Answers to Even-numbered Exercises

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2. Give three examples of poor password choices. What is wrong with each? Include one that is too short. Give the error message the system displays.

See page 106 for password error messages. Examples of poor password choices are

finger	word in the dictionary
tom	login name
aqbfgya	does not contain a number
5q	too short

4. What is a context menu? How does a context menu differ from other menus?

A context menu has choices that apply specifically to the window or icon you click and that differ from window to window. Some windows do not have context menus. Frequently, a right click brings up a context menu.

6. Where is the Main menu button, and what does it look like? Why is it an important tool?

As Red Hat ships GNOME and KDE, the button is a red hat. This button displays the Main menu, which lists many of the applications you can run on the desktop; it provides an easy way to list and run programs.

8. What is input focus? When no window has the input focus, what happens to the letters you type on the keyboard? Which type of input focus do you think you would like to work with? Why?

Input focus specifies the window that receives keyboard input. When no window has the input focus, keyboard input is lost. Which method you like is a matter of personal preference.

10. What is the Main panel? What does your Main panel show you, and what can you do with it? Discuss the Pager and Taskbar applets.

By default, the Main panel appears at the bottom of the screen. It houses icons and applets that display information and allow you to start, restart, and close programs/windows.

The Pager and Taskbar (page 80) help you go to a specific workspace or window/program on your desktop. The Taskbar displays a rectangle for each program that is running on the desktop. Left click a rectangle to iconify/restore the corresponding window. Right click to display the Panel Icon menu.

The Pager displays a grid, with each section of the grid representing a workspace. The workspace you are using is shaded. Click a section of the grid to display the corresponding workspace.

12. What happens when you ALT + right drag within a window? What difference does it make where the mouse pointer is within the window (top, side, and so on) when you start to drag?

ALT + right drag resizes the window. To resize a window horizontally, position the mouse pointer close to one of the sides of the window before you drag. For a vertical resize, position the pointer close to the top or bottom of the window. When you position the pointer near a corner, you can resize both directions at once.

14. When the characters you type do not appear on the screen, what might be wrong? How can you fix it?

Assuming the GUI environment is otherwise functioning properly and that the keyboard is plugged in, the input focus is probably not directed to a window that can receive input from the keyboard. Move the mouse over the window where you want the characters to appear, and click. Now, that window should have the input focus and the characters you type should appear there.

Some windows, such as a browser window, do not normally accept input from the keyboard; even though the window has the input focus nothing appears when you type.

16. You saw that man pages for write appear in sections 1 and 2 of the system manual. Explain how you can use man to determine what sections of the system manual contain a manual page with a given name.

Use man with the –f option (equivalent to whatis) to list man entries for the argument that follows this option. Or use man with the –a option to display all of the entries for the argument that follows this option.