About this tutorial

Welcome to "Networking," the third of four tutorials designed to prepare you for the Linux Professional Institute's 102 exam. In this tutorial, we'll introduce you to TCP/IP and Ethernet Linux networking fundamentals, show you how to use the inetd and xinetd superservers, share important tips for securing your Linux systems, and show you how to set up and use a Linux print server.

This tutorial is ideal for those who want to learn about or improve their basic Linux networking and security skills. It's especially appropriate for those who will be setting up applications on Linux servers or desktops. For many, much of this material will be new, but more experienced Linux users may find this tutorial to be a great way of rounding out their important Linux system administration skills. If you are new to Linux, we recommend you start with Part 1 and work through the series from there.

By the end of this series of tutorials (eight in all; this is part seven), you'll have the knowledge you need to become a Linux Systems Administrator and will be ready to attain an LPIC Level 1 certification (exams 101 and 102) from the Linux Professional Institute if you so choose.

For those who have taken the release 1 version of this tutorial for reasons other than LPI exam preparation, you probably don't need to take this one. However, if you do plan to take the exams, you should strongly consider reading this revised tutorial.

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Section 2. TCP/IP networking

Introduction

Setting up an Ethernet-based Local Area Network (LAN) consisting of a bunch of Linux machines is a common and relatively simple task. Generally, all you need to do is make sure that your Linux systems have an Ethernet card of some kind installed in them. Then, connect the machines to a central Ethernet hub or switch using Ethernet cabling. If all your systems have support for their respective Ethernet card compiled into the kernel (as well as TCP/IP support), then they technically have everything they need to communicate over your new Ethernet LAN.

Ethernet alone isn't much fun

Even if you have all the hardware and kernel support needed for your LAN to work, an Ethernet LAN alone won't do much. The vast majority of Linux applications and services don't exchange information using raw Ethernet packets, or frames. Instead, they use a higher-level protocol called TCP/IP. You've undoubtedly heard of TCP/IP -- it's the suite of protocols that forms the foundation of Linux networking and the Internet in general.

The solution: TCP/IP over Ethernet

The solution, then, is to configure your new Ethernet LAN so that it can exchange TCP/IP traffic. To understand how this works, we first need to understand a bit about Ethernet. On an Ethernet LAN, in particular, the Ethernet card in every machine has a unique hardware address. This hardware address (also called an "Ethernet" or "MAC" address) is assigned to the card at the time of manufacture, and looks something like this:

00:01:02:CB:57:3C

Introducing IP addresses

These hardware addresses are used as unique addresses for individual systems on your Ethernet LAN. Using hardware addresses, one machine can, for example, send an Ethernet frame addressed to another machine. The problem with this approach is that TCP/IP-based communication uses a different kind of addressing scheme, using what are called IP addresses instead. IP addresses look something like this:

192.168.1.1

Associating an IP address with an Ethernet interface

In order to get your Ethernet LAN working for TCP/IP, you need some way of associating each machine's Ethernet card (and thus its hardware address) with an IP address. Fortunately, there's an easy way to associate an IP address with an Ethernet interface under Linux. In fact, if you are currently using Ethernet with Linux, your distribution's system
initialization scripts very likely have a command in them that looks something like this:

```bash
ifconfig eth0 192.168.1.1 broadcast 192.168.1.255 netmask 255.255.255.0
```

Above, the `ifconfig` command is used to associate eth0 (and thus eth0's hardware address) with the 192.168.1.1 IP address. In addition, various other IP-related information is specified, including a broadcast address (192.168.1.255) and a netmask (255.255.255.0). When this command completes, your eth0 interface will be enabled and have an associated IP address.

### Using `ifconfig` -a

You can view all network devices that are currently running by typing `ifconfig -a`, resulting in output that looks something like this:

```
eth0    Link encap:Ethernet HWaddr 00:01:02:CB:57:3C
        inet addr:192.168.1.1 Bcast:192.168.1.255 Mask:255.255.255.0
        UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST MTU:1500 Metric:1
        RX packets:0 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
        TX packets:0 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
        collisions:0 txqueuelen:100
        RX bytes:0 (0.0 b) TX bytes:0 (0.0 b)
        Interrupt:5 Base address:0xc400

lo      Link encap:Local Loopback
        inet addr:127.0.0.1 Mask:255.0.0.0
        UP LOOPBACK RUNNING MTU:16436 Metric:1
        RX packets:0 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
        TX packets:0 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
        collisions:0 txqueuelen:0
        RX bytes:262542 (256.3 Kb) TX bytes:262542 (256.3 Kb)
```

Above, you can see a configured eth0 interface, as well as a configured lo (localhost) interface. The lo interface is a special virtual interface that's configured so that you can run TCP/IP applications locally, even without a network.

### TCP/IP is working!

Once all of your network interfaces are brought up and associated with corresponding IP addresses (probably done automatically by your distribution's startup scripts), your Ethernet network can be used to carry TCP/IP traffic as well. The systems on your LAN can now address each other using IP addresses, and common commands such as `ping`, `telnet`, and `ssh` will work properly between your machines.

### Name resolution limitations

However, while you'll be able to type things like `ping 192.168.1.1`, you won't be able to refer to your boxes by name. For example, you won't be able to type `ping mybox`. To do this, you need to set up a file called `/etc/hosts` on each of your Linux boxes. In this file, you specify an IP address, along with the name (or names) that are associated with each IP address. So if I had a network with three nodes, my `/etc/hosts` file might look something like this:

```
127.0.0.1 localhost
192.168.1.1 mybox.gentoo.org mybox
192.168.1.2 testbox.gentoo.org testbox
192.168.1.3 mailbox.gentoo.org mailbox
```

Note that `/etc/hosts` contains an obligatory mapping of "localhost" to the 127.0.0.1 IP address. I've also specified the hostnames of all the systems on my LAN, including both their fully qualified name ("mybox.gentoo.org") and their short name ("mybox").

There's one important thing to note about the syntax of the `/etc/hosts` file -- the fully qualified name must appear first after the IP address, then it's followed by a list of optional aliases. So, while "testbox.gentoo.org testbox" is correct, "testbox testbox.gentoo.org" is not. Getting this wrong can cause name resolution to not work properly, so be careful.

After copying this `/etc/hosts` file to each of my systems, I'll now be able to refer to my systems by name, rather than simply by IP address: ping `mybox` (as well as ping `mybox.gentoo.org`) will now work!

### Using DNS

While this approach works for small LANs, it isn't very convenient for larger LANs with many systems on them. For such configurations, it's generally much better to store all your IP-to-hostname mapping information on a single machine, and set up what is called a "DNS server" (domain name service server) on it. Then, you can configure each machine to contact this particular machine to receive up-to-date IP-to-name mappings. This is done by creating an `/etc/resolv.conf` file on every machine that looks something like this:

```
domain gentoo.org
nameserver 192.168.1.1
nameserver 192.168.1.2
```

In the above `/etc/resolv.conf`, I tell the system that any host names that are not qualified (such as "testbox" as opposed to "testbox.gentoo.org," etc.) should be considered to be part of the gentoo.org domain. I also specify that I have a DNS server running on 192.168.1.1, as well as a backup one running on 192.168.12. Actually, nearly all network-connected Linux PCs already have a nameserver specified in their `resolv.conf` file, even if they aren't on a LAN. This is because they are configured to use a DNS server at their Internet Service Provider, in order to map hostnames to IP addresses. That way, names not listed in `/etc/hosts` (such as `ibm.com`, for example) will be forwarded to one of the DNS servers for resolution. In this way, `/etc/hosts` and `/etc/resolv.conf` can work in tandem to provide both local and Internet-wide name-to-IP mappings, respectively.

### Connecting to the outside

Speaking of connecting to the Internet, how would we configure our simple 3-system LAN so that it connect to systems on the "outside?" Typically, we'd purchase a router of some kind that can connect to both our Ethernet network and a DSL or Cable modem, or a T1 or phone...
This router would be configured with an IP address so that it could communicate with the systems on our LAN. In turn, we would configure every system on our LAN to use this router as its default route, or gateway. What this means is that any network data addressed to a system that isn't on our LAN would be routed to our router, which would take care of forwarding to remote systems outside our LAN. Generally, your distribution's system initialization scripts handle the setting of a default route for you. The command they use to do this probably looks something like this:

```
route add -net default gw 192.168.1.80 netmask 0.0.0.0 metric 1
```

In the above `route` command, the default route is set to 192.168.1.80 -- the IP address of the router. To view all the routes configured on your system, you can type `route -n`.

Homework

So far, we've given you a very brief introduction to Linux networking concepts. Unfortunately, we simply don't have the room to cover everything you need to know, such as how to select appropriate IP addresses, network masks, broadcast addresses, etc. In fact, there’s quite a bit more information you’ll need to learn in order to prepare for the LPI Level 102 exam.

Fortunately, the topic of Linux networking is one of the most comprehensively documented Linux topics around. In particular, we recommend that you read the Linux Network Administrators Guide, especially sections 2 through 6. Accompanied with our gentle introduction to Linux networking, the Linux Network Administrators Guide should get you up to speed in no time!

Section 3. Internet services

Introducing inetd

A single Linux system can provide dozens, even hundreds, of network services. For example, when you use the telnet program, you are accessing the telnet service on a remote system. Likewise, when you use the ftp program, you are connecting to the ftp service on the remote system.

In order to provide these services, the remote system either runs an instance of each server to accept connections (for example `/usr/sbin/in.telnetd` and `/usr/sbin/in.ftpd`), or runs inetd. What's the difference? While the `in.telnetd` and `in.ftpd` programs continually wait to handle incoming requests for specific services, the `inetd` program is able to listen for a variety of incoming connections and dynamically start the appropriate service to handle the connection based on its type. For this reason, `inetd` is also known as the "Internet superserver."

On a typical Linux installation, `inetd` handles most incoming connections. Only a few programs (such as sshd and lpd) handle their own network communication without relying on `inetd` to accept incoming connections. Often, services can be configured to run one of two ways -- either dynamically via `inetd` or in a "standalone" mode (like ssh and lpd) where they hang around listening for incoming connections themselves.

Configuring inetd: `/etc/services`

Specific network services typically use specific port numbers to accept incoming connections. For example, Web servers typically listen for connections on TCP port 80, and mail servers generally listen on TCP port 25.

The mapping between port number, protocol and the official service that runs on it is defined in the `/etc/services` file. Typically, this information is identical between every Linux machine, since these mappings are world-wide standards. Each line has the format:

```
service-name port-number/protocol-name aliases # comment
```

Let's look at a few lines from this file:

```
ftp 21/tcp
fsp 21/udp fsp
ssh 22/tcp # SSH Remote Login Protocol
ssh 22/udp # SSH Remote Login Protocol
```

Above, we can see that the ftp services runs on TCP port 21, and that the fsp service runs on UDP port 21. We can also see that the ssh service can listen on either TCP or UDP port 22. It's important to recognize that "ftp," "fsp," and "ssh" -- the first column of `/etc/services` -- are official service names. In a few panels, we will use these official service names to configure inetd.

Note: the IANA maintains the official mappings of assigned port numbers that are recorded in your `/etc/services` file.
Configuring inetd; /etc/inetd.conf

The actual configuration of inetd is done in /etc/inetd.conf, which has the following format:

```
service-name socket-type protocol wait-flag user server-program
```

Since services are specified in inetd.conf by `service name` rather than port, they must be listed in `/etc/services` in order to be eligible for handling by inetd.

Let's look at some common lines from `/etc/inetd.conf`. For example, the telnet and ftp services:

```
# grep ^telnet /etc/inetd.conf
telnet stream tcp nowait root /usr/sbin/in.telnetd
# grep ^ftp /etc/inetd.conf
ftp stream tcp nowait root /usr/sbin/in.ftpd -l -a
```

For both of these services, the configuration is to use the TCP protocol, and run the server (`in.telnetd` or `in.ftpd`) as the root user. For a complete explanation of the fields in `/etc/inetd.conf`, see the `inetd(8)` man page.

Disabling services

Disabling a service in inetd is simple: Just comment out the line in `/etc/inetd.conf`. You probably don't want to remove the line entirely, just in case you need to reference it later. For example, some system administrators prefer to disable telnet for security reasons (since the connection is entirely cleartext):

```
# vi /etc/inetd.conf
[comment out undesired line]
# grep ^.telnet /etc/inetd.conf
telnet stream tcp nowait root /usr/sbin/in.telnetd
```

For both of these services, the configuration is to use the TCP protocol, and run the server (`in.telnetd` or `in.ftpd`) as the root user. For a complete explanation of the fields in `/etc/inetd.conf`, see the `inetd(8)` man page.

Stopping/starting inetd manually

If the helper script in the previous panel doesn't work for you, the old-fashioned method is even easier. You can stop inetd using the `killall` command:

```
# killall inetd
```

You can start it again simply by invoking it on the command line. It will automatically run in the background:

```
# /usr/sbin/inetd
```

And there's a shortcut to instruct inetd to reread the configuration file without actually stopping it: just send it the HUP signal:

```
# killall -HUP inetd
```

Introducing TCP wrappers

The `tcpd` program logs the source address of each incoming connection, and can also filter them to allow connections only from trusted systems. After it does its thing, `tcpd` hands off the connection to the actual service daemon.

To use `tcpd`, you can insert it into your inetd as follows:

```
ftp stream tcp nowait root /usr/sbin/tcpd in.ftpd -l -a
telnet stream tcp nowait root /usr/sbin/tcpd in.telnetd
```

Logging with TCP wrappers

By default, connections are unrestricted but are logged. For example, we can restart inetd so that the changes from the previous panel take effect. Then some quick investigation should
show the logged connections:

```
# telnet localhost
login: (press <ctrl-d> to abort)

# tail -1 /var/log/secure
Feb 12 23:33:05 firewall in.telnetd[440]: connect from 127.0.0.1
```

The telnet attempt was logged by tcpd, so it looks like we have things working. Since tcpd provides a consistent connection logging service, that frees up the individual service daemons from each needing to log connections on their own. In fact, it's similar to inetd doing the work of accepting connections, since that frees up each of the individual daemons from needing to accept their own connections. Isn't the simplicity of Linux marvelous?

Restricting access to local users with TCP wrappers

The tcpd program is configured using two files: /etc/hosts.allow and /etc/hosts.deny. These files have lines of the form:

```
daemon_list : client_list [ : shell_command ]
```

Access is granted or denied in the following order. The search stops at the first match:

- Access is granted when a match is found in /etc/hosts.allow
- Access is denied when a match is found in /etc/hosts.deny
- Access is granted if nothing matches

For example, to allow telnet access only to our internal network, we start by setting policy (reject all connections with a source other than localhost) in /etc/hosts.deny:

```
in.telnetd: ALL EXCEPT LOCAL
```

Restricting access to known hosts with TCP wrappers

There's no need to reload inetd, since tcpd is invoked each time there's a connection on the telnet port. So we can try it immediately:

```
# telnet box.yourdomain.com
```

Closing for foreign host.

Slap! Rejected! (This is one of the few times in life that rejection is indicative of success.) To re-enable access from our own network, we insert the exception in /etc/hosts.allow:

```
```

At this point we're able to successfully telnet into our system again. This is just scraping the surface of the capabilities of tcp_wrappers. There's lots more information on tcp_wrappers in the tcpd(8) and hosts_access(5) man pages.

xinetd: inetd extended

Although inetd is the classic Internet superserver, there have been recent rewrites that attempt to add features and more security. The xinetd program replaces inetd in many modern distributions, including Red Hat and Debian. Some of its extended features are:

- Access control (built-in TCP wrappers)
- Extensive logging (connection durations, failed connections, etc.)
- Redirection of services from another host
- IPv6 support
- Configuration via snippets rather than one consolidated file

xinetd configuration

The configuration file for xinetd is /etc/xinetd.conf. Most often, that file contains just a few lines that set default configuration parameters for the rest of the services:

```
# cat /etc/xinetd.conf
defaults{
    instances=60
    log_type=SYSLOG
    log_on_success=HOST PID
    log_on_failure=HOST RECORD
}
```

The last line in that file instructs xinetd to read additional configuration from file snippets in the /etc/xinetd.d directory. Let's take a quick glance at the telnet snippet:

```
# cat /etc/xinetd.d/telnet
```

As you can see, it's not hard to configure xinetd, and it's more intuitive than inetd. You can get lots more information about xinetd in the xinetd(8), xinetd.conf(5), and xinetd.log(5) man pages.

There's also lots of information on the Web regarding inetd, tcp_wrappers, and xinetd. Be sure to check out some of the links we've provided for these tools in Resources on page 28;
they will give you a much better feel for the capability and configuration of these tools.

**Section 4. Security overview**

**Introduction**

Maintaining a completely secure system is impossible. With diligence, however, it is possible to keep your Linux machines secure enough that most casual crackers, script-kiddies, and other Bad Guys will be thwarted and go bug someone else. Remember that simply following this tutorial will not result in a secure system. Instead, we hope to touch on many of the major topic areas and gives you some useful examples of how to get started.

Linux system security can be divided into two parts: internal security and external security. *Internal security* refers to guarding against users accidentally or maliciously disrupting the system. *External security* refers to preventing unauthorized users from gaining access to the system.

This section will cover internal security first, then external security, and we'll finish with some general guidelines and tips.

**File permissions for log files**

Internal security can be a large task, depending on how much you are able to trust your users. The guidelines presented here are designed to prevent the casual user from accessing sensitive information and from unfairly using system resources.

Regarding file permissions, you may want to modify permissions for the following three cases:

First, log files in /var/log need not be world-readable. There is no reason for anybody other than root to be snooping in the logs. See Part 4 of the LPI 101 series for more information on syslog, plus the logrotate(8) man page for information on configuring that program to create logs with appropriate permissions.

**File permissions for root’s other files**

Second, root’s dot-files shouldn’t be readable by an ordinary user. Check the files in root’s home directory (`ls -la`) to make sure they’re appropriately protected. You can even make the whole directory readable only by root:

```
# cd
# pwd
/root
# chmod 700 .
```

**File permissions for user files**

Finally, user files are often created world-readable by default. That probably isn't the expectation of your users, and it certainly isn't the best policy. You should set the default umask in /etc/profile using something like the following:

```
# cd
# pwd
/root
# chmod 700 .
```

**File permissions for user files**

Finally, user files are often created world-readable by default. That probably isn't the expectation of your users, and it certainly isn't the best policy. You should set the default umask in /etc/profile using something like the following:
if [ "$UID" = 0 ]; then
    # root user; set world-readable by default so that
    # installed files can be read by normal users.
    umask 022
else
    # make user files secure unless they explicitly open them
    # for reading by other users
    umask 077
fi

You should consult the `umask(2)` and `bash(1)` man pages for more information on setting the umask. Note that the `umask(2)` man page refers to the C function, but the information it contains applies to the bash command as well. See Part 3 of the LPI 101 series for additional details on umask.

**Finding SUID/SGID programs**

A malicious user seeking root access will always look for programs on the system that have the SUID or SGID bit set. As we discussed in Part 3 of the LPI 101 series, these bits cause the program to always run as the user or group that owns the file. Sometimes this is required for proper functioning of the program. The problem is that any program may contain a bug that would allow the user to gain privileges if the program is used improperly.

You should consider each program carefully to determine if it needs to have its SUID or SGID bits on. There may be SUID/SGID programs on your system that you don't need at all.

To search for programs of this nature, use the `find` command. For example, we could start searching for SUID/SGID programs in the /usr directory:

```bash
# cd /usr
# find . -type f -perm +6000 -xdev -exec ls {} \; -rwsr-sr-x 1 root root 593972 11-09 12:47 ./bin/gpg
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 15576 09-29 22:51 ./bin/rcp
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 8256 09-29 22:51 ./bin/rsh
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 29520 01-17 19:42 ./bin/chfn
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 27500 01-17 19:42 ./bin/chsh
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 8812 01-15 23:21 ./bin/lppasswd
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 10476 01-15 22:16 ./bin/crontab
```

In this list, I've already found a candidate for closer inspection: lppasswd is part of the CUPS printing software distribution. Since I don't provide print services on my system, I might consider removing CUPS, which will also remove the lppasswd program. There may be no security-compromising bugs in lppasswd, but why take the chance on a program I'm not using?

**Setting user limits with ulimit**

User limits, continued

The ulimit command in bash provides a method for limiting the usage of resources by a given user. Once a limit is lowered, there is no way to raise the limit for the life of the process. Furthermore, the limit is inherited by all child processes. The effect is that you can call `ulimit` in `/etc/profile`, and the limits will irrevocably apply to all users (assuming they're running bash

or another shell that runs `/etc/profile on login`.

To retrieve the current limits, use `ulimit -a`:

```bash
# ulimit -a
core file size (blocks, -c) 0
data seg size (kbytes, -d) unlimited
file size (blocks, -f) unlimited
max locked memory (kbytes, -l) unlimited
max memory size (kbytes, -m) unlimited
open files (-n) 1024
pipe size (512 bytes, -p) 8
stack size (kbytes, -s) unlimited
cpu time (seconds, -t) unlimited
max user processes (-u) 3071
virtual memory (kbytes, -v) unlimited
```

It can be quite tricky to set these limits in a way that actually increases the security of your system without causing problems for legitimate users, so be careful when adjusting these settings.

**Setting CPU time limits with ulimit**

As an example of ulimit, let's try setting the CPU time for a process to 1 second, then make it timeout with a busy loop. Make sure to start a new bash process (as we do below) in which to try it; otherwise you'll be logged out!

```bash
# time bash
# ulimit -t 1
# while true; do true; done
Killed
real 0m28.941s
user 0m1.990s
sys 0m0.017s
```

In the example above, "user" time plus "sys" time equals total CPU time used by the process. When the bash process reached the 2-second mark, Linux judged that it had exceeded the 1-second limit, so the process was killed. Cool, eh?

Note: One second was just an example. Don't do this to your users! Even multiple hours is bad, since X can really rack up the time (my current session has used 69+ hours of CPU time). For a real implementation, you may want to ulimit something other than CPU time.

**User limits, continued**

You may also want to limit things such as the number of simultaneous logins or disk usage. These aren't covered by ulimit; instead you should look into one of the following packages:

- `Clobberd` monitors user activity, and meters resources such as time and network activity.
- `Idled` can log out users that have been idle for too long or who have been logged on for too long. It can also prevent users from being logged in too many times, and refuse users from
Part 4 of the LPI 101 series discusses the implementation of filesystem quotas.

Intrusion prevention

External security can be split into two categories: intrusion prevention and intrusion detection. Intrusion prevention measures are taken to prevent unauthorized access to a system. If these measures fail, intrusion detection may prove useful in determining when unauthorized access has occurred, and what damage has been done.

A full Linux installation is a large and complex system. It's difficult to keep track of everything that's installed, and even harder to configure each package's security features. The problem becomes simpler when fewer packages are installed. A first step to intrusion prevention is to remove packages you don't need. Take a look back at Part 1 of the LPI 102 series for a review of packaging systems.

Turning off unused network services (superserver)

Turning off unused network services is always a good way to improve your intrusion prevention. For example, if you are running an Internet superserver (such as inetd or xinetd described earlier in this tutorial), then in.rshd, in.rlogin, and in.telnetsd are often enabled by default. These network services have nearly all been superseded by more secure alternatives such as ssh.

To disable services in inetd, simply comment out the appropriate line in /etc/inetd.conf by prepending "#"; then restart inetd. (This was described previously in this tutorial, so glance back a few panels if you need a refresher.)

To disable services in xinetd, you can do something similar with the appropriate snippet in /etc/xinetd.d. For example, to disable telnet, either comment out the entire content of the file /etc/xinetd.d/telnet, or simply delete the file. Restart xinetd to complete the procedure.

If you're using tcpd in conjunction with inetd, or if you're using xinetd, you also have the option of limiting incoming connections to trusted hosts. For tcpd, see the earlier sections in this tutorial. For xinetd, search for "only_from" in the xinetd.conf(5) man page.

Turning off unused network services (standalone servers)

Some servers are not launched by inetd or xinetd, but are instead running all the time as "standalone" servers. This often includes servers such as atd, lpd, sshd, rshd, and others. In fact, inetd and xinetd are both standalone servers themselves, and if you have commented out all of the services in their respective config files, you may choose to turn them off completely.

Standalone servers are usually started by the init system when the system boots up or changes runlevels. If you don't remember how runlevels work, take a look at Part 4 of the LPI 101 series.

Testing your changes

After you've modified your inetd or xinetd configuration to disable or restrict services, or to shut down a server with its init script, you should test your changes. You can test tcp ports using the telnet client by specifying the service name or number. For example, to verify that rlogin has been disabled:

```
# grep ^login /etc/services
login 513/tcp
# telnet localhost 513
Trying 127.0.0.1...
telnet: Unable to connect to remote host: Connection refused
```

In addition to the standard telnet client, you should look into the possibility of using utilities for testing the "openness" of your system. We recommend netcat and nmap.

netcat is the network Swiss Army knife: it is a simple UNIX utility that reads and writes data across network connections, using TCP or UDP protocol.

nmap is a utility for network exploration or security auditing. Specifically, nmap scans ports to determine what's open.

You'll find links to these utilities in Resources on page 28.

Refusing logins for maintenance

In addition to the above methods, there is a generic way to refuse logins by creating the file /etc/nologin. Usually this method is used for short-term maintenance operations. Logins by root will still be allowed, but logins by other users will be denied. For example:

```
# cat > /etc/nologin
==============================================
System is currently undergoing maintenance
until 2:00. Please come back later.
==============================================
# telnet localhost
login: agriffis
Password:
```

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==============================================
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login: agriffis
Password:
```
System is currently undergoing maintenance until 2:00. Please come back later.

==============================================

Login incorrect

Be sure to delete the file when you're done with maintenance, otherwise nobody will be able to login until you remember! Not that I've ever done this, no, not me... ;-)

Introducing iptables (ipchains)

The `iptables` and `ipchains` commands are used to adjust and inspect the network packet filter rules in a running Linux kernel. The `ipchains` command was used for 2.2.x versions of the kernel, and although it can still be used with 2.4.x kernels, it has been superseded by `iptables`.

The packet filter rules can be set up to do both firewall and router activities. You can inspect your current rules with the `-L` option to `iptables`:

```
# iptables -L
Chain INPUT (policy ACCEPT)  target     prot opt source               destination
Chain FORWARD (policy ACCEPT) target     prot opt source               destination
Chain OUTPUT (policy ACCEPT)  target     prot opt source               destination
```

This is an example of a wide-open system, with no routing or firewarming enabled.

Iptables and Linux packet filter

Using the Linux packet filter effectively requires a solid understanding of TCP/IP networking and how it is implemented in the Linux kernel. The netfilter home page (see Resources on page 28 for a link) is a good place to learn more.

Until you're comfortable building your own ruleset, there are many scripts out there that can get you started, as long as you trust their authors. One of the most complete is `gShield` (see Resources on page 28). You can adjust its well-commented and fairly simple configuration file to set up most normal forms of packet filter rules.

Intrusion detection - sysslogs

Intrusion detection is often neglected by system administrators who trust in the intrusion prevention devices they have in place. Unfortunately, this means that when a hacker finds a crack through which to crawl, the system may be under their control for a long period of time before their presence is noticed.

Intrusion detection - tripwire

There are a number of packages available that can take a "snapshot" of your whole filesystem and compare it to earlier snapshots to see what has changed. If you can clearly define which files should change as part of the normal operation of your system, these packages can very quickly alert you to the presence and activity of a hacker.

`Tripwire` is one of the most popular of these intrusion detection packages (see Resources on page 28 at the end of this tutorial for a link). Once you have installed tripwire, you must customize its configuration file so that it knows which files should change and which should not. You will also need to tell it how to send you reports of what has changed, and how often it should return.

General guidelines: keeping software up to date

Since all software has the potential for security holes, it's important to install security fixes for packages as soon as they become available. Open source and free software is generally more secure than closed-source or non-free software, but only if you're using the latest versions.

There are several Web sites that can help you keep your software up to date. These include the security-conscious `CERT` and SecurityFocus' `BugTraq` list, as well as your normal software update sites, such as `freshmeat.net` and your distribution's home page. We'll repeat these URLs also in Resources on page 28, but security is such an important issue that -- if you are not already familiar with these sites, we do recommend that you take a few minutes to visit the first two now.

General guidelines: high-quality passwords

As mundane as it may sound, choosing high-quality passwords for yourself, and
"encouraging" (that is, mandating that) your users to do the same, is a cornerstone of good security. Remember to avoid common words and names, especially any that are related to you such as the name of a friend, where you work, or your pet's name. Also avoid guessable numbers such as your birthday or anniversary. Instead try to use random combinations of letters, numbers, and punctuation.

General guidelines: testing your security

Testing the security of your system is important, but don't let a successful test lull you into a false sense of security. Just because these testing tools don't find a hole is no guarantee that someone with knowledge and imagination -- and a whole lot of time on their hands -- will also fail.

We already mentioned nmap and netcat for testing network security. It is also a good idea to check for weak passwords, especially if your system has multiple users. There are many tools available, such as the ones we've put into Resources on page 28 at the end of this tutorial.

Installing a print spooler daemon (lpd)

One of the best LPD print spoolers is LPRng. The method of installation depends on your distribution; see Part 1 of the LPI 102 series for details on installing software packages in either Red Hat or Debian.

Once it's installed, the print spooler daemon (officially the Line Printer Daemon) can be run from the command line. Log in as a normal user and try:

```
$ /usr/sbin/lpd --help
```

Options

- `-D dbg` - set debug level and flags
- `-F` - run in foreground, log to STDERR
- `-L logfile` - append log information to logfile
- `-V` - show version info

Now that the daemon is installed, you should make sure that it's set up to run automatically. Your distribution's LPRng package may have set this up for you already, but if not, see Part 4 of the LPI 101 series for information on using runlevels to start daemons such as lpd automatically.

Basic printer settings (/etc/printcap)

The print spooler daemon acts as a sort of pipeline. It accepts print jobs coming in from various print clients, and then passes these jobs along to the appropriate printer. While the printer is busy, these jobs "spool," waiting for their chance to get printed.

When printing on the local printer, both of ends of this "pipeline" are described in the configuration file /etc/printcap (sometimes located at /etc/lpmmg/printcap). Each entry in the printcap (which is short for printer capabilities) describes one print spool:

```
$ more /etc/printcap
```
Generic dot-matrix printer entry:
 lp=/dev/lp0
 sd=/var/spool/lpd/lp
 pl=66
 pw=80
 pc=150
 mx=0
 sh=

Note that the last line of the entry does not have a trailing backslash (\).

Your distribution may have other entries, and they may be more complex, but they should all have roughly this form. The name of this entry comes first, `lp`, followed by a longer description of this spool. The keyword/value pair `lp=/dev/lp0` specifies the Linux device were print jobs in this spool will be printed, and the `sd` keyword gives the directory where jobs will be held until they can be printed.

The rest of the keyword/value pairs provide details about what type of printer is hooked up to `/dev/lp0`. They are described in the `printcap` man page, and we'll cover some of them a little bit later.

Creating spool directories

If you create an entry, you'll need to make sure the spool directory exists and has the correct permissions. You want the printer daemon, which is usually run as user `lp`, to have access to the spool directory. You'll have to run these commands as root:

```
# mkdir -p /var/spool/lpd/lp
# chown lp /var/spool/lpd/lp
# chmod 700 /var/spool/lpd/lp
```

LPRng includes a helpful tool for checking your printcap. It will even set up the spool directory for you, if you forget to do it manually:

```
# checkpc -f
```

Finally, restart the lpd. You'll need to do this any time you change the printcap, in order for your changes to take effect. You may need to use `lpd` instead of `lprng`:

```
# /etc/init.d/lpd restart
```

The older Berkeley printing system doesn't include a checkpc tool, so you'll have to try printing pages to your various printers yourself to make sure the printcap and spool directories are correct.

Using print spooler clients

The print spooler comes with several clients for communicating with the server daemon. The one you're likely to use most often is `lpr`, which simply sends a file to the server to be queued up in a print spool and then printed. To try it out, first find or make a small sample text file. Then:

```
$ lpr sample.txt
```

If it worked, you shouldn't see any response on the screen, but your printer should start going, and soon you'll have a hard copy of your sample text. Don't worry if it doesn't come out looking quite right; we'll set up filters a bit later that should ensure that all sorts of file formats print correctly.

You can examine the list of print jobs in the print spool queue with the `lpq` command. The `-P` option specifies the name of the queue to display; if you leave it off, `lpq` will use the default spool, just like `lpr` did before:

```
$ lpq -Plp
```

If you want to stop a job from printing, use the `lprm` command. You might want to do this if a job is taking too long, or if a user accidentally sends the same file more than once. Just copy the job id from the `lpq` listing above:

```
$ lprm chouser@localhost+670
```

You can do many other operations on a print spool using the interactive tool `lpc`. See the `lpc` man page for details.

Printing to a remote LPD server

Even if you don't have a printer on your local machine, you can still use `lpd` to send a print job across the network to a printer that is attached to some other machine. On the client machine, you can add an entry to your `/etc/printcap` that looks like a local printer but actually routes print jobs to the server machine. This entry will look something like this:

```
farawaylp|Remote printer entry:
 rm=faraway:
 rp=lp:
 sd=/var/spool/lpd/farawaylp:
 mx=0:
 sh=
```

Here the name of the machine where we want to print is `faraway`, and the name of the printer on that machine is `lp`. The spool directory, `/var/spool/lpd/farawaylp`, is where print jobs will be held locally until they can be sent to the remote print spooler, where they may be spooled again before being sent to the printer. Again, you will need to create this spool directory.
directory and set its permissions:

```bash
# mkdir -p /var/spool/lpd/farawaylp
# chown lp /var/spool/lpd/farawaylp
# chmod 700 /var/spool/lpd/farawaylp
# checkpc -f
# /etc/init.d/lprng restart
```

Locally, we have given this remote printer the name `farawaylp`, so we can send print jobs to it thusly:

```bash
$lpr -Pfarawaylp sample.txt
```

---

**Printing to a remote MS Windows or Samba server**

Thanks to Samba, printing to a remote Microsoft Windows print server is only slightly more complicated. First, add the local printcap entry:

```bash
smb|Remote windows printer:
 :if=/usr/bin/smbprint:
 :lp=/dev/null:
 :sd=/var/spool/lpd/smb:
 :mx=0:
```

The new key here is `if`, the input filter. Pointing this to the smbprint script will cause the print job to be sent to a Windows server instead of the lp device. We still have to list a device (/dev/null in this case) which the print daemon uses for locking. But no print jobs will actually be sent there.

Don't forget to create the spool directory!

```bash
# mkdir -p /var/spool/lpd/smb
# chown lp /var/spool/lpd/smb
# chmod 700 /var/spool/lpd/smb
# checkpc -f
# /etc/init.d/lprng restart
```

In your favorite editor, create a `.config` file in the spool directory named above. In this case, `/var/spool/lpd/smb/.config`:

```plaintext
server="WindowsServerName"
service="PrinterName"
password=""
user=""
```

Adjust these values to point to the Windows machine and printer name that you want to use, and you're done:

```bash
$lpr -Psmb sample.txt
```

The smbprint script should come with Samba, but it isn't included in all distributions. If you can't find it on your system, you can get it from the Samba HOWTO.

---

**Magicfilter**

So far we’ve only tried printing text files, which isn’t terribly exciting. Generally any one printer can only print one format of graphics file -- and yet there are dozens of different formats that we would like to print: PostScript, gif, jpeg, and many more. A program named Magicfilter acts as an input filter, much like smbprint does. It doesn’t convert the file formats, rather it provides a framework for identifying the type of document you’re trying to print, and runs it through an appropriate conversion tool: conversion tools must be installed separately. By far, the most important of these is Ghostscript, which can convert files from Postscript format to the native format of many printers.

---

**Adjusting printcap to point to Magicfilter**

Once these tools are installed, you simply need to adjust your printcap one more time. Add an `if` key to point to the Magicfilter that goes with your printer:

```bash
lp|The EPSON Stylus Color 777 sitting under my desk:
 :if=/usr/share/magicfilter/StylusColor-777@720dpi-filter:
 :gqfilter:
 :lp=/dev/usb/lp0:
 :sd=/var/spool/lpd/lp:
 :pl#66:
 :pw#80:
 :pc#150:
 :mx=0:
 :sh:
```

There are filters for dozens and dozens of different printers and printer settings in `/usr/share/magicfilter`, so be sure you use the right one for your printer. Each of these filters is a text file, and usually the full name of the printer is at the top. This may help you if the file name of the filter isn’t clear.

I also added a gqfilter flag to this printcap entry, which will cause the input filter to be used even when the print job is coming from a remote client. This only works with LPRng.

Since I set up the `/var/spool/lpd/lp print spool directory earlier, I only need to check my printcap syntax and restart the server:

```bash
# checkpc -f
# /etc/init.d/lprng restart
```

Now you are able to print all sorts of documents, including Postscript files. In other words, choosing “Print” from a menu in your favorite web browser should now work.

---

**Apsfilter as alternative to Magicfilter**

Apsfilter provides many of the features of Magicfilter, but it also helps you set up your spool
directories, printcap entries, and so on. You will still need to make sure you have Ghostscript
installed, but then you can follow the very complete instructions provided in the Apsfilter
handbook.

### Section 6. Summary and resources

**Summary**

Congratulations! You should now have a good grasp of TCP/IP fundamentals, the general
use and configuration of inetd, xinetd, and a print server, and some essential techniques to
improve the security of your Linux system. Please join us in the final tutorial in the series
(Part 8) on the secure shell (ssh) and file sharing, where we introduce you to the ins and outs
of using USB devices, show how to use the secure shell (ssh) and related tools, and show
how to use and configure Network File System (NFS) version 3 servers and clients. By
following this tutorial series, you'll soon be ready to attain your LPIC Level 1 Certification
from the Linux Professional Institute.

To expand your Linux knowledge even further, see the Resources on page 28 on the next
panel.

**Resources**

You can learn more about configuring inetd and xinetd from the xinetd home page. When
adding your own service names and ports to /etc/services, remember to check first that they
don't conflict with the assigned port numbers.

The netfilter home page is a good place to start learning more about iptables and the Linux
packet filter. Until you're comfortable building your own ruleset, you might want to use an
existing script for this. We recommend gShield.

Tripwire is one of the more popular intrusion detection packages. Also see Wietse Venema's
TCP Wrappers, which allow monitoring of and control over connections to your system.
Authenticating users can be much easier with Pluggable Authentication Modules (also known
as PAM).

Is your network wide open? nmap is a utility for network exploration or security auditing.
Specifically, nmap scans ports to determine what's open.

Password checkers and other tools that will test how easy it is to guess your passwords (and
those of your users) include John the Ripper from the Openwall Project, built for just this
purpose. You may also want to try a comprehensive checker like SAINT.

These security sites rate among the most-visited by any systems administrator: CERT is a
federally funded center operated by Carnegie Mellon University. They study Internet security
and vulnerabilities, publish security alerts, and research other security issues. BugTraq,
hosted by Security Focus, is a full-disclosure moderated mailing list for the detailed
discussion and announcement of computer security vulnerabilities. Even if you aren't
particularly interested in this aspect of administration, a subscription to this list can be quite
valuable, as simply scanning subject lines may alert you to vulnerabilities on your own
systems that you might otherwise discover much later, or not at all.

Other recommended security sites that will help you get a better grip on the security of your
Linux machines are the Linux Security HOWTO and O'Reilly's Security Page.
Printing and spooling resources you’ll want to check out include the LPRng print spooler home page and the Spooling Software overview from the Printing HOWTO. Of course, the Printing HOWTO itself is a valuable resource, as is LinuxPrinting.org.

For help with specific printers, consult the Serial HOWTO. Also the USB guide offers valuable information on (you guessed it) USB printers.

Samba is a great help in heterogeneous networks. When setting up printing for this kind of environment, you will want to check out the Samba home page as well as the Samba HOWTO, with good printer sharing details.

The two printer filters we discussed were Magicfilter and Apsfilter. Remember that both need a conversion program (we recommend Ghostscript), as they do not do conversion themselves. If you are using the latter filter, you may also find the Apsfilter handbook to be quite useful.

In addition, we recommend the following general resources for learning more about Linux and preparing for LPI certification in particular:

You'll find a wealth of guides, HOWTOs, FAQs, and man pages at The Linux Documentation Project. Be sure to check out Linux Gazette and LinuxFocus as well.

The Linux Network Administrator's guide, available from Linuxdoc.org's "Guides" section, is a good complement to this series of tutorials -- give it a read! You may also find Eric S. Raymond's Unix and Internet Fundamentals HOWTO to be helpful.

In the Bash by example article series on developerWorks, learn how to use bash programming constructs to write your own bash scripts. This series (particularly parts 1 and 2) are excellent additional preparation for the LPI exam:

- Bash by example, Part 1: Fundamental programming in the Bourne-again shell
- Bash by example, Part 2: More bash programming fundamentals
- Bash by example, Part 3: Exploring the ebuild system

The Technical FAQ for Linux Users by Mark Chapman is a 50-page in-depth list of frequently-asked Linux questions, along with detailed answers. The FAQ itself is in PDF (Acrobat) format. If you're a beginning or intermediate Linux user, you really owe it to yourself to check this FAQ out. The Linux glossary for Linux users, also from Mark, is also excellent.

If you're not familiar with the vi editor, you should check out Daniel’s tutorial on vi. This developerWorks tutorial will give you a gentle yet fast-paced introduction to this powerful text editor. Consider this must-read material if you don't know how to use vi.

For more information on the Linux Professional Institute, visit the LPI home page.

**Feedback**

We look forward to getting your feedback on this tutorial. Additionally, you are welcome to contact the authors directly:

- Daniel Robbins, at drobbins@gentoo.org
- Chris Houser, at chouser@gentoo.org
- Aron Griffis, at agriffis@gentoo.org

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**Colophon**

This tutorial was written entirely in XML, using the developerWorks Toot-O-Matic tutorial generator. The open source Toot-O-Matic tool is an XSLT stylesheet and several XSLT extension functions that convert an XML file into a number of HTML pages, a zip file, JPEG heading graphics, and two PDF files. Our ability to generate multiple text and binary formats from a single source file illustrates the power and flexibility of XML. (It also saves our production team a great deal of time and effort.)

You can get the source code for the Toot-O-Matic at www6.software.ibm.com/dl/devworks/dw-tootomatic-p. The tutorial Building tutorials with the Toot-O-Matic demonstrates how to use the Toot-O-Matic to create your own tutorials.

developerWorks also hosts a forum devoted to the Toot-O-Matic; it’s available at www-105.ibm.com/developerworks/xml_df.nsf/AllViewTemplate?OpenForm&RestrictToCategory=11. We'd love to know what you think about the tool.