

Lab 2:

Pratt Pundit

2.1 Introduction

This assignment is aimed at getting you started on the public OIT Linux machines as well as using the Pratt wiki. Specifically, this document goes through logging in, opening a terminal window, starting a browser, and connecting to the course home page as well as the Pratt Pundit wiki. By the end of the recitation, you will have created an account for yourself on the wiki and edited at least your user page. You will be responsible for completing this assignment on your own time, and may choose to go to recitation periods or TA office hours for help.

2.2 Resources

The additional resources required for this assignment include:

- Books: neither
- Pratt Pundit Pages: `PrattWiki:Introduction`, `EGR 53`, `EGR 53 Startup`, `Template:Q`, `Template:A`
- Others: Wikipedia Tutorial

2.3 Logging In to a Linux Station

To run programs at the workstation, log in using your NET ID and password. After the initialization is complete, right-click and select **Open Terminal**. This will bring up a window that serves the same purpose as a terminal client - only now you are actually sitting at the machine you are controlling. From this window, you can issue whatever UNIX or other commands you want. Also note that you can have as many terminal windows as you like - just remember that each time you open a new one it goes to your home directory; you will need to issue `cd` commands if you want to be somewhere else.

2.4 Course Web Page and PDF Files

To start a browser, you can type

```
firefox &
```

at the command prompt. The `firefox` part will bring up the FireFox browser while the `&` will give control of the terminal back to the user. Since FireFox is a graphical program, you will have to use the `&` or else it will “own” the terminal.

Once FireFox is running, double-click in the URL window, erase what is there, and replace it with:

```
http://classes.pratt.duke.edu/EGR53F09
```

This is the homepage for the course. You will likely go here often, so you may as well bookmark it. From the **Bookmarks** menu, select **Bookmark This Page**. In the Folder option, you can choose to make it a regular or you can put it in the **Bookmarks Toolbar**. The bookmarks toolbar is part of the space under the URL window - adding a bookmark there will let you simply click the name of the bookmark rather than having to go into the Bookmarks menu. Pick whichever option you like best.

In the class web page, go to the **Assignments** section and click on the PDF link for the cover page. Depending upon your browser configuration, either the file will open or you will get a dialog box. If you get the latter, make sure the radio button next to **Open with** is selected and hit **Browse...** In the **Location** window, type:

```
/usr/bin/acroread
```

hit return, and then click the box next to **Do this automatically...** Then click **OK**. From here on our, your Linux browser should automatically open PDF files with the Adobe Acrobat reader installed by OIT. Behold the typographical wonder that is a cover page created with \LaTeX , then close the Acrobat Reader.

2.5 Pratt Pundit

Next, you will go to the Pratt Pundit wiki page. In the URL window, replace whatever is currently there with:

```
http://pundit.pratt.duke.edu
```

This address should take you to the Main Page of the Pratt Pundit. There are several different sections to this web page.

2.5.1 Wiki Tutorial

To understand how they work, scroll down to the section called **Getting Help Working With Wikia** and click on the link called **Wikipedia Tutorial**. Go through the entire tutorial; note that you do not have to register with Wikipedia to complete the tutorial, but you are certainly welcome to. The tutorial will give you a good overview of how wikia set up using the MediaWiki program work. Pratt Pundit falls squarely into this category.

Once finished with that tutorial, point your browser back to

```
http://pundit.pratt.duke.edu
```

and note that it looks very similar to Wikipedia.

2.5.2 Registration

One major difference between Pundit and Wikipedia involves editing rights - Wikipedia is generally editable by anyone, including anonymous accounts. For Pratt Pundit, pages are *viewable* by anyone, but only registered users can make edits. And to be a registered user, you must have an e-mail address that ends in duke.edu. Click on the **Log in / create account** block at the top right of the screen. From that page, click the **Create an account** link. You will need to provide a username, password, and e-mail address. You may also choose to put in your real name. Pay attention to the notes under the e-mail block. Once you have created an account, Pundit will send an e-mail to your Duke account with information on how to confirm your registration.

To access your Duke account through a browser, point the browser to

```
http://myduke.com
```

or

```
https://devilnet.duke.edu
```

and use your Duke ID and password to log in. You will be taken to your e-mail account, where there should be an e-mail from Pundit. Follow the directions in the e-mail to confirm your account registration - you are now able to view *and* edit pages on Pundit!

2.5.3 Question and Answer

Pratt Pundit is currently set up with two helpful scripts, called *templates*, that facilitate asking questions and getting answers. If you go back to the Pundit main page, scroll down to the **What Can You Do?** section and click on the link for the **Q Template**. This page will explain how the template works - basically, you will go to the **discussion** page for an article and put the characters `{{Q}}` in front of your question. At the end of your question, put four tildes to sign and date the question. Once you have done that, your question will show up on the **Category:Questions** page. To see *that* page, you can click on the **Category:Questions** link in the first paragraph of the **Template:Q** page. There should at least be one page listed - there is apparently a question on the talk page for DukeEgr93. There may be others if questions have been asked.

For answering questions, it is helpful both to answer the question and to let the questioner know there has been an answer posted. Using MediaWiki, you can leave notes on other users' talk pages. When a user gets a new note, MediaWiki will tell them the next time the log in or, in fact, the next time the open a page on the wiki. There is a link to information on using the **A Template** in the **Category:Questions** description.

2.6 Assignment

2.6.1 User Page

Now that you have gone through the Wikipedia tutorial and have registered on Pratt Pundit, you are ready to start editing pages. The first page most people edit is their user page. At the top of the window, among other things, you should see your user name. If you click on it, you will be at your user page. Go ahead and edit it. You can add whatever you want - within the boundaries of reason and decorum. You are not required to put any personal information, but if you want, you can list interests and things like that. For an example of a user page, you can see Dr. G's at

```
http://pundit.pratt.duke.edu/wiki/User:DukeEgr93
```

2.6.2 Grand Challenges

Take a look at the **Grand Challenges for Engineering** page on Pratt Pundit. This page will contain some helpful information and references for the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) Grand Challenges for Engineering. Duke in fact hosted a summit about them in Spring of 2009. If you go to the External Links section, you will see a few articles are in place about the challenges in general as well as about specific challenges. Your job is to find an article about one of the challenges and post it to your user page. This should be an *independent* project - do not look at other peoples' work when coming up with your article.

The basic format for a link such as this is:

```
[http://web.page Name of page], Page Author, Page Owner, Creation or  
Last Updated Date, Date Accessed (Grand Challenge)
```

For example, one of the links about the Grand Challenges, in general, is:

```
[http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=111158 Leading  
Engineers and Scientists Identify Advances That Could Improve  
Quality of Life Around the World], National Science Foundation,  
updated 20 February 2008, accessed 15 August 2008 (General)
```

and it is given without a Page Author because none is given on the page. Other examples can be seen on the **Grand Challenges for Engineering** page with the exception that those articles do not have the (Grand Challenge) part appended to it.

2.6.3 Credit

Soon, you will have a grader assigned to you. When that happens, you should send your grader an e-mail containing - at least - your name, any helpful hints you can provide on how to properly say it, your NET ID, and your Pundit user name. Once all the graders are assigned you will receive an e-mail from Dr. G reminding you to do this. Your grader will then check your user page and your Pundit article.