Notes -- getting the Windows32 x2go client working

Background:

We loaded the x2go client using the executable at

[**http://prdownload.berlios.de/x2go/x2goclient-3.01-2-setup.exe**](http://prdownload.berlios.de/x2go/x2goclient-3.01-2-setup.exe)

When attempt a login session we get the following error:

“Can’t read host RSA key C:\cygwin\etc\ssh\_host\_rsa\_key.pub”

This error indicates that a file does not exist at the location that is apparently hard coded into the app. It is not clear if the issues on my computer generalize to others but here is a summary of how I fixed this problem.

The first issue was that I had never generated an RSA public / private key pair. This can be done from the CYGWIN terminal with the following command:

* ssh-keygen -t rsa

The system will respond with a message that it has generated a pair and asks for a file name -- take note of the folder it writes to -- In my case this was

/cygdrive/c/Documents and Settings/cjohnson/.ssh/id\_rsa

In other words -- cygwin has decided to use a folder structure within my Windows profile.

I accepted all defaults -- in particular

* I did not change the file name
* no password
* --- defaults for everything.

Now if you cd to the above mentioned folder you will probably find the following files

* id\_rsa
* id\_rsa.pub
* known\_hosts

To make the x2go client function you have to cp these files to new folders and rename them. Here's how

First -- here is the error message again

“Can’t read host RSA key C:\cygwin\etc\ssh\_host\_rsa\_key.pub”

From this we can infer what public key file name and the folder x2go is expecting to find within cygwin.

In my case, the .\cygwin\etc folder existed -- so I just copied the id\_rsa

* cp /cygdrive/c/Documents\ and\ Settings/cjohnson/.ssh/id\_rsa\* /cygdrive/c/cygwin/etc/.

and changed the names to the default the x2go requires.

* mv id\_rsa ssh\_host\_rsa\_key
* mv id\_rsa.pub ssh\_host\_rsa\_key.pub

Once I did this the system then displayed a different error when loading that indicated it could not find the "authorized\_keys" file in folder C:\cygwin\home\cjohnson\.ssh

A little exploration indicated thatthe "home…" folder structure was completely missing. So I constructed this folder structure

* cd /cygdrive/c/cygwin
* mkdir home
* cd home
* mkdir .ssh
* cd .ssh

Then I copied the "known\_hosts" file into this folder and renamed it as "authorized\_keys"

* cp /cygdrive/c/Documents\ and\ Settings/cjohnson/.ssh/known\_hosts /cygdrive/c/cygwin/home/cjohnson/.ssh/authorized\_keys

To make sure this file is writeable I modified permissions

* chmod 600 authorized\_keys

Now the client seems to be working OK. But I still can't get the web-browser plugin to work.