

Re: What's the deal on the -X vs -Y thing?

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.security.ssh/2005-01/0297.html>

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In article <ct4c0n\$umu\$1@usenet.cso.niu.edu>, Neil W Rickert <rickert+nn@cs.niu.edu> wrote:

>Host *

> ForwardAgent no

> ForwardX11 no

> ForwardX11Trusted yes

> StrictHostKeyChecking ask

>

> -----

>

>and all works fine.

>

>I first tried that with only a specific host -- the one where I
>most needed trusted X-forwarding. But that didn't work very well,
>so I made it apply to all. In practice, I only do X forwarding to
>trusted hosts anyway. My default is to forward neither X nor agent.

I suspect that was because you had a Host * entry at the top of the config file.

The config parser is "first match" not "longest match" and processes command line, user config, global config and defaults, in that order.

For example, if you have the following in a config file:

```
Host *
```

```
ForwardX11Trusted no
```

```
Host a
```

```
ForwardX11Trusted yes
```

when ssh'ing to host "a", the "Host *" block will set ForwardX11Trusted and the entry in "Host a" won't override it.

The upshot is:

- if you want a global `_override_`, put a "Host *" block at the top of the config file
- if you want a global `_default_`, put a "Host *" block at the bottom

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of the config file.

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GPG key 8FF4FA69 / D9A3 86E9 7EEE AF4B B2D4 37C9 C982 80C7 8FF4 FA69

Good judgement comes with experience. Unfortunately, the experience usually comes from bad judgement.