

Synergy on Mac OS X

Introduction

The reason I wrote these notes is that I have some issues with the default readme provided with Synergy. First off, it instructs you to copy Synergy right into the `/usr/bin` directory. That's for the OS to manage, not for user based installs. Second, it instructs the user to enable root which brings up security concerns. Last the instructions use `chmod 777` which leaves things even wider open.

Using the beta of Synergy it is a bit buggy and the keyboard is not mapping correctly. Instead, looking at commercial solutions, <http://www.keyboard-and-mouse-sharing.com/download.htm> - looks promising

Setup of Command Client

Setup of `/usr/local/bin`

Traditionally in Unix, the `/usr/local/bin` directory is,

- Reserved for binary applications that are manually installed and evoked from the command line
- Available from any location because it is in the system path
- Will not be touched by the core Operating System during upgrades

Though this is not common on Mac OS X, it is still Unix based. If you take a look at the default system path, even if the `/usr/local/bin` directory is not present, it is still in the path,

```
echo $PATH%  
/usr/bin:/bin:/usr/sbin:/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/X11/bin% # Results will  
vary depending on what is installed on your system.
```

The `/usr/local` directory will already exist on your system. However, depending on what is installed the `bin` directory probably does not exist yet so we will create it,

```
cd /usr/local  
sudo mkdir bin
```

Next, we copy the synergy software into the `bin` directory.

Manually Install Synergy

Download Synergy but do not unzip it. We are going to remove the extra download dialog box attributes,

```
ls -al # Notice the @ symbols in the permissions column.  
xattr -d com.apple.quarantine synergy-1.4.4-MacOSX106-Universal.zip  
ls -al # Now the @ symbol is gone.
```

Unzip the file.

Next, change to the unzipped folder and manually install Synergy,

```
cd ~/Downloads/synergy-1.4.4-MacOSX106-Universal # Sample location
sudo chown root:wheel *
sudo chmod g+rx synergyc synergys
sudo chmod o+rx synergyc synergys
sudo chmod g+rw synergy.conf.example
sudo chmod o+rw synergy.conf.example
sudo cp -R synergy* /usr/local/bin/
```

Setup of GUI to Run Services

Unless you want to setup Synergy on the mac with a text editor (which is error prone and can be quite confusing), download [QSynergy](#).

Install QSynergy as you would any other Apple application.

Read [Dušan Vuković article on setting up QSynergy](#) with the minor addition of pointing to your installation of Synergy.

References

Purpose of /usr/bin/local - <http://superuser.com/questions/192281/purpose-of-usr-local-bin-on-linux-system>

Mac OS X GUI Setup Guide - <http://www.dusanvuckovic.com/tutorials-2/interoperability/multiple-computers-with-one-keyboard-and-mouse-synergy/h>