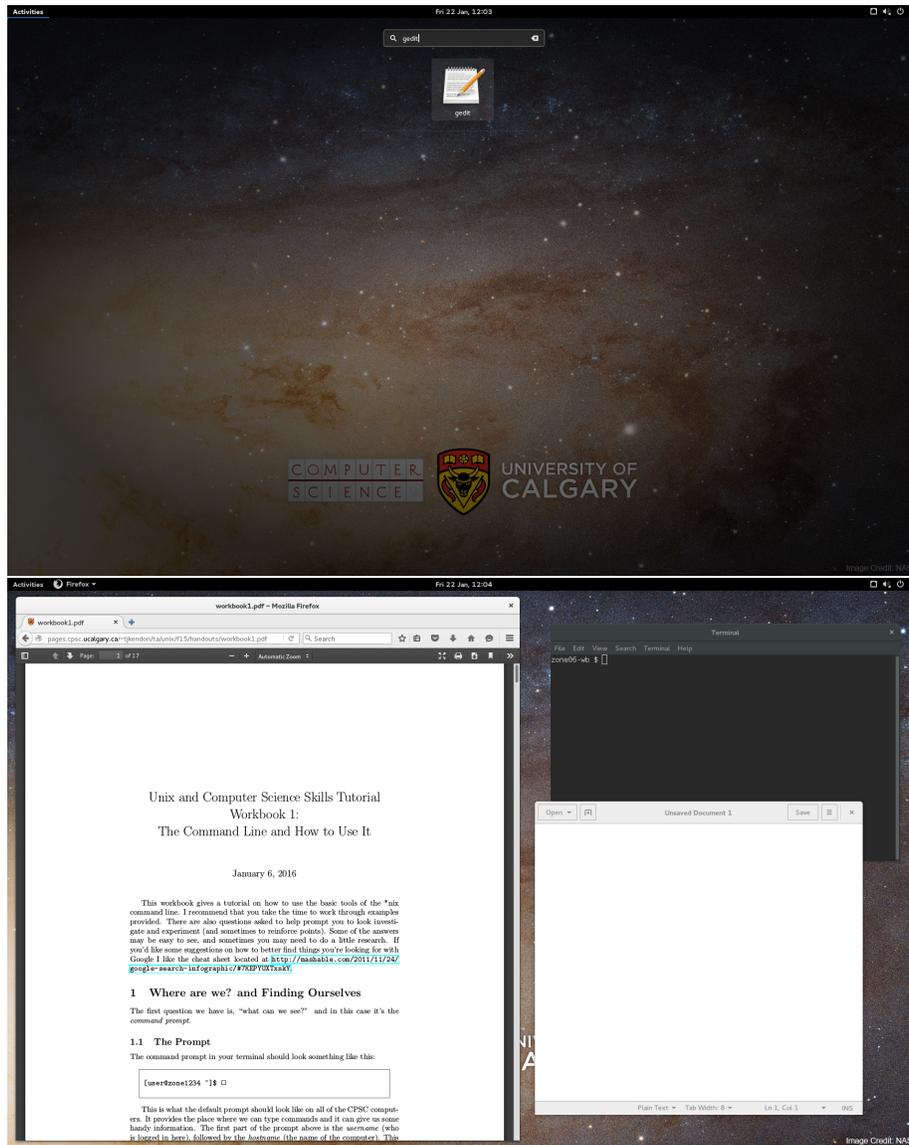


Figure 5: Finding Gedit and getting ready to start

When we say “plain text file”, we mean a file that only has the text from the document in it. Document editors such as Microsoft Word or LibreOffice keep a lot of information about the font and design of the document. This tends to be information that isn’t necessary and requires that the person you are sharing the document with be able to read it.

A plain text file is plain. It only has the words you type in it. In Computer Science you can always share a plain text file with someone. (Any time you’re programming, remember that the interpreter (python) or the compiler (java) expect a plain text file, too. They don’t care about your font.)

To log out, click the power icon in the top right corner and then click on your name to find the logout button.

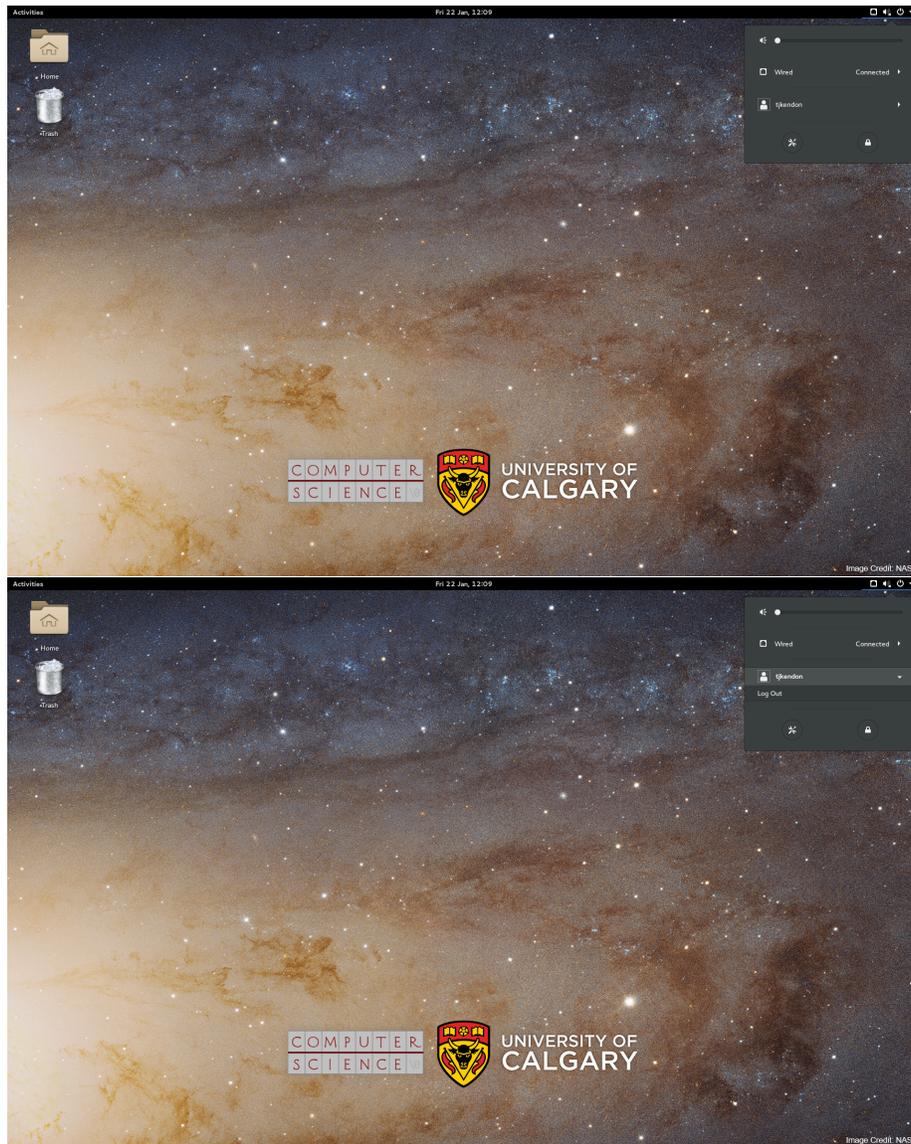


Figure 6: Logging out

3 Some Stuff that May Help

The first thing to know is that no one knows everything. Searching through the resources online is an important skill. You'll want to work on your *google-fu*, which includes being able to constrain and refine your searches, but also includes being able to find the right words to practice. The guide at <http://mashable.com/2011/11/24/google-search-infographic/#7KEPYUXTxskY> has some good tools to help you get started.

Sometimes computers break, do something unexpected or worst of all won't let you log in. In these cases you should go talk to our Tech Support in MS 151. They're there to keep the you and the lab up and running.

If you have trouble with course work, especially for first year classes, the department offers a continuous tutorial. In CT TAs stay in the lab to help you with problems related to doing your assignments and the material from your classes. The CT desk is just outside MS 151 (under the big sign that says Continuous Tutorial).