



NC Tip #16: Local Xlock

Customer Requirement

A customer wants to replace 250 Tektronix X terminals with the NC900 products, but management requires that if the user leaves his/her desk, the desktop device must lock the screen automatically within three minutes so no unauthorized user can access the device.

Definition

Xlock is a program that locks the X terminal so a user cannot access the device without first entering a password. It also makes the windows on the screen unreadable so an unauthorized user cannot read information from the screen.

The benefit of Xlock is that a user does not have to log-off if he/she is going to leave the area and then log back on upon returning. Xlock is a more time efficient method of securing an X terminal.

Solution

The NCBridge/NC900 solution comes standard with a local Xlock client that allows the user to click on a menu selection and start the local Xlock client.

Configuration Hints

A Unix script can interrogate the NC900 to see if any interaction has taken place with the NC900 during a particular interval; such as three minutes. If the NC900 has not been accessed during that time period, the local NC900 Xlock can be automatically activated. When the user returns to his/her desk, a password entry is required to access the terminal's session.

Benefits

A local client, such as the local Xlock, offers two major benefits:

1. It off-loads the host computer
2. It off-loads the network