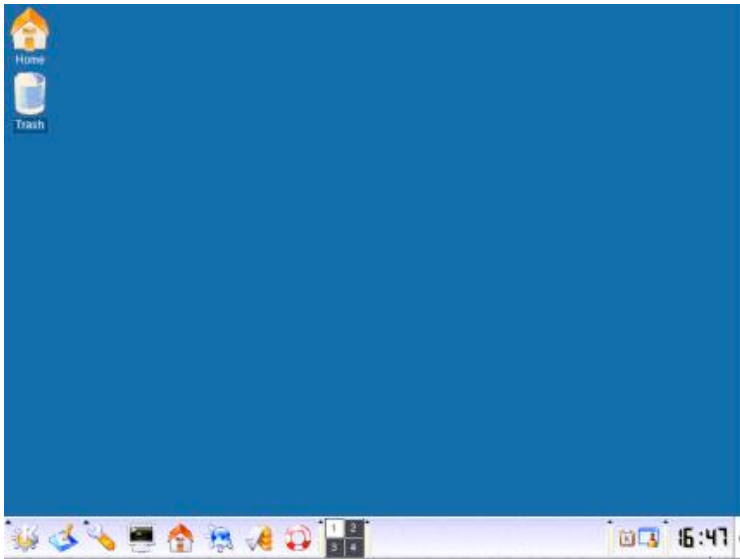# Introductory Laboratory Handout
CSP125 Fall 2004
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You have been assigned a username and password, which you should have received before going to the lab. The computers are normally turned on the welcome screen will have a window that looks something like this. Type in your username and password to log in.

As you type are typing your username, the words will show up on the screen, however, as you are typing your password the letters you type will NOT show up on the screen. You must type in exactly what you are given as a login and password in the correct boxes. If you make a mistake, you will have to re-type them again. It may take a few minutes for the login process to complete. When the KDE configuration window(s) pop up just click next until you can click finish.

Once logged in your screen will look like this:

Changing your Password

The first thing you need to do is change your password. Open a terminal window by clicking on the terminal icon at the bottom left

hand side of the screen (the fourth icon from the left!) .

This will bring up a terminal window which will allow you to communicate with the computer. Move your mouse into this new window (shell) and click the mouse, you are now ready to begin typing. Then you will use the linux command **yppasswd** to change your password. Make sure you chose a password that is easy for you to remember but difficult for others to guess. It is a good idea to make your password a mix of letters and characters. You will be asked for your old password first, then you will need to type your new password twice as shown below. Now you are ready to practice some linux commands. You do not need to change your password every time you log in, just every couple of months, or when you think someone might have guessed your current password.

Creating Directories

Before creating new directories lets make sure you are in your home directory (this is the directory you will arrive at each time you log in). Type the linux command **pwd** (print working directory); the computer will respond by printing out the directory you are working in. For example if your login name is *mia* and you have just logged in, running the **pwd** command would give you something like this

/students/04/mia

If your username is NOT the last word (called a string in computer terms) then you are not at your home directory. To return to your home directory from any other directory just type **cd** (change directory) with no arguments. This will return you to your home directory.

To make a directory you can use the command mkdir to make a new directory – this time you do need an argument – namely the name of the directory you wish to create. Try **mkdir myfirstdir**. Then type **ls** to give you a list of files and directories in your home directory. You should see myfirstdir listed. Now change down to the new directory using **cd myfirstdir** – if you type **ls** again you will see there are no files! To go back up to your home directory type **cd** and then **ls** again. To remove the directory myfirstdir use **rmdir myfirstdir**. This will only work if the directory has no files in it. To remove any files use **rm** then the filename e.g. rm hello.cpp Try ls again to see if you actually deleted the directory!. You will need these commands to complete your first lab, there are also pointers from WebCT Helpful Links with lots of new commands you can try out if you are interested!

Starting your Lab

Open web browser using the world icon

Now Go to the WebCT page for this course follow the instructions for Laboratory 1. **Remember to submit your LAB work through WebCT.**