Doing the Labs

COM-208: Computer Networks

You have several options for doing the labs:

- On your own laptop. One challenge with this option is that the lab may not work exactly as expected on your environment. In this case check the next option.
- On a virtual machine (VM) provided through vdi.epfl.ch. This is a good option if you have a non-Unix machine. See below for instructions.

When the lab instructions refer to your "computer," they mean your vdi VM, or your laptop, depending on what you are using.

In each lab, you will need to start a Terminal and issue commands. The lab description will tell you which command to issue, for each task, and summarize what the command does. If you are curious, however, these summaries won't satisfy you. To learn more about a command, use your environment's man pages (e.g. if you type `man ifconfig` in the command line, that will display everything you could possibly want to know about the `ifconfig` command). And there are always online resources like Wikipedia that you can turn to.

You don't need to be a computer whiz to do the labs, but it will be helpful to know your way around your environment. E.g., if you use Linux or MacOS, you may find, respectively, this or that terminal primer useful.

Remote access through vdi.

- In your web browser, go to vdi.epfl.ch.
- On the vdi webpage, select `VMware Horizon HTML Access`, review any messages, and connect using your EPFL tequila credentials, if prompted.
- You should now see a list of VM images. Select `IC-CO-IN-INJ-2023-Fall` and wait for the VM to initialize. Keep in mind that any files in the "myfiles" folder will be lost as soon as you logout.
- [Optionally] change the keyboard layout to English:

- Click on `Activities` (top left corner); a search box will appear; type `Settings`.
- In the `Settings` window, on the left-hand side, select `Region & Language`.
- Then, in `Input Sources`, press the `+` button and select your preferred input source.
- Change the order of keyboard or remove unwanted ones.

Hello world: Getting a terminal

For all the labs, you will need to start a terminal and issue commands. The vdi VMs run Ubuntu. In Ubuntu, you can usually start a terminal using one of the following options:

- Right-click on the desktop and select `Open Terminal`.
- Click on `Activities` (top left corner); a search box will appear; type `Terminal`.