



Printing files in Linux

Unit-III

*SCS281: Linux and Shell
Programming*

*Mapped Course Outcomes (CO):
CO4*



Printing files in Linux

- In Linux, different commands are used to print a file or output. Printing from a Linux terminal is a straightforward process. The lp and lpr commands are used to print from the terminal. And, the lpq command is used to display queued print jobs.
- These commands interface with the printer system to send files for printing, check the print queue, and remove print jobs, respectively.

lpr – Send Files to the Printer

The lpr command is used to print files. It places files in the print queue to be processed by the printer.

Syntax:

```
lpr [OPTIONS] [file...]
```

If you don't specify a filename, lpr reads from standard input, allowing you to pipe the output of other commands directly to the printer.

Common Options:



-P printer_name: Specifies which printer to use if multiple printers are set up.



-# num: Specifies the number of copies to print.



-J job_name: Sets a specific job name for identification in the print queue.



-r: Deletes the original file after printing.

Examples

Print a single file

```
lpr filename.txt
```

Print multiple files

```
lpr file1.txt file2.txt
```

Print two copies of a file

```
lpr -#2 filename.txt
```

Print a file to a specific printer

```
lpr -P printer_name filename.txt
```

Print a file and delete it after printing

```
lpr -r filename.txt
```

lpq – View the Print Queue

The lpq command shows the current status of the print queue. It lists all active print jobs with details such as job ID, owner, and status.

Syntax:

```
lpq [OPTIONS]
```

Common Options:

- **-P printer_name**: Specifies which printer's queue to display.
- **-l**: Provides a more detailed listing of each job in the queue.

Example

View the default printer's queue

```
lpq
```

View the queue for a specific printer

```
lpq -P printer_name
```

View a detailed listing of the print queue

```
lpq -l
```

Lpq command

When you run lpq, the output might look like this:

Rank	Owner	Job	Files	Total Size
Active	Alice	15	Document.txt	1024 bytes
1 st	Bob	16	Report.pdf	2048 bytes

Here, "Rank" indicates the position in the queue, and "active" shows which job is currently being printed.

lprm – Remove Jobs from the Print Queue

The lprm command removes jobs from the print queue. You can remove your own jobs or, if you're the superuser, other users' jobs as well.

Syntax:

```
lprm [OPTIONS] [job_id]
```

- If no job ID is specified, lprm removes the currently active job.
- Only the owner of a job or the superuser can remove specific jobs.

Common Options:

- **-P printer_name:** Specifies the printer queue from which to remove jobs.
- **-:** Removes all jobs submitted by the user.

Remove a specific job by its job ID

```
lprm 15
```

Remove all jobs for the current user

```
lprm -
```

Remove a job from a specific printer's queue

```
lprm -P printer_name 15
```

Additional Printing Commands

lp – Print Files (Alternative to lpr)

- The lp command is a more modern alternative to lpr and offers similar functionality with slightly different syntax.

Print a file with lp

```
lp filename.txt
```

lpstat – Printer Status

- lpstat provides status information for printers and jobs.

Display the status of all printers

```
lpstat -a
```

Display detailed status for a specific printer

```
lpstat -p printer_name
```

Summary Table

Command	Usage Example	Description
lpr	lpr filename.txt	Send a file to the print queue
lpq	lpq	View the print queue
lprm	lprm 15	Remove a job from the print queue
lp	lp filename.txt	Alternative to lpr for sending files
lpstat	lpstat -p printer_name	Check the status of printers and print jobs