

1 CheatSheet: SRE/DevOps/Sysadmin

INTERVIEW

- PDF Link: [cheatsheet-sre-A4.pdf](#), Category: interview
- Blog URL: <https://cheatsheet.dennyzhang.com/cheatsheet-sre-A4>
- Related posts: CheatSheet: Leetcode For Code Interview, CheatSheet: Well-Known Papers For IT Industry, #denny-cheatsheets

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1.1 Reference

Name	Summary
Cheatsheet	CheatSheet: Leetcode For Code Interview, CheatSheet: Common Code Problems & Follow-ups
Cheatsheet	CheatSheet: System Design For Job Interview, CheatSheet: SRE/DevOps/Sysadmin
Cheatsheet	CheatSheet: Behavior Questions For Coder Interview, Shell CheatSheet

1.2 Good Mindsets

Num	Name	Summary
1	First thing: Stop The Bleed	
2	Pets VS Cattles	
3	Fix a process VS Fix a problem	
4	Evaluate Business Impact First	
5	Prevention VS Treatment	
6	Postmortem Culture	
7	Understand Workflow & Use Cases	Crucial for trouble shooting
8	Automation VS Convention	
9	Principle Of Least Privilege	
10	Design Tools VS Use Tools	Operational knowledge is not good enough

1.3 Top 20 Linux Workflow

Num	Name	Summary
1	Explain init.d workflow	
2	Explain Linux Boot Process	
3	Explain OS process scheduling	
4	Explain how to build a linux release	
5	Explain How Linux find a file or a directory	inode, symbol link, hard link, block, etc

1.4 Top 20 Linux Basic Questions

Num	Name	Summary
1	What is /proc directory?	
2	What happens, when opening https://www.google.com	
3	What happens, when running "ls -l *"	
4	What happens, when pressing "Ctrl + c"	
5	How to solve ssh "Connection refused" errors?	
6	How does sudo work? Given sudo , why people may need su ?	
7	Explain the output of top command	
8	Explain the output of sar command	
9	How to daemonize a process?	
10	What are common scenarios of linux kernel panics?	
11	What are coredump and kdump?	
12	Program startup process in userspace	Link: Program startup process in userspace
13	What's your favorite shell and why?	Link: Bash vs Zsh
14	Figure out who has logged to server now and previously?	w, last, lastb; lastlog; /var/run/*tmp
15	How to choose RAID levels for different scenarios?	
16	Forget root password. How to reset it?	
17	What is init program?	
18	How linux signal trap works? And what signals can't be ignored	
19	How to close stdin/stdout/stderr of one command	<code>some_command </dev/null >/dev/null 2>&1</code>

1.5 Top 20 Linux Advanced Questions

Num	Name	Summary
1	Whether it's possible to sniff HTTPS traffic? And why?	
2	Figure out what critical commands ssh users have issued?	
3	Why is I/O uninterruptible? Explain shell features	shell pipes, filename wildcards, env var expansion
4	What is the difference between UNIX and Linux	
5	What is Virtual Memory?	
6	What is localhost and why would ping localhost fail?	
7	How does the Linux kernel handle a system call	Link: System calls in the Linux kernel
8	How do you feel about systemd?	Init processes start serially, long booting time
9	ssh port forwarding VS ssh reverse port forwarding	
10	How to quickly crash an linux machine?	
11	How to deprovision a user completely?	
12	How reliable history command is? And how to alleviate the problem?	<code>~/.bash_history</code> , <code>\$HISTTIMEFORMAT</code> env
13	how to generate a zombie process	
14	With bg in one terminal, jobs doesn't show in another terminal	
15	How to setup http proxy with SLA for different traffic?	
16	What's your wishlist for linux?	
17	What's your ideal monitoring system in your imagination?	

1.6 Top 20 SRE Questions

Num	Name	Summary
2	How to do a online rolling upgrade for a given system?	Single node, or multiple node?
3	How you migrate legacy on-prem app to cloud-native in public cloud?	

1.7 Top 20 Container Questions

Num	Name	Summary
1	Compare to Linux process, what things containers can't support?	
2	How to sniff container's traffic?	
3	Explain the workflow of "docker stop \$container_id"	

1.8 Top 10 Networking Questions

Num	Name	Summary
1	Difference between switch and router?	L2, L3
2	What is a DNS amplification attack?	
3	Difference between L2 and L3 switch?	
4	What is TCP SYN scan? How it's conducted?	
5	Which port ICMP is using?	Neither TCP or UDP. Link
6	Proxy server vs Loadbalancer. Proxy server vs Reverse proxy server	
7	Brief introduction about 802.1x	
8	List all methods which can stop one ip ssh to the server	
9	Explain how iptable routing rules works	

1.9 SRE/System Engineering

Num	Name	Summary
1	Reference	Github: chassing/linux-sysadmin-interview-questions , Github: 0xAX/linux-insides
2	Reference	Link: Facebook Production Engineering Internship Interview
3	Reference	Link: SRE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1.10 More Resources

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