INTRODUCTION
TO THE CSE COMPUTING SYSTEM

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering manages a distributed computing system for use by students in CSE courses. The set of machines which are available for instructional use consists of a server ("adriatic") running the Linux operating system, a server ("north") running the Solaris operating system, and a number of Linux and Windows workstations.

Additional information is available on the Department’s website:

http://www.cse.msu.edu/facility/

***** CSE Accounts *****

To use the CSE computing system, you must have an authorized account. When you enroll in a CSE course, you will be assigned an individual account (consisting of a "username" and a "password") which allows you to access any of the instructional servers and workstations. Normally, your CSE username will be the same as your MSU NetID (email address), and your password will be your MSU PID (beginning with the letter ‘A’).

Use the "Account Portal" on the CSE website to view information about your account or to change your password:

https://secure.cse.msu.edu/account/

If you are unable to access your CSE account, please see your instructor or one of the Teaching Assistants.

The first time that you access your account on the CSE system, you will be prompted to change your password. You should select a password that is not easily guessed by other users, such as an arbitrary set of characters that has special meaning to you.

After you change your password, you will automatically be logged off the system. Please wait for a minute or two before accessing your account again while the CSE system is updating the central database with your new password.

Subsequently, whenever you want to access the CSE system, you will enter your personal username and password. Any files which you create will be saved under your home directory.

You are responsible for maintaining the security of your account and files. Use the command "passwd" frequently (at least once a month) to change your password on the CSE system.

***** Accessing the CSE System *****

You can access the CSE computing system at a number of rooms managed by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering in the Engineering Building.

Linux workstations: 3340 and 3353 EB

Windows workstations: 3203, 3320 and 3353 EB

Also, you can access the CSE system at most of the rooms managed by the College of Engineering (DECS), the MSU Computer Laboratory, and other campus departments by logging onto one of the CSE servers.
In addition, you can access the CSE system from essentially any computer connected to the Internet, such as your own computer. The Department’s website has information on remote access:

http://www.cse.msu.edu/Facility/Services/SSH.php

To access the CSE systems remotely, you must use a Secure Shell (SSH) client on your computer. Information about installing and using SSH is available on the Department’s website.

A. Remote Access

To access the CSE server from your personal computer, you’ll use a terminal emulation package and then connect to "north.cse.msu.edu".

1. Microsoft Windows systems

On Windows systems, you may wish to install "SSHWin", which can be downloaded from the CSE website:

http://www.cse.msu.edu/Facility/Services/SSH.php

Additional information about using that terminal emulator is available.

There are several settings that you may wish to update:

   Edit ==> Settings ==> Tunneling (select "Tunnel X11 connections")
   Edit ==> Settings ==> Keyboard (select "Backspace sends Delete")
   File ==> Save Settings

When you execute the terminal emulator, you can then connect to the correct CSE server ("north.cse.msu.edu").

2. Apple Macintosh systems

On Mac OS X systems, there is a built-in terminal emulator:

   Applications ==> Utilities ==> Terminal
   <prompt> ssh -X your_username@north.cse.msu.edu

B. Graphical User Interfaces

UNIX systems typically use the X Window System (X11) to support graphical user interfaces. Thus, you will need to run an X server package on your personal computer if you wish to run certain packages (such as "xemacs" and "gedit").

On Windows systems, you may wish to install "Xming", which can be downloaded from the developer’s website:

   http://sourceforge.net/projects/xming

Once it is installed, be sure to run the program in the background before running any programs which use a GUI.

On Mac OS systems, an X11 package is usually part of the standard setup.