Linux Commands

Linux Commands for Professional Environment

Network Troubleshooting Commands

Practical Examples

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Ping

The ping command is a fundamental network utility used to test the reachability of a host on an IP network and to measure the round-trip time for messages sent from the originating host to a destination computer. Here's a comprehensive overview of ping with important options and practical examples.

Basic Syntax

ping [options] destination

Important Options

- -c count: Specifies the number of echo requests to send.
- -i interval: Sets the interval between sending each packet (in seconds).
- -t ttl: Sets the Time to Live for packets.
- -s packetsize: Specifies the number of data bytes to be sent.
- -w deadline: Sets a deadline for how long to run the command (in seconds).
- -q: Quiet output. Displays only the summary.
- -f: Flood ping. Sends packets as fast as possible.
- -I preload: Sends a specified number of packets before starting the normal ping process.
- -v: Verbose output.
- -D: Prints timestamp before each line.
- -I interface: Specifies the network interface to be used.

Practical Examples

Example 1: Basic Ping

ping google.com

This sends ICMP echo requests to google.com until you stop it with Ctrl+C.

Example 2: Ping with a Specified Number of Packets

ping -c 4 google.com

This sends exactly 4 ICMP echo requests to google.com.

Example 3: Ping with a Specific Interval

ping -i 2 google.com

This sends ICMP echo requests to google.com every 2 seconds.

Example 4: Ping with a Time to Live (TTL) Value

ping -t 10 google.com

This sends ICMP echo requests with a TTL of 10.



Example 5: Ping with a Specified Packet Size

ping -s 100 google.com

This sends ICMP echo requests with 100 bytes of data.

Example 6: Ping with a Deadline

ping -w 10 google.com

This sends ICMP echo requests to google.com for 10 seconds.

Example 7: Quiet Output

ping -c 4 -q google.com

This sends 4 ICMP echo requests to google.com and displays only the summary.

Example 8: Flood Ping (Use with Caution)

ping -f google.com

This sends packets as fast as possible. Requires root privileges and can generate a significant amount of traffic.

Example 9: Preload Packets

ping -l 10 google.com

This sends 10 ICMP echo requests immediately before starting the normal ping process.

Example 10: Verbose Output

ping -v google.com

This displays more detailed information about the ping process.

Example 11: Ping with Timestamp

ping -D google.com

This prints a timestamp before each line of output.

Example 12: Specify Network Interface

ping -I eth0 google.com

This sends ICMP echo requests using the eth0 network interface.

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traceroute

The traceroute command is a network diagnostic tool used to trace the path that packets take from one network host to another. It helps identify routing issues and network bottlenecks by displaying each hop along the route and measuring the time taken for each hop.

Basic Syntax

traceroute [options] destination

Important Options

- -n: Do not resolve hostnames; display IP addresses only.
- -m max_ttl: Set the maximum number of hops (TTL).
- -q nqueries: Set the number of probe packets per hop.
- -w waittime: Set the time to wait for a response (in seconds).
- -I: Use ICMP ECHO instead of UDP datagrams.
- -T: Use TCP SYN for probing.
- -p port: Set the base UDP port number for probe packets.
- -f first_ttl: Set the initial TTL (time to live).
- -s source_addr: Set the source address to use.
- -4: Use IPv4 only.
- -6: Use IPv6 only.

Practical Examples

Example 1: Basic Traceroute

traceroute google.com

This traces the route packets take to google.com.

Example 2: Traceroute with IP Addresses Only

traceroute -n google.com

This traces the route and displays IP addresses without resolving hostnames.

Example 3: Set Maximum TTL

traceroute -m 15 google.com

This limits the traceroute to a maximum of 15 hops.

Example 4: Set Number of Probe Packets per Hop

traceroute -q 5 google.com

This sends 5 probe packets per hop.



Example 5: Set Wait Time for Responses

traceroute -w 3 google.com

This sets the wait time to 3 seconds for each response.

Example 6: Use ICMP ECHO Instead of UDP

traceroute -I google.com

This uses ICMP ECHO requests instead of the default UDP packets.

Example 7: Use TCP SYN for Probing

traceroute -T google.com

This uses TCP SYN packets for probing.

Example 8: Set Base UDP Port Number

traceroute -p 33434 google.com

This sets the base UDP port number to 33434 (default).

Example 9: Set Initial TTL

traceroute -f 5 google.com

This starts the traceroute with an initial TTL of 5.

Example 10: Specify Source Address

traceroute -s 192.168.1.1 google.com

This sets the source address to 192.168.1.1.

Example 11: Use IPv4 Only

traceroute -4 google.com

This forces the use of IPv4.

Example 12: Use IPv6 Only

traceroute -6 google.com

This forces the use of IPv6.

Practical Use Cases

Example 1: Diagnose Network Latency

traceroute google.com



Identify the hops with high latency to diagnose where delays are occurring.

Example 2: Detect Routing Loops

traceroute example.com

If the output shows the same IP addresses repeatedly, there might be a routing loop.

Example 3: Check Network Path Differences

Run traceroute from different locations or ISPs to compare network paths:

traceroute -I google.com

Compare results from different networks to see variations in routing.

nslookup

The nslookup command is a network administration tool used for querying the Domain Name System (DNS) to obtain domain name or IP address mapping, or other DNS records. It's commonly used to diagnose DNS-related issues.

Basic Syntax

nslookup [options] [hostname] [DNS server]

Important Options

- -querytype=type: Specifies the type of DNS record to be queried (e.g., A, AAAA, CNAME, MX, NS, PTR, SOA, SRV, TXT).
- -timeout=seconds: Specifies the time to wait for a response.
- -retries=number: Sets the number of retries before giving up.
- -port=port: Specifies the port number to use for the DNS query.
- -vc: Uses a virtual circuit (TCP instead of UDP).
- -debug: Prints debugging information.
- -type=type: Alias for -querytype.
- -server: Specifies the DNS server to use.
- -sil[ent]: Suppresses the printing of the initial message.
- -stats: Prints statistics of the query.
- -class=class: Specifies the class of the DNS record (IN, CH, HS).

Practical Examples

Example 1: Basic DNS Lookup

nslookup google.com



This queries the default DNS server to find the IP address for google.com.

Example 2: Query a Specific DNS Record Type

nslookup -querytype=MX google.com

This queries the mail exchange (MX) records for google.com.

Example 3: Specify a DNS Server

nslookup google.com 8.8.8.8

This queries the DNS server at 8.8.8.8 (Google Public DNS) for google.com.

Example 4: Debugging Information

nslookup -debug google.com

This provides detailed debugging information for the DNS query.

Example 5: Set Timeout

nslookup -timeout=10 google.com

This sets the query timeout to 10 seconds.

Example 6: Set Number of Retries

nslookup -retries=3 google.com

This sets the number of retries to 3.

Example 7: Query Using TCP

nslookup -vc google.com

This queries using a virtual circuit (TCP) instead of the default UDP.

Example 8: Query PTR Record

nslookup -querytype=PTR 8.8.8.8

This performs a reverse lookup to find the domain name associated with the IP address 8.8.8.8.

Interactive Mode

You can start nslookup in interactive mode by running the command without arguments. In this mode, you can execute multiple queries without exiting nslookup.

Example:

nslookup

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- > server 8.8.8.8
- > google.com
- > set type=MX
- > google.com
- > exit

Practical Use Cases

Example 1: Verify DNS Configuration

To verify that your DNS server is correctly resolving domain names, use:

nslookup google.com 8.8.8.8

Example 2: Check Mail Server Configuration

To check the mail servers for a domain:

nslookup -querytype=MX example.com

Example 3: Diagnose DNS Issues

If a website is not resolving correctly, you can use:

nslookup example.com

To see what IP address the default DNS server is returning.

ifconfig/ip

ifconfig Command

The ifconfig command is used to configure network interfaces. It's part of the net-tools package and, while still available, it's considered deprecated in favor of the ip command.

Syntax

ifconfig [interface] [options]

Commonly Used Options

- -a: Display all interfaces, both active and inactive.
- up: Activate the specified interface.
- down: Deactivate the specified interface.
- inet: Assign an IP address to the specified interface.
- netmask: Set the network mask for the specified interface.



- broadcast: Set the broadcast address for the specified interface.
- mtu: Set the Maximum Transmission Unit size for the specified interface.
- promisc: Enable promiscuous mode.

Examples

Display All Interfaces

ifconfig -a

This command shows the status of all network interfaces.

Display Specific Interface

ifconfig eth0

This command shows the configuration of the eth0 interface.

Assign IP Address to Interface

sudo ifconfig eth0 192.168.1.100 netmask 255.255.255.0

This command assigns the IP address 192.168.1.100 with the specified netmask to the eth0 interface.

Bring Interface Up

sudo ifconfig eth0 up

This command activates the eth0 interface.

Bring Interface Down

sudo ifconfig eth0 down

This command deactivates the eth0 interface.

Enable Promiscuous Mode

sudo ifconfig eth0 promisc

This command enables promiscuous mode on the eth0 interface, allowing it to capture all packets on the network.

Useful Commands in Combination with Other Commands

Display Interface Statistics

ifconfig eth0 | grep 'RX\|TX'

This command filters the output to show only the RX (receive) and TX (transmit) statistics for eth0.

Linux Commands

ip Command

The ip command is a more modern and powerful tool for network interface management and configuration. It's part of the iproute2 package.

Syntax

ip [OPTIONS] OBJECT COMMAND

- link: Manage network interfaces.
- addr: Manage IP addresses.
- route: Manage routing table.
- neigh: Manage ARP or NDISC cache entries.
- rule: Manage routing rules.
- Commonly Used Options
- -s: Output more detailed information.
- -4: Display only IPv4 addresses.
- -6: Display only IPv6 addresses.
- show: Display information.

Examples

Display All Interfaces

ip link show

This command shows the status of all network interfaces.

Display IP Addresses

ip addr show

This command shows IP addresses assigned to all network interfaces.

Display Specific Interface

ip addr show dev eth0

This command shows IP addresses assigned to the eth0 interface.

Assign IP Address to Interface

sudo ip addr add 192.168.1.100/24 dev eth0

This command assigns the IP address 192.168.1.100 with a prefix length of 24 to the eth0 interface.

Bring Interface Up

sudo ip link set eth0 up



This command activates the eth0 interface.

Bring Interface Down

sudo ip link set eth0 down

This command deactivates the eth0 interface.

Add Default Gateway

sudo ip route add default via 192.168.1.1

This command adds a default gateway with IP address 192.168.1.1.

Useful Commands in Combination with Other Commands

Display Routing Table

ip route show

This command shows the routing table.

Display Interface Statistics

ip -s link show eth0

This command shows detailed statistics for the eth0 interface.

Monitor Network Changes

ip monitor all

This command continuously monitors changes in IP addresses, routes, and devices.

Check Neighbour (ARP) Table

ip neigh show

This command displays the ARP table.

netstat

The netstat command is a network utility that provides various statistics and information about network connections, routing tables, interface statistics, masquerade connections, and multicast memberships. It is commonly used for troubleshooting and monitoring network status.

Syntax

netstat [options]

Linux Commands

Commonly Used Options

- -a: Show all sockets (both listening and non-listening).
- -t: Display TCP connections.
- -u: Display UDP connections.
- -n: Show numerical addresses instead of resolving hostnames.
- -I: Show only listening sockets.
- p: Show the PID and name of the program to which each socket belongs (requires root).
- -r: Display the kernel routing table.
- -i: Show network interfaces.
- -s: Display summary statistics for each protocol.
- -c: Print the selected information every second continuously.

Examples

Display All Connections

netstat -a

This command shows all active connections and listening ports, both TCP and UDP.

Display TCP Connections

netstat -t

This command shows only active TCP connections.

Display UDP Connections

netstat -u

This command shows only active UDP connections.

Show Numerical Addresses

netstat -n

This command displays numerical addresses instead of resolving hostnames, useful for faster output and avoiding DNS lookups.

Show Listening Sockets

netstat -l

This command shows only the listening sockets (both TCP and UDP).

Show Program Names and PIDs

sudo netstat -p



This command displays the PID and name of the program to which each socket belongs. Note that this requires root privileges.

Display Kernel Routing Table

netstat -r

This command shows the kernel routing table, which is useful for understanding the routing decisions made by the system.

Show Network Interfaces

netstat -i

This command displays a table of network interfaces and their statistics.

Show Summary Statistics

netstat -s

This command provides a summary of statistics for each network protocol, including TCP, UDP, ICMP, and IP.

Continuous Output

netstat -c

This command continuously prints the selected information every second.

Combining Options

Display All Listening TCP Connections in Numerical Format

netstat -ltun

This command combines several options to show only listening TCP and UDP connections in numerical format.

Display Routing Table and Interface Statistics

netstat -ri

This command shows the routing table and interface statistics together.

Practical Example

Example1: Suppose you want to find out which process is using a specific port (e.g., port 8080). You could use the following command:

sudo netstat -tulpn | grep :8080

This command shows TCP and UDP listening ports, along with the PID and program name, and filters the results to show only those that include port 8080.



Example 2: Display Established TCP Connections with Process Information

sudo netstat -tnp | grep ESTABLISHED

This command displays all established TCP connections along with the PID and name of the process using those connections.

Example 3: Show Listening Ports with Human-Readable Process Information

sudo netstat -tulpn | less

This command shows all listening TCP and UDP ports with the corresponding PID and process name, and pipes the output through less for easy scrolling.

Example 4: Monitor Network Connections in Real-Time

watch -n 1 'netstat -an | grep ESTABLISHED'

This command uses watch to execute the netstat command every second, showing real-time updates of all established connections.

Example 5: Check Active Internet Connections and Routing Tables Together

netstat -atunr

This command displays active TCP and UDP connections (-a, -t, -u) along with the routing table (-r).

Example 6: Find the Number of Connections per IP Address

netstat -an | grep ESTABLISHED | awk '{print \$5}' | cut -d: -f1 | sort | uniq -c | sort -nr

This command counts the number of established connections per IP address. It extracts the remote IP address from each connection, sorts them, counts the unique occurrences, and sorts the results numerically in descending order.

Example 7: Display Network Interface Statistics

netstat -i | column -t

This command shows the network interface statistics in a neatly formatted table using column -t.

Example 8: Continuous Monitoring of Network Statistics

watch -d 'netstat -i'

This command uses watch to display network interface statistics continuously, highlighting changes between updates (-d).

Example 9: Check Specific Port Usage

sudo netstat -tulpn | grep :80



This command displays information about processes using port 80, which is commonly used by HTTP servers.

Example 10: Combining netstat with grep for Specific Protocols

```
netstat -s | grep -A 5 'Tcp:'
```

This command shows TCP statistics by filtering the netstat -s output for lines starting with "Tcp:" and the following 5 lines.

Example 11: Display All Connections with Hostnames and Filter by State

netstat -at | grep TIME_WAIT

This command displays all TCP connections with hostnames and filters the output to show connections in the TIME_WAIT state.

Example 12: Check Listening Ports and Associated Processes

```
sudo netstat -plnt | awk '{print $1,$4,$7}' | column -t
```

This command displays only the protocol, local address, and PID/program name for listening ports, formatted into a table for easier reading.

SS

The ss (Socket Statics) command is a utility to investigate sockets and display detailed network statistics. It is often considered a faster and more modern replacement for netstat. Here's an explanation of the ss command with its options and useful combinations:

Syntax

ss [options]

Commonly Used Options

- -a: Show all sockets (both listening and non-listening).
- -t: Display TCP sockets.
- -u: Display UDP sockets.
- -I: Show only listening sockets.
- -p: Show the process using the socket.
- -n: Do not resolve service names or host names (show numerical addresses).
- -r: Resolve IP addresses to hostnames.
- -k: Display kernel memory used by sockets.
- -m: Display memory usage for socket buffers.
- -s: Display summary statistics.
- -4: Display only IPv4 sockets.
- -6: Display only IPv6 sockets.



• -o: Show timer information.

Examples

Display All Sockets

ss -a

This command shows all sockets (both listening and non-listening).

Display TCP Sockets

ss -t

This command shows only TCP sockets.

Display UDP Sockets

ss -u

This command shows only UDP sockets.

Show Listening Sockets

ss -l

This command shows only listening sockets.

Show Sockets with Process Information

sudo ss -p

This command displays the processes using the sockets. Note that it requires root privileges.

Show Numerical Addresses

ss -n

This command displays numerical addresses instead of resolving hostnames.

Show Kernel Memory Usage

ss-k

This command displays the kernel memory used by each socket.

Show Memory Usage for Socket Buffers

ss -m

This command shows the memory usage for socket buffers.

Display Summary Statistics



ss -s

This command provides a summary of socket statistics.

Display IPv4 Sockets Only

ss -4

This command shows only IPv4 sockets.

Display IPv6 Sockets Only

ss -6

This command shows only IPv6 sockets.

Show Timer Information

SS -O

This command shows timer information for each socket.

Useful Commands in Combination with Other Commands

Display Established TCP Connections with Process Information

sudo ss -tnp | grep ESTAB

This command shows all established TCP connections along with the PID and name of the process using those connections.

Show Listening Ports with Human-Readable Process Information

sudo ss -tulpn | less

This command shows all listening TCP and UDP ports with the corresponding PID and process name, and pipes the output through less for easy scrolling.

Monitor Network Connections in Real-Time

watch -n 1 'ss -an | grep ESTAB'

This command uses watch to execute the ss command every second, showing real-time updates of all established connections.

Check Active Internet Connections and Routing Tables Together

ss -atunr

This command displays active TCP and UDP connections (-a, -t, -u) along with the routing table (-r).

Find the Number of Connections per IP Address



ss -tan | grep ESTAB | awk '{print \$5}' | cut -d: -f1 | sort | uniq -c | sort -nr

This command counts the number of established connections per IP address. It extracts the remote IP address from each connection, sorts them, counts the unique occurrences, and sorts the results numerically in descending order.

Display Network Interface Statistics

ss -i | column -t

This command shows the network interface statistics in a neatly formatted table using column -t.

Continuous Monitoring of Network Statistics

watch -d 'ss -i'

This command uses watch to display network interface statistics continuously, highlighting changes between updates (-d).

Check Specific Port Usage

```
sudo ss -tulpn | grep :80
```

This command displays information about processes using port 80, which is commonly used by HTTP servers.

Combining ss with grep for Specific Protocols

```
ss -s | grep -A 5 'Tcp:'
```

This command shows TCP statistics by filtering the ss -s output for lines starting with "Tcp:" and the following 5 lines

Display All Connections with Hostnames and Filter by State

```
ss -at | grep TIME-WAIT
```

This command displays all TCP connections with hostnames and filters the output to show connections in the TIME-WAIT state.

Check Listening Ports and Associated Processes

```
sudo ss -plnt | awk '{print $1,$4,$6}' | column -t
```

This command displays only the protocol, local address, and PID/program name for listening ports, formatted into a table for easier reading.

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tcpdump

To check available Ethernet interfaces and then capture traffic on a specific Ethernet interface using the tcpdump command, you can follow these steps:

Step 1: List All Network Interfaces

First, list all available network interfaces on your system. You can use the ifconfig or ip command to do this:

Using ifconfig:

ifconfig -a

This displays all network interfaces along with their details.

Using ip:

ip link show

This lists all network interfaces by name.

Step 2: Identify the Ethernet Interface

From the output of ifconfig -a or ip link show, identify the name of the Ethernet interface you want to capture traffic on. Common names for Ethernet interfaces include eth0, eth1, enp0s3, etc.

Step 3: Capture Traffic on the Ethernet Interface

Use tcpdump to capture traffic on the identified Ethernet interface. You'll need superuser privileges to run tcpdump, so use sudo.

Basic Capture:

sudo tcpdump -i eth0

Replace eth0 with the name of your Ethernet interface.

Capture and Display Packet Contents:

sudo tcpdump -i eth0 -vvv -X

This captures traffic on eth0, with -vvv for very verbose output and -X to display the packet contents in both hex and ASCII.

Save Captured Packets to a File:

sudo tcpdump -i eth0 -w capture.pcap

This saves the captured packets to a file named capture.pcap for later analysis.

Practical Examples



Example 1: Capture All Traffic on eth0

sudo tcpdump -i eth0

This captures all traffic on the eth0 interface and prints it to the screen.

Example 2: Capture Traffic on eth0 with Specific Filter

Capture only TCP traffic:

sudo tcpdump -i eth0 tcp

Capture traffic on port 80 (HTTP):

sudo tcpdump -i eth0 port 80

Example 3: Capture and Save to a File for Analysis

sudo tcpdump -i eth0 -w /path/to/save/capture.pcap

This captures all traffic on eth0 and saves it to /path/to/save/capture.pcap.

Example 4: Read Captured Packets from a File

To read and analyze a previously saved capture file:

sudo tcpdump -r /path/to/save/capture.pcap

Example 5: Capture with a Time Limit

Capture traffic for only 60 seconds:

sudo timeout 60 tcpdump -i eth0 -w capture.pcap

Filtering Traffic with tcpdump

You can use topdump filters to capture specific types of traffic. Here are some examples:

Capture HTTP traffic (port 80):

sudo tcpdump -i eth0 port 80

Capture HTTPS traffic (port 443):

sudo tcpdump -i eth0 port 443

Capture traffic from a specific IP address:

sudo tcpdump -i eth0 host 192.168.1.10

Capture traffic to a specific IP address:

sudo tcpdump -i eth0 dst 192.168.1.10



Capture traffic from and to a specific IP address:

sudo tcpdump -i eth0 host 192.168.1.10

Capture only TCP traffic:

sudo tcpdump -i eth0 tcp

Capture only UDP traffic:

sudo tcpdump -i eth0 udp

CURL Command (Checking the connectivity of a remote network host and port)

The curl command is a versatile tool used for transferring data from or to a server, using various protocols such as HTTP, HTTPS, FTP, and more. It is also useful for checking the connectivity of a remote network host and port.

Here's a detailed explanation of how to use curl to check connectivity using different protocols:

Basic Syntax

curl [options] [URL]

Checking HTTP/HTTPS Connectivity

To check if a remote host is reachable over HTTP or HTTPS, you can simply use:

HTTP:

curl http://example.com

This fetches the content of http://example.com and prints it to the screen.

HTTPS:

curl https://example.com

This fetches the content of https://example.com and prints it to the screen.

Checking Specific Port Connectivity

To check connectivity to a specific port, you can use the --connect-timeout option to set a timeout for the connection. This is useful for determining if a specific service is reachable.

Example:

curl --connect-timeout 5 http://example.com:8080

This tries to connect to http://example.com on port 8080 and times out if it takes longer than 5 seconds.



Checking FTP Connectivity

To check FTP connectivity, you can use the FTP protocol:

Example:

curl ftp://example.com

This tries to connect to an FTP server at example.com.

Checking SMTP Connectivity

While curl isn't primarily designed for SMTP, you can use it to check SMTP server connectivity by specifying the smtp protocol:

Example:

curl --url "smtp://mail.example.com:25"

This attempts to connect to an SMTP server at mail.example.com on port 25.

Checking Other Protocols

LDAP:

curl Idap://example.com

This tries to connect to an LDAP server at example.com.

IMAP:

curl imap://mail.example.com

This tries to connect to an IMAP server at mail.example.com.

Using curl with Verbose Output

To get more detailed information about the connection process, you can use the -v (verbose) option:

Example:

curl -v http://example.com

This prints detailed information about the request and response, including headers.

Practical Examples

Example 1: Check HTTP Connectivity

curl http://example.com

This fetches the webpage and prints it to the console.



Example 2: Check HTTPS Connectivity with Verbose Output

curl -v https://example.com

This fetches the webpage over HTTPS and provides detailed output.

Example 3: Check Connectivity to a Specific Port

curl --connect-timeout 5 http://example.com:8080

This checks if example.com is reachable on port 8080 within 5 seconds.

Example 4: Check FTP Connectivity

curl ftp://example.com

This checks if example.com is reachable via FTP.

Example 5: Check SMTP Connectivity

curl --url "smtp://mail.example.com:25"

This checks if mail.example.com is reachable on port 25 using SMTP.

Example 6: Check LDAP Connectivity

curl ldap://example.com

This checks if example.com is reachable via LDAP.

Example 7: Check IMAP Connectivity

curl imap://mail.example.com

This checks if mail.example.com is reachable via IMAP.

Linux Commands

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