

G-Bar Survival Guide For Newbies!

Version 1.0 By Christian Viller Hansen, G-Bar Support, January 2005

1 Login

To logon to the system, type in your username (**sXXXXXX** where the **X**'s represent your student number) and press **OK** or enter.

When you type your password, there will be no indication, eg. “*”. This is a UNIX way of preventing others from seeing how long your password is.

Before you click **OK** to your password you have the opportunity of selecting a different Desktop Environment using the menu: **Options**→**Session**→.

CDE is a lightweight system, but it is old and not very similar to Windows. KDE and GNOME are large systems with many tools and nice graphics. Unfortunately, KDE and GNOME are quite slow compared to CDE. A new possibility is **IceWM**, which is a lot like Windows and the fastest - a very good choice for newbies.

2 Locating the Menu

In CDE you click the middle mouse button on the background. In IceWM, KDE and GNOME you can find the menu by clicking on the icon in the lower left corner like Windows. From now on this menu is referred to as “the menu”. The programmes installed in the menu can also be found on <http://www.gbar.dtu.dk/soft>.

3 Browsing

The default browser in the G-Bar is Mozilla Firefox. This is an open source browser built upon Netscape, and can be downloaded for most platforms at <http://www.mozilla.org/>.

Mozilla is very similar to Internet Explorer and displays all well-written pages. **There is no reason to start “win desk” to use campusnet. Firefox is much faster.**

A cool feature of Firefox is “tabbed browsing”, which makes it possible to have different pages loaded in the same window. If you hold the **ctrl** key when clicking on a url, the page will be loaded in another tab. Another cool shortcut is

ctrl + and **ctrl -** which increases and decreases the font size.

4 Mail

You can read your student mail in various ways. The default is Mozilla Thunderbird, which can be found in the menu. In IceWM you can click on the mail-looking icon in the bottom right corner. Thunderbird is similar to Outlook Express and other graphical mail clients. It is preconfigured to your student e-mail address.

If you don't care about the graphical interface and just want to read your emails quickly, Pine is a good alternative. Start it from the menu or write **pine** in a terminal. The mouse won't help you here, but the shortcuts are listed in the bottom of the window. The first time you run Pine it welcomes you.

5 Office Suite

In the G-Bar, two systems are available: StarOffice and OpenOffice. They share the same codebase, but StarOffice is a SUN product while OpenOffice is community driven. The difference is faster developement of OpenOffice and better documentation and testing of StarOffice.

Both StarOffice and OpenOffice can be started from the menu under Office tools. Unless otherwise stated, OpenOffice has the same features as StarOffice, these include: *word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, drawing (similar to corel draw) and database*.

A nice built-in feature is that you can export your document to the well known PDF-format. It is possible to open MS Office files with StarOffice. Some special features in MS Office documents might not be recognized, but usually the documents will look almost identical in Office and StarOffice.

You can download OpenOffice for free from <http://www.openoffice.org/> to your home computer, to be able to use the same system at home.

5.1 L^AT_EX

L^AT_EX is the preferred tool for writing scientific reports and documentation. Visit the G-Bar supported L^AT_EX-site for more information:

<http://www.student.dtu.dk/~latex/>

Unfortunately, the page is in Danish, so if that's a problem, search for “The Not so Short Introduction to L^AT_EX” on Google or whatever search engine you prefer. The advantages compared to Word is that references to pictures, equations, pages, sections etc. can be made in a well documented way and you don't need to worry about it. A great thing is that you work on the document in a text editor so you can write a large report with an unlimited number of equations and pictures on an old computer.

6 The Terminal

Most things on UNIX can be made either by using a graphical interface or by typing some commands in a terminal. The ability to do operations in a terminal makes it possible to automate repetitive tasks and generally do things much more quickly. At first sight a terminal looks similar to DOS, but it is much more powerful.

The terminal is started either from the menu or by clicking one of the buttons which looks like a screen/computer icon. The window will open with a prompt, which looks like this:

```
bohr(s001234) $
```

where **s001234** is your student id. All graphical programmes can be started from the command prompt by writing the command and pushing enter.

The following sections will give you some information and examples on how to manage your files from the command line.

6.1 Examples

When you start the terminal, you will be in your home directory. In recent Windows versions, directories are called folders, but there is no difference. To make your life complicated, **never create files or directories with special characters or spaces in the directory name**. Use “.” or “_” instead.

6.1.1 Directories

Create a directory called “lection1” with the command **mkdir**:

```
bohr(s001234) $ mkdir lection1
```

Go to the directory called “lection1” using the command

```
bohr(s001234) $ cd lection1
```

Substitute “lection1” with “.” above and you go back to the home directory.

directory containing “lection1”. If you write `cd` alone, you go back to your home directory referred to as `~`.

6.1.2 Files

To list the contents of the current directory use `ll` for long listing and `ls` for short listing.:

```
bohr(s001234) $ ll
```

Copy the file “notes.pdf” to the directory “lection1” (*assuming you are in your home directory*):

```
bohr(s001234) $ cp notes.pdf lection1/
```

Delete the file “notes.pdf”:

```
bohr(s001234) $ rm notes.pdf
```

Moving and renaming files are done with the command `mv`.

Move and rename the file “notes.pdf” to “lec2/notes1.pdf”:

```
bohr(s001234) $ mv notes.pdf lec2/notes1.pdf
```

6.1.3 Select patterns

If you want to do something to multiple files at the same time, you can use `*` and `?` to select multiple files. `cp n* dir/` will copy all files beginning with `n` to “dir”. The question mark is a character substitute, so the command `rm n?.txt` will delete all files beginning with “n” and one unknown character and ending with “.txt” (this could be “no.txt” or “n3.txt”).

7 Media Servers

You can use the Media Servers to read and write cd’s, usb-sticks etc. Locate an available media server and insert your media or device.

Go back to your Thin Client and find the “Mediaserver FTP login” in the menu under Mediaserver. Use the selector to get to your device. An FTP program will appear where your homedir will be in the left window and the selected media will be in the right window. Move your files using the mouse.

7.1 Burning CD’s

To burn a CD, you begin by copying the files to the media server using the method described above. Then, go to the Media Server and log on with the username: “cdrw” and password: “cdrw”. A CD-burn program will appear and you

can burn your files.

More information: <http://www.gbar.dtu.dk/guide>

8 Printing

In this section we use the printer called `gps1-303`, which is printer `gps1` in Building 303, and files called `example.x`, where `x` is the type of file.

Office documents can be printed from StarOffice or OpenOffice. PDF-files can be printed by starting Acrobat Reader from the menu and in the print dialog writing

```
lpr -P gps1-303
```

Many UNIX programs have this type of print dialog, where you have to write a print command.

If you want to print a PostScript file, the easiest way to do so is to start a terminal and then writing:

```
bohr(s001234) $ lpr -P gps1-303 example.ps
```

8.1 Queue management

You can get a list of all jobs on a particular printer by using the `lpq` command.

```
bohr(s001234) $ lpq -P gps1-303
```

Locate your print job on the list; the number in the “Job” column is id for your print session, in this case eg. 123. To remove your job from the queue use the command `lprm`.

```
bohr(s001234) $ lprm -P gps1-303 123
```

Any user can remove other peoples print jobs, but this is only acceptable in emergencies. **Your account will be closed if you abuse this privilege.**

9 File Management

Graphical file management can be done using the program called “rox”. This is a drag and drop filemanager, which will feel similar to the Windows explorer except for the missing treeview.

10 Remote Login

One of the strengths of the UNIX world is the easy remote facilities, meaning you can log on to the system from any

computer connected to the Internet.

10.1 Graphically

Using “ThinLinc” you will be able to connect to the system and get the usual desktop. A guide is available on the page <http://www.gbar.dtu.dk/guide?id=93>.

This requires a fast Internet connection.

10.2 Terminal Login

If you have a Linux or UNIX workstation at home and want to use the G-Bar, `ssh` is a very fine choice. You write `ssh -C -X sXXXXXX@bohr.gbar.dtu.dk`. If `bohr` is crowded select `erlang` or one of the other servers. You will then get the G-Bar prompt and you will be able to run graphical applications through a secure connection.

If you have a new `ssh` client you might have to write “yes” in the config to be able to use graphical applications properly.

10.3 Files

If you have files at home you want to move to your account or the other way around you can use the secure copy `scp`. In Windows you download “WinSCP” and select the G-Bar servers as your host. In Linux you can use `scp` directly from your command prompt.

```
scp s001234@erlang.gbar.dtu.dk:lec2/notes1.pdf .
```

Will copy the file home. If you want to copy to the local file just write:

```
scp filename.pdf s001234@erlang.gbar.dtu.dk:.
```

11 Further information

The G-Bar Homepage is <http://www.gbar.dtu.dk/>. If you cannot find an answer to your problem there, you can contact G-Bar Support at gbar-support@student.dtu.dk.

If you are into parallel processing, you have come to the right place. If you want to make large simulations, you might become a HPC (High Performance Computing) user. The homepage for this is <http://www.hpc.dtu.dk/>.