NAME

xhost – server access control program for X

SYNOPSIS

xhost [[+-]name ...]

DESCRIPTION

The **xhost** program is used to add and delete host names or user names to the list allowed to make connections to the X server. In the case of hosts, this provides a rudimentary form of privacy control and security. It is only sufficient for a workstation (single user) environment, although it does limit the worst abuses. Environments which require more sophisticated measures should implement the user-based mechanism, or use the hooks in the protocol for passing other authentication data to the server.

Hostnames that are followed by two colons (::) are used in checking DECnet connections; all other hostnames are used for TCP/IP connections.

User names contain an at-sign (@). When Secure RPC is being used, the network independent netname (e.g., "unix.*uid@domainname*") can be specified, or a local user can be specified with just the username and a trailing at-sign (e.g., "joe@").

OPTIONS

Xhost accepts the following command line options described below. For security, the options that effect access control may only be run from the "controlling host". For workstations, this is the same machine as the server. For X terminals, it is the login host.

[+]*name* The given *name* (the plus sign is optional) is added to the list allowed to connect to the X server. The name can be a host name or a user name.

–*name* The given *name* is removed from the list of allowed to connect to the server. The name can be a host name or a user name. Existing connections are not broken, but new connection attempts will be denied. Note that the current machine is allowed to be removed; however, further connections (including attempts to add it back) will not be permitted. Resetting the server (thereby breaking all connections) is the only way to allow local connections again.

+ Access is granted to everyone, even if they aren't on the list (i.e., access control is turned off).

– Access is restricted to only those on the list (i.e., access control is turned on).

nothing If no command line arguments are given, a message indicating whether or not access control is currently enabled is printed, followed by the list of those allowed to connect. This is the only option that may be used from machines other than the controlling host.

DIAGNOSTICS

For each name added to the access control list, a line of the form "*name* being added to access contro list" is printed. For each name removed from the access control list, a line of the form "*name* being removed from access contro list" is printed.

FILES

/etc/X∗.hosts

SEE ALSO

X11(7), **Xserver**(1), **xdm**(1)

ENVIRONMENT

DISPLAY
to get the default host and display to use.

BUGS

You can't specify a display on the command line because –**display** is a valid command line argument (indicating that you want to remove the machine named *''display''* from the access list).

This is not really a bug, but the X server stores network addresses, not host names. If somehow you change a host's network address while the server is still running, *xhost* must be used to add the new address and/or remove the old address.

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