

Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents 1

Procedure to change /etc/issue - pre login file 2

/etc/issue - escape code 2

See also 2

[Home](#) > [Faq](#) > [CentOS](#)

Linux display or change a pre-login message – /etc/issue file

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[1]

Q. How can I configure or change the Virtual Console login to display a pre-login message?

A. The file /etc/issue is a text file which contains a message or system identification to be printed before the login prompt. It may contain various @char and \char sequences, if supported by getty.

Just open file /etc/issue and change the text as per your requirements.

Procedure to change /etc/issue - pre login file

Login as the root user. Open a file

```
# vi /etc/issue
```

Append new text as follows:

```
Welcome to nixCraft Labs!  
Today is \d \t @ \n
```

Save and close the file. \d, \t or \n will expand as follows on run time.

/etc/issue - escape code

The issue-file (/etc/issue or the file set with the -f option) may contain certain escape codes to display the system name, date and time etc. All escape codes consist of a backslash (\) immediately followed by one of the letters explained below.

- \b : Insert the baudrate of the current line.
- \d : Insert the current date.
- \s : Insert the system name, the name of the operating system.
- \l : Insert the name of the current tty line.
- \m : Insert the architecture identifier of the machine, eg. i486
- \n : Insert the nodename of the machine, also known as the hostname.
- \o : Insert the domainname of the machine.
- \r : Insert the release number of the OS, eg. 1.1.9.
- \t : Insert the current time.
- \u : Insert the number of current users logged in.
- \U : Insert the string "1 user" or " users" where is the number of current users logged in.
- \v : Insert the version of the OS, eg. the build-date etc.

See also

- [Howto force sshd server to display login banner before login](#) ^[2]

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