

Operating Systems – Fall 2003
Laboratory Assignment Number 3
Assigned August 18, 2003
Due August 25, 2003
100 Points

Name: _____

Instructions:

Answer the following questions in the space provided. For assistance you can use the Linux Documentation Project Website <http://www.tldp.org>. You may discuss with each other during the lab. However, the submitted assignment must be completely your own work.

Question 1:

How can the tail command be used to look at the changes in a text file in real time? Give an example of its use for this purpose.

Question 2:

What is the purpose of the files (1) /var/log/messages (2) /var/log/syslog (3) /etc/syslog.conf?

Question 3:

What is a bootsector? How big in bytes is it?

Question 4:

What is the purpose of the dd command. Show how you would use it to copy the system bootsector to a file named bootsect.bin.

Question 5:

What is a disk partition table? How many types of disk partitions are there? What is the difference between a primary partition and an extended partition?

Question 6:

Read the manual page of the GNU C/C++ compiler and list the programming languages supported by it. Can the GCC run on Windows? Are there any freely-available Windows-based IDEs for GCC?

Question 7:

What is the purpose of the swap partition? Is there any thing equivalent in Windows NT/XP?
What should be the size of the swap partition?

Question 8:

How does the Linux/UNIX operating system know which interpreter to use to execute a shell script? Name at least three commonly used interpreters for shell scripts.

Question 9:

List the sequence of steps you would take to reset a lost root password on a Linux system.

Question 10:

Make a flow chart of the RedHat Linux installation process starting from the position that you have three partitions of you hard disk showing up as C:, D: and E: drives under Windows XP. All the partitions are formatted in NTFS. The C: and D: drives have your Windows XP operating system and data respectively whereas E: drive is empty and you would like to use it to install RedHat Linux.