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Linux Determine which Services are Enabled at Boot

Posted by [Vivek Gite](#) <vivek@nixcraft.com>

The best protection against vulnerable software is running less software. How do I find out which services are enabled at Boot under CentOS / RHEL / Fedora Linux? How do I disable software which is not needed?



Open terminal and login as root user.

Type the following command to list all services which are enabled at boot:

```
#chkconfig --list | grep $(runlevel | awk '{ print $2}'):on
```

[1]

Sample output:

```
acpid          0:off 1:off 2:off 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
anacron        0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
atd            0:off 1:off 2:off 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
auditd        0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
cpuspeed       0:off 1:on 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
crond          0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
dkms_autoinstaller 0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
haldaemon     0:off 1:off 2:off 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
hidd          0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
irqbalance    0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
kudzu         0:off 1:off 2:off 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
lighttpd       0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
lm_sensors    0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
lvm2-monitor  0:off 1:on 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
mcstrans       0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
mdmonitor     0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
messagebus    0:off 1:off 2:off 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
microcode_ctl 0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
mysqld        0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
named         0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
netfs         0:off 1:off 2:off 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
network       0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
ntpd          0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
pcscd         0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
psacct        0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
readahead_early 0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
restorecond   0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
rhnsd         0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
rpcgssd       0:off 1:off 2:off 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
rpcidmapd     0:off 1:off 2:off 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
sendmail      0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
setroubleshoot 0:off 1:off 2:off 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
smartd       0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
snmpd        0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
sshd         0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
stor_agent    0:off 1:off 2:off 3:on 4:off 5:on 6:off
syslog        0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
sysstat       0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:off 5:on 6:off
vmware        0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:off 5:on 6:off
xfs           0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
xinetd        0:off 1:off 2:off 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
yum-updatesd  0:off 1:off 2:on 3:on 4:on 5:on 6:off
```

The first column of above output is the name of a service which is currently enabled at boot. You need to review each service.

Task: Disable service

To stop service, enter:

```
# service {service-name} stop
# service vmware stop
```

To disable service, enter:

```
# chkconfig {service-name} off
# chkconfig vmware off
```

You can also use [ntsysv command](#) ^[2] to manage all services.

A note about outdated insecure service

All of the following services must be disabled to improve server security:

1. Inetd and Xinetd (inetd xinetd) - Use direct services configured via SysV and daemons.
2. Telnet (telnet-server) - Use ssh
3. Rlogin, Rsh, and Rcp (rsh-server) - Use ssh and scp.
4. NIS (ypserv) : Use OpenLDAP or Fedora directory server.
5. TFTP (tftp-server) : Use SFTP or SSH.

To delete all of the service enter:

```
# yum erase inetd xinetd ypserv tftp-server telnet-server rsh-serve
```

A note about Debian / Ubuntu Linux

Please see my [comment below](#) ^[3], to find out which services are enabled at boot under Debian / Ubuntu Linux and disable software which is not needed.

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[2] ntsysv command: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/rhel5-update-rcd-command/>

[3] comment below: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/linux-determine-which-services-are-enabled-at-boot/#comment-41093>