Managing Linux Servers via CSSH

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Usage

- manage multiple SSH sessions at the same time
- this tool is intended for managing multiple systems where the same configuration or commands can be run concurrently
- handy for cluster management as well
- works on RedHat Enterprise, Redhat Fedora, CentOS, Debian and Ubuntu
- "should" work on any POSIX compliant UNIX style OS, i.e. cygwin

Installation

- Ubuntu/Debian/PopOS sudo apt-get install -y clusterssh
- Fedora/RHEL/Centos
 sudo yum (dnf) install -y clusterssh

GitHub: https://github.com/duncs/clusterssh.git

Caveats

Like many UNIX tools, ClusterSSH has the potential to go horribly awry if you aren't very careful with its use.

It would take 100 men 100 years to screw things up the way CSSH can in one millisecond... seriously...

I mean it...

trust me on this...

Super Fancy Tip: Remember to try to use global commands such as 'sed' instead of just depending on cursor movements, as the file you're editing might not be the same across all clients.

Global Configuration Files

There are three global configuration files:

/etc/clusters

Contains a list of cluster names and the hosts mapped to the specified cluster.

/etc/tags

Reversed logic to /etc/clusters. This allows you to specify one host as a member of multiple tags.

/etc/csshrc

This file contains default configuration overrides.

User Specific Configuration Files

There are also three user specific files that can overwrite the global files.

\$HOME/.clusterssh/clusters

User specific version of /etc/clusters

\$HOME/.clusterssh/tags

- User specific version of /etc/tags

\$HOME/.clusterssh/config

User specific version of /etc/csshrc

The Config Files

Global Config:

/etc/csshrc

Personal Config:

\$HOME/.clusterssh/config

Default options are overwritten first by the global file, and then by the user file.

An Example Config File

## /etc/csshrc	
screen_reserve_top = 25	Number of pixels from the screen's side to reserve when calculating screen geometry for tiling. Setting this to something like 50 will help keep cssh from positioning windows over your window manager's menu bar if it draws one at that side of the screen.
screen_reserve_bottom = 25	
screen_reserve_left = 20	
screen_reserve_right = 20	
terminal_font = 6x12	Font to use in the terminal windows. Use standard X font notation. You can find available fonts in /usr/share/fonts/X11/misc/font.alias
terminal_reserve_top = 80	Number of pixels from the terminal's side to reserve when calculating screen geometry for tiling. Setting these will help keep cssh from positioning windows over your scroll and title bars or otherwise overlapping the windows too much.
terminal_reserve_bottom = 25	
terminal_reserve_left = 5	
terminal_reserve_right = 5	
terminal_size = 100x90	Initial size of terminals to use. NOTE: the number of lines (24) will be decreased when resizing terminals for tiling, not the number of characters (80).
window_tiling = yes	Perform window tiling (set to 0 to disable)

Running cssh ad-hoc

You can run cssh as-is (without a pre-made client list) using this one-line command:

```
cssh -l username server_ip_address_1 server_ip_address_2 server_ip_address_3
```

example:

cssh -l root fedora01 fedora02 centos01

Running with a "clusters" file

You can run cssh using a global or local clusters file with:

```
cssh -l username clustername (no username in file) cssh clustername (username specified in file) example:
```

cssh -l root clusterubuntu

Formats:

cssh <clustername> -l username <server>[:port] <server>[:port] [...]

A Sample /etc/clusters

```
# clusters = my ubuntu systems
clusterubuntu ubuntu01 ubuntu02 ubuntu03

# clusters = my fedora systems
clusterfedora fedora01 fedora02 centos01

# clusters = all of my systems
clusterall ubuntu01 ubuntu02 ubuntu03 fedora01 fedora02 centos01
```

Or:

clusters = my ubuntu systems with user name clusterubuntu jeff@ubuntu01 jeff@ubuntu02 jeff@ubuntu03

Running with a "tags" file

You can run cssh using a global or local tags file with:

cssh -l username tagname

A Sample \$HOME/.clusterssh/tags

```
#KWLUG test
ubuntu01 ubuntu kwlug
ubuntu02 ubuntu kwlug
ubuntu03 ubuntu kwlug
fedora01 fedora kwlug
fedora02 fedora kwlug
centos01 fedora centos kwlug
```

Nifty Parameters

overridden by <user>@<host>.

```
--action '<command>', -a '<command>'
      Run the command in each session, e.g. "-a 'vi /etc/hosts'" to drop straight into a vi session.
--fillscreen
      Resize terminal windows to fill the whole available screen
--port <port>, -p <port>
      Specify an alternate port for connections.
--tag-file '<filename>', -r '<filename>'
      Use supplied file as additional tag file (see also "FILES")
--unique-servers. -u
      Toggle connecting to each host only once when a hostname has been specified multiple times.
--username '<username>'. -l '<username>'
      Specify the default username to use for connections (if different from the currently logged in user). NOTE: will be
```

See https://github.com/duncs/clusterssh for more.
There's more parameters at https://linux.die.net/man/1/cssh as well

PSSH (parallel ssh)

Similar to cssh, but generally only does one command per session.

Parameters:

- -h host_file
- --hosts host file

Read hosts from the given host_file. Lines in the host file are of the form [user@]host[:port] and can include blank lines and comments (lines beginning with "#"). If multiple host files are given (the -h option is used more than once), then pssh behaves as though these files were concatenated together. If a host is specified multiple times, then pssh will connect the given number of times.

- -l user
- --user user

Use the given username as the default for any host entries that don't specifically specify a user.

Examples:

Connect to host1 and host2, and print "hello, world" from each: pssh -i -H "host1 host2" echo "hello, world"

Print "hello, world" from each host specified in the file hosts.txt: pssh -i -h hosts.txt echo "hello, world"