Shutting Down

The `shutdown` command arranges for the system to be brought down in a safe way. All logged-in users are notified that the system is going down and within the last five minutes leading up to the shutdown, new logins are prevented.

```
shutdown [OPTIONS] TIME [MESSAGE]
```

Follow Along

The `shutdown` command requires administrative access, switch to the `root` account for this section using the following command. Use `netlab123` as the password.

```
sysadmin@localhost:~$ su -
Password:
root@localhost:~#
```

Our virtual machines won't actually shutdown! Feel free to use the command, but be aware it will just revert to the prompt after the countdown instead of bringing the system down. You may have to press **Enter** or **Ctrl+C** to bring back the command prompt.

```
root@localhost:~# shutdown now

Broadcast message from sysadmin@localhost
        (/dev/pts/0) at 2:05 ...

The system is going down for maintenance NOW!
```

Unlike other commands used to bring the system down, the `shutdown` command requires a time argument specifying when the shutdown should begin. Formats of this time argument can be the word `now`, a time of day in the format `hh:mm` or the number of minutes to delay in the format `+minutes`.

Consider This

The clock on our system may be set to a different timezone than the one in which you are located. To check the time in the terminal, use the `date` command. On our machines, the default format of the `date` command output is as follows:

```
weekday month day hour:minute:second UTC year
```

The letters `UTC` present in the output indicates that the time is being displayed as Universal Coordinated Time.

```
root@localhost:~# date
Sat Oct  3 22:15:58 UTC 2020
root@localhost:~# shutdown 01:51

Broadcast message from sysadmin@localhost
        (/dev/pts/0) at 1:50 ...

The system is going down for maintenance in 1 minute!

Broadcast message from sysadmin@localhost
        (/dev/pts/0) at 1:51 ...

The system is going down for maintenance NOW!
```

The `shutdown` command also has an optional message argument, indicating a message that will appear in the terminals of all users. For example:

```
root@localhost:~# shutdown +1 "Goodbye World!"

Broadcast message from sysadmin@localhost
        (/dev/pts/0) at 3:07 ...

The system is going down for maintenance in 1 minute!
Goodbye World!
shutdown: Unable to shutdown system
root@localhost:~#
Broadcast message from sysadmin@localhost
        (/dev/pts/0) at 3:08 ...

The system is going down for maintenance NOW!
Goodbye World!
```