

Several issues with /etc/hosts.allow at a university setting

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Recently I was required to "register" my laptop (running Fedora 3) with my university's computer support office in order to use their internet on campus. Somehow in this self-guided on-line process they automatically created a new hostname for my computer.

The next time I booted up with the ethernet connected, my computer booted under this new hostname rather than localhost (as it will do if I don't have the ethernet plugged in at boot time). Basically I am very frustrated by this because I consider this having been "hacked". I never created the hostname on my computer or did anything to tell my computer that it should boot up under anything but localhost. Is this some default setting in dhcp perhaps??? How to remove?

Other problems that occur of this new arrangement is that my display won't work if booted under the new hostname. If I boot under localhost (ethernet cable not plugged in) then I get display up (as usual). But as soon as I plug the ethernet cable and do `/sbin/ifup eth0`, the hostname switches to the new host name and I lose the ability to open any new apps requiring the display. I can do `xhost +` prior to calling `/sbin/ifup` and everthing will work fine.

However, I've heard `xhost +` is an insecure way of doing things though since it allows all hosts. Trying more restrictive `"xhost hostname"` etc did not fix the display problem only `"xhost +"` seems to work.

Questions:

1) I don't want to be booted into the new host name even if the ethernet is plugged in and active at boot. How do I turn off this automatic "get thyself hacked" behavior. Basically when I want to connect to the internet I'd like to a) switch to the new hostname and then b) do `/sbin/ifup eth0`. In otherwords I want to be able to control the hostname of my own damn computer. Seems reasonable to me...

2) I assume X is not aware of the new host name. I thought adding the new host to `/etc/hosts.allow` was the prefered way rather than `xhost +`. But this doesn't seem to do anything at all. Is `/etc/hosts.allow` the

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correct file to use for this?

3) Another drag is that if I yank the connection to the internet after being booted into the new host name, the display is again in a non-functional state. How do I get back control of the display. In other words, there should be a way of stating OK now go back to being localhost and run display from there.