

Session: Administration with Webmin

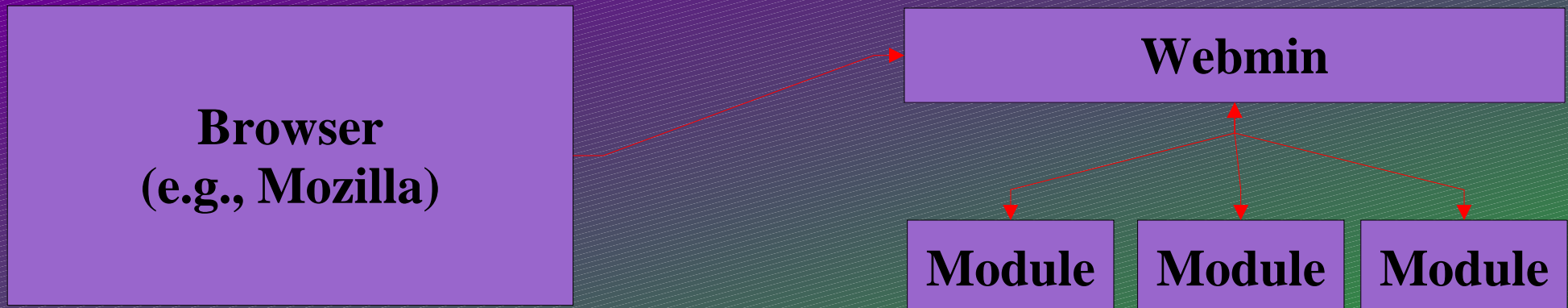
Linux/UNIX Administration made Easy



Webmin Overview...

- ◆ What is Webmin?
- ◆ Installing and Connecting to Webmin
- ◆ Security Issues with Webmin
- ◆ Configuration

What is Webmin?



- ◆ A PERL program
- ◆ Web interface - has an integrated web server
- ◆ Modular - modules for managing various services can be added

Installing and Connecting...

- ◆ Installing....
 - ◆ Download the RPM, verify signature, and install
 - ◆ Identifies your OS and launches itself automatically
 - ◆ Can be managed with the chkconfig / service programs
- ◆ Connecting....
 - ◆ Browser based - defaults to port 10000
 - ◆ <http://localhost:10000/>
 - ◆ Enter 'root' and root password to log in

Security Issues with Webmin...

- ◆ No HTTPS without certain Perl modules.
 - ◆ Use Apache as a reverse proxy for HTTPS support, or
 - ◆ Use stunnel (not as robust as Apache), or
 - ◆ Block all incoming connections except SSH, and use an SSH tunnel (`ssh user@host -L 10000:127.0.0.1:10000`).
 - ◆ With the above three, tell webmin to only permit connections from 127.0.0.1.
- ◆ Blocking ports....
 - ◆ Webmin listens on both TCP and UDP ports - be sure your firewall blocks all of webmin's ports as needed (use `netstat` with `-p` to see what ports webmin is listening on).

Security Issues with Webmin...



◆ Referrer Checking...

- ◆ Webmin -> Webmin Configuration -> Trusted Referers
- ◆ Default configuration is secure
- ◆ If you link to webmin servers from your Intranet pages, add those pages in the above dialog.



◆ Webmin Users...

- ◆ Webmin -> Webmin Users
- ◆ You can configure additional users to be able to use webmin.
- ◆ A good idea, but remember to guard the password(s) as carefully as the root password!

Security Issues with Webmin...

- ◆ Browser-based Remote Access Considerations:
 - ◆ Remote access via browser can be notoriously risky
 - ◆ Log in only from trusted computers which are properly maintained
 - ◆ Avoid Internet Explorer
 - ◆ Don't let browser remember the username/password for you
 - ◆ HTTP vs. HTTPS as mentioned before
 - ◆ Explicitly Log Out when Done

Webmin Accessibility...

- ◆ Misconfigurations...
 - ◆ As with any remote admin tool, a mistake in configuration could cause the system to become inaccessible.
 - ◆ The risk is increased when access to webmin depends on Apache, STunnel, or SSH.
 - ◆ It is good to have SSH access available also.
- ◆ Crashing...
 - ◆ Installing a service monitor can help reduce the risks associated with Webmin crashing.

Configuration and Use...

- ◆ Cleaning up the Interface...
 - ◆ There are a lot of modules you don't need.
 - ◆ Deleting: Webmin -> Webmin Configuration -> Modules
 - ◆ Hiding: Webmin -> Webmin Users (disable modules)
 - ◆ Hiding: Webmin -> Webmin Configuration -> Reassign
- ◆ Use...
 - ◆ Use Webmin where it makes life easier. Use standard methods (e.g., command prompt) for *infrequent* configuration activities or where Webmin may not be mature.

Issues to be Aware Of...

- ◆ Shows config tools regardless of whether the package is on your system.
- ◆ Don't be restricted by what Webmin has modules for (e.g., backup software).
- ◆ Looks relatively consistent, but modules are not always very aware of each other (e.g., Linux users vs. Samba users).
- ◆ Don't rely entirely on it - you will still need the command line.
- ◆ But it is a great way to get started playing with the functionality of Linux