

GNU/Linux Administration - Support #593

Sharing Mouse and Keyboard on Arch

04/08/2015 04:56 PM - Daniel Curtis

Status:	Closed	Start date:	04/08/2015
Priority:	Normal	Due date:	
Assignee:	Daniel Curtis	% Done:	100%
Category:	Workstation	Estimated time:	1.00 hour
Target version:	Arch Linux	Spent time:	3.00 hours

Description

I use Arch Linux for my primary workstation OS, however I also have Ubuntu derivative workstations that I occasionally need to access. To make life easier I have one workstation that only has a monitor and network connection and I share my mouse and keyboard from my Arch laptop to with my other Ubuntu-based workstation using synergy. This is a guide to set up sharing a mouse and keyboard on Arch Linux with an Ubuntu client using synergy.

NOTE: This guide has DNS records for workstation1 (Arch) and workstation2 (Ubuntu); if DNS is unavailable, then add IP addresses for the workstations in /etc/hosts.

Setting Up The Synergy Server on Arch

- Install synergy:

```
sudo pacman -S synergy
```

- Create a new configuration file:

```
sudo cp /etc/synergy.conf.example /etc/synergy.conf
```

- Edit the synergy server config file:

```
sudo nano /etc/synergy.conf
```

- And modify the config accordingly:

```
section: screens
    # Define two screen hosts named workstation1 and workstation2
    workstation1:
    workstation2:
end

section: links
    # Set workstation2 above workstation1
    workstation1:
        up    = workstation2

    # Set workstation1 below workstation2
    workstation2:
        down = workstation1
end
```

- Test the server in the foreground, you can run the following command instead:

```
synergys -f
^C
```

- The synergy server process needs to attach to your user's X session, which means it needs to run as your user. Enable it as the appropriate user:

```
systemctl enable synergys@user
systemctl start synergys@user
```

Setting Up The Synergy Client on Ubuntu

- Install synergy:

```
sudo apt-get install synergy
```

- My system is setup to automatically log in, so I added a simple start up application by going to [System -> Preferences -> Startup Applications](#) and click **Add**:
 - Name: **Synergy Client**
 - Command: **/usr/bin/synergyc -f workstation1**
 - Comment: **Connect to workstation1 keyboard/mouse**
 - **Save**

Setting Up The Synergy Client on Arch

- Connect to the synergy server manually:

```
synergyc workstation1
```

Synergy With Systemd

- To start the Synergy client with systemd, create a service file:

```
vi /etc/systemd/system/synergyc@.service
```

- And add the following:

```
[Unit]
Description=Synergy Client Daemon
After=network.target

[Service]
EnvironmentFile=/etc/conf.d/synergyc.conf
ExecStart=/usr/bin/synergyc --no-daemon --debug ${DEBUGLEVEL:-INFO} ${SERVERALIAS}
User=%i

[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target
```

- And optionally a config file:

```
vi /etc/conf.d/synergyc.conf
```

- And add the following:

```
DEBUGLEVEL=WARNING
SERVERALIAS=workstation1
```

- To start the service for your user,

```
systemctl start synergyc@user
```

Resources

- <https://wiki.archlinux.org/index.php/Synergy>
- <http://askubuntu.com/questions/15212/start-synergy-on-boot>

History

#1 - 04/08/2015 05:06 PM - Daniel Curtis

- Description updated
- Status changed from New to In Progress
- % Done changed from 0 to 50
- Estimated time set to 1.00 h

#2 - 04/08/2015 05:25 PM - Daniel Curtis

- Description updated

#3 - 04/15/2015 04:58 PM - Daniel Curtis

- Description updated

#4 - 04/15/2015 05:14 PM - Daniel Curtis

- Description updated
- Status changed from In Progress to Resolved
- % Done changed from 50 to 100

#5 - 04/19/2015 07:10 PM - Daniel Curtis

- Status changed from Resolved to Closed

#6 - 08/30/2015 04:34 PM - Daniel Curtis

- Subject changed from Sharing Mouse and Keyboard on Arch with an Ubuntu Client to Sharing Mouse and Keyboard on Arch
- Description updated