

Lab 1: Basic Networking Commands

CSE 3111 - Computer Networks Lab

August 28, 2025

1 Basic Networking Commands in Linux

This section describes commonly used networking commands in Linux and their usage with examples.

1.1 PING

The `ping` command is used to test the reachability of a host on a network and to measure the round-trip time of messages sent to the destination.

Purpose: Tests network connectivity and measures latency.

Usage Examples:

```
ping google.com
ping -c 5 8.8.8.8
ping -t 64 facebook.com
```

Common Options:

- `-c count`: Send only specified number of packets
- `-t ttl`: Set Time To Live value
- `-i interval`: Set interval between packets

1.2 TRACEROUTE

The `traceroute` command displays the route packets take to reach a network host, showing all intermediate hops and the time taken at each hop.

Purpose: Traces the path packets take through the network.

Usage Examples:

```
traceroute google.com
traceroute -n 8.8.8.8
traceroute -m 15 facebook.com
```

Common Options:

- `-n`: Display IP addresses instead of hostnames

- **-m max_ttl:** Set maximum number of hops
- **-p port:** Set destination port

1.3 IFCONFIG

The **ifconfig** (interface configuration) command is used to display and configure network interfaces. It shows IP addresses, MAC addresses, and can enable/disable interfaces.

Purpose: Configure and display network interface information.

Usage Examples:

```
ifconfig
ifconfig eth0
ifconfig eth0 192.168.1.100 netmask 255.255.255.0
ifconfig eth0 up
ifconfig eth0 down
```

Common Operations:

- Display all interfaces: **ifconfig**
- Display specific interface: **ifconfig eth0**
- Set IP address: **ifconfig eth0 <IP> netmask <mask>**
- Enable interface: **ifconfig eth0 up**
- Disable interface: **ifconfig eth0 down**

1.4 ARP

The **arp** command is used to view and manipulate the ARP (Address Resolution Protocol) table, which maps IP addresses to MAC addresses in the local network.

Purpose: Manage ARP table entries (IP to MAC address mapping).

Usage Examples:

```
arp -a
arp 192.168.1.1
arp -d 192.168.1.100
arp -s 192.168.1.50 00:11:22:33:44:55
```

Common Options:

- **-a:** Display all ARP table entries
- **-d:** Delete an ARP entry
- **-s:** Add a static ARP entry
- **-n:** Display IP addresses instead of hostnames

1.5 RARP

The **rarp** (Reverse Address Resolution Protocol) is used to map a MAC address to its corresponding IP address. It is primarily used by diskless machines to request their IP from a server.

Purpose: Reverse lookup of MAC address to IP address.

Usage Examples:

```
rarp -a  
rarp 00:11:22:33:44:55
```

Note: RARP is largely obsolete and has been replaced by DHCP in modern networks.

1.6 NSLOOKUP

The **nslookup** command is used to query Domain Name System (DNS) servers to find domain name or IP address mapping and other DNS records.

Purpose: Query DNS servers for domain name resolution.

Usage Examples:

```
nslookup google.com  
nslookup 8.8.8.8  
nslookup -type=MX gmail.com  
nslookup google.com 8.8.8.8
```

Common Query Types:

- **A:** IPv4 address record
- **AAAA:** IPv6 address record
- **MX:** Mail exchange record
- **NS:** Name server record
- **PTR:** Pointer record (reverse lookup)

1.7 NETSTAT

The **netstat** command provides information about network connections, routing tables, interface statistics, masquerade connections, and multicast memberships.

Purpose: Display network connections and statistics.

Usage Examples:

```
netstat -a  
netstat -r  
netstat -i  
netstat -l
```

```
netstat -an | grep :80  
netstat -t  
netstat -u
```

Common Options:

- **-a:** Display all connections and listening ports
- **-r:** Show routing table
- **-i:** Display interface statistics
- **-l:** Show only listening ports
- **-n:** Display numerical addresses
- **-t:** Show TCP connections
- **-u:** Show UDP connections
- **-p:** Show process IDs and names

2 Summary

These basic networking commands are essential tools for network troubleshooting, configuration, and monitoring in Linux systems. Understanding their usage and options helps in diagnosing network issues and managing network interfaces effectively.