

Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents	1
ifconfig command	2
FreeBSD example	3
See also:	3

[Home](#) > [Faq](#) > [BASH Shell](#)

How do I find out the MAC address of my Linux or FreeBSD system?

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[1]

Q. Can you tell me how can I find out MAC address under Linux or FreeBSD server?

A. A mac address is acronym for media access control address, is a unique address assigned to almost all-networking hardware such as Ethernet cards, router etc. Most layer 2 network protocols use one of three numbering spaces managed by the IEEE: MAC-48, EUI-48, and EUI-64, which are designed to be globally unique. (see [mac address](#) ^[2] at wikipedia for more information).

Following command work with Linux and other UNIX oses:

ifconfig command

Ifconfig is used to configure the kernel-resident network interfaces.

In order to find out MAC address of system you can use ifconfig command as follows:

```
$ /sbin/ifconfig | grep HWaddr
```

Output:

```
eth0      Link encap:Ethernet  HWaddr 00:0F:EA:91:04:07
```

OR

```
$ /sbin/ifconfig
```

```
eth0      Link encap:Ethernet  HWaddr 00:0F:EA:91:04:07
          inet addr:192.168.1.2  Bcast:192.168.1.255  Mask:255.255.255.0
          inet6 addr: fe80::20f:eaff:fe91:407/64 Scope:Link
          UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST  MTU:1500  Metric:1
          RX packets:60400 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
          TX packets:109216 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
          collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000
          RX bytes:69273219 (66.0 MiB)  TX bytes:14285799 (13.6 MiB)
          Interrupt:18 Base address:0xc000

lo        Link encap:Local Loopback
          inet addr:127.0.0.1  Mask:255.0.0.0
          inet6 addr: ::1/128 Scope:Host
          UP LOOPBACK RUNNING  MTU:16436  Metric:1
          RX packets:3869 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
          TX packets:3869 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
          collisions:0 txqueuelen:0
          RX bytes:396498 (387.2 KiB)  TX bytes:396498 (387.2 KiB)
```

OR as a root user type following command:

```
# grep eth0 /var/log/dmesg
```

```
eth0: RealTek RTL8139 at 0xc000, 00:0f:ea:91:04:07, IRQ 18
eth0: Identified 8139 chip type 'RTL-8100B/8139D'
eth0: link up, 100Mbps, full-duplex, lpa 0x45E1
```

FreeBSD example

```
# ifconfig
```

Output:

```
lnc0: flags=108843 mtu 1500
      inet 74.xx.yy.zzz netmask 0xffffffff broadcast 74.xx.yyy.zzz
      ether 00:0c:29:b8:92:8b
plip0: flags=108810 mtu 1500
lo0: flags=8049 mtu 16384
     inet6 fe80::1%lo0 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x3
     inet6 ::1 prefixlen 128
     inet 127.0.0.1 netmask 0xff000000
```

See also:

- [iptables mac address based filtering](#) ^[3]

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[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/networking/>

[2] mac address: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mac_address

[3] iptables mac address based filtering: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/nixcraft/vivek/blogger/2005/12/iptables-mac-address-filtering.php>