Doug Vitale Tech Blog

Deprecated Linux networking commands and their replacements

In my <u>article</u> detailing the command line utilities available for configuring and troubleshooting network properties on Windows and Linux, I mentioned some Linux tools that, while still included and functional in many Linux distributions, are actually considered <u>deprecated</u> and therefore should be phased out in favor of more modern replacements.

Specifically, the deprecated Linux networking commands in question are: **arp**, **ifconfig**, **iptunnel**, **iwconfig**, **nameif**, **netstat**, and **route**. These programs (except **iwconfig**) are included in the <u>net-tools</u> package that has been unmaintained for years. The functionality provided by several of these utilities has been reproduced and improved in the new <u>iproute2</u> suite, primarily by using its new <u>ip</u> command. The <u>iproute2</u> software code is available from <u>Kernel.org</u>. **Iproute2** documentation is available from <u>the Linux Foundation</u> and <u>PolicyRouting.org</u>.

Deprecated command	Replacement command(s)
arp	ip n (ip neighbor)
ifconfig	ip a (ip addr), ip link, ip -s (ip -stats)
iptunnel	ip tunnel
iwconfig	iw
nameif	ip link, ifrename
netstat	ss, ip route (for netstat-r), ip -s link (for netstat -i), ip maddr (for netstat-g)
route	ip r (ip route)

Now let's take a closer look at these deprecated commands and their replacements.

This article will not focus on **iproute2** or the **ip** command in detail; instead it will simply give one-to-one 1 mappings between the deprecated commands and their new counterparts. For replacement 470 mappings 23:03

Deprecated Linux networking commands and thei... https://dougvitale.wordpress.com/2011/12/21/dep... that are listed as 'not apparent', please <u>contact me</u> if you know otherwise.

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Please note that **nslookup** and **dig** are covered separately <u>here</u>.

Arp

Deprecated arp commands	Replacement
arp -a [host] orall [host] . Shows the entries of the specified host name or IP address. If the [host] parameter is not used, all entries will be displayed.	ip n (or ip neighbor), or ip n show
arp -d [ip_addr] or delete [ip_addr] . Removes the ARP cache entry for the specified host.	<pre>ip n del [ip_addr] (this "invalidates" neighbor entries) . ip n f [ip_addr] (or ip n flush [ip_addr])</pre>
arp -D or use-device . Uses the hardware address associated with the specified interface.	Not apparent
arp -e . Shows the entries in default (Linux) style.	Not apparent

Similar to the -s option, only this time the address info is taken from the file that [filename] set up. If no [filename] is specified, <code>/etc/ethers</code> is used as default.	Not apparent	
arp -H orhw-type [type] or -t [type]		
When setting or reading the ARP cache, this optional parameter tells arp which class of entries it should check for. The default value of this parameter is ether (i.e. hardware code 0x01 for IEEE 802.3 10Mbps Ethernet).	Not apparent	
arp -i [int] or device [int]		
Selects an interface. When dumping the ARP cache only entries matching the specified interface will be printed. For example, arp -i eth0 -s 10.21.31.41 A321.ABCF.321A creates a static ARP entry associating IP address 10.21.31.41 with MAC address A321.ABCF.321A on eth0.	ip n [add chg del repl] der [name]	
arp -n or numeric		
. Shows IP addresses instead of trying to determine domain names.	Not apparent	
arp -s [ip_addr] [hw_addr] or set [ip_addr]	ip n add [ip_addr] lladdr	
. Manually creates a static ARP address mapping entry for host	[mac_address] dev [device] nud [nud_state] (see example below)	

Some **ip neighbor** examples are as follows:

Uses verbose mode to provide more details.

ip n del 10.1.2.3 dev eth0

Invalidates the ARP cache entry for host 10.1.2.3 on device **eth0**.

ip neighbor show dev eth0

Shows the ARP cache for interface eth0.

ip n add 10.1.2.3 lladdr 1:2:3:4:5:6 dev eth0 nud perm

Adds a "permanent" ARP cache entry for host 10.1.2.3 device **eth0**. The Neighbor Unreachability Detection (**nud**) state can be one of the following:

- **noarp** entry is valid. No attempts to validate this entry will be made but it can be removed when its lifetime expires.
- 3 dp1permanent entry is valid forever and can be only be removed administratively.

ip -s n (or ip -stats n)

- **stale** entry is valid but suspicious.

Ifconfig

Deprecated ifconfig commands	Replacement
ifconfig . Displays details on all network interfaces.	ip a (or ip addr)
ifconfig [interface] . The name of the interface. This is usually a driver name followed by a unit number; for example, eth0 for the first Ethernet interface. Eth0 will usually be a PC's primary network interface card (NIC).	ip a show dev [interface]
ifconfig [address_family] . To enable the interpretation of differing naming schemes used by various protocols, [address_family] is used for decoding and displaying all protocol addresses. Currently supported address families include inet (TCP/IP, default), inet6 (IPv6), ax25 (AMPR Packet Radio), ddp (Appletalk Phase 2), ipx (Novell IPX) and netrom (AMPR Packet radio).	<pre>ip -f [family] a . [family] can be inet (IPv4), inet6 (IPv6), or link. Additionally, -4 = -f inet and -6 = -f inet6.</pre>
ifconfig [interface] add [address/prefixlength . Adds an IPv6 address to the [interface].	ip a add [ip_addr/mask] dev [interface]
ifconfig [interface] address [address] . Assigns the specified IP [address] to the specified [interface].	ip a add [ip_addr/mask] dev [interface]
ifconfig [interface] allmulti or -allmulti . Enables or disables all-multicast mode. If selected, all multicast packets on the network will be received by the [interface] specified. This enables or disables the sending of incoming frames to the kernel's network layer.	ip mr iif [name] or ip mroute iif [name], where [name] is the interface on which multicast packets are received.

Enables or disables the use of the ARP protocol on this [interface].	ip link set arp on or arp off	
ifconfig [interface] broadcast [address]	ip a add broadcast [ip_address]	
Specifies the address to use to use for broadcast transmissions. By default, the broadcast address for a subnet is the IP address with all ones in the host portion of the subnet address (i.e., <i>a.b.c.</i> 255 for a /24 subnet).	ip link set dev [interface] broadca[mac_address] (sets the link layerbroadcast address)	
ifconfig [interface] del [address/prefixlength] . Removes an IPv6 address from the [interface], such as eth0.	ip a del [ipv6_addr or ipv4_addr] dev [interface]	
ifconfig [interface] down . Disables the [interface], such as eth0.	ip link set dev [interface] down	
ifconfig [interface] hw [class] [address]		
Sets the hardware (MAC) address of this [interface], if the device driver supports this operation. The keyword <i>must</i> be followed by the name of the hardware [class] and the printable ASCII equivalent of the hardware address. Hardware classes currently supported include ether (Ethernet), ax25 (AMPR AX.25), ARCnet and netrom (AMPR NET/ROM).	ip link set dev [interface] address [mac_addr]	
ifconfig [interface] io_addr [address] . Sets the start [address] in I/O space for this device.	Not apparent; possibly ethtool .	
ifconfig [interface] irq [address] . Sets the interrupt line used by the network interface.	Not apparent; possibly ethtool .	
ifconfig [interface] mem_start [address] . Sets the start address for shared memory of the interface.	Not apparent; possibly ethtool .	
ifconfig [interface] media [type]		
Sets physical port or medium type. Examples of [type] are 10baseT, 10base2, and AUI. A [type] value of auto will tell the interface driver to automatically determine the media type (driver support for this command varies).	Not apparent; possibly ethtool .	
ifconfig [interface] mtu [n]	in link set day (interfered mty [n]	
Sets the Maximum Transfer Unit (<u>MTU</u>) of an interface to [n].	ip link set dev [interface] mtu [n]	

reprecated Linux networking commands and thei https://d ifconfig [interface] multicast	ougvitale.wordpress.com/2011/12/21/dep
. Sets the <u>multicast flag</u> on the interface (should not normally be needed as the drivers set the flag correctly themselves).	ip link set dev [interface] multicast on or off
ifconfig [interface] netmask [mask_address] . Sets the <i>subnet mask</i> (not the IP address) for this [interface]. This value defaults to the standard Class A, B, or C subnet masks (based on the interface IP address) but can be changed with this command.	Not apparent
ifconfig [interface] pointopoint or -pointopoint.Enables or disables point-to-point mode on this [interface].	not apparent; possibly ipppd [device]. The command ip a add peer [address] specifies the address of the remote endpoint for point-to-point interfaces.
ifconfig [interface] promisc or -promisc . Enables or disables <u>promiscuous mode</u> on the [interface].	ip link set dev [interface] promisc on or off
ifconfig [interface] txquelen [n] . Sets the transmit queue length on the [interface]. Smaller values are recommended for connections with high latency (i.e., dial-up modems, ISDN, etc).	ip link set dev [interface] txqueuelen [n] or txqlen [n]
ifconfig [interface] tunnel [address] . Creates a Simple Internet Transition (IPv6-in-IPv4) device which tunnels to the IPv4 [address] provided.	ip tunnel mode sit (other possible modes are ipip and gre).
ifconfig [interface] up . Activates (enables) the [interface] specified.	ip link set [interface] up

Some examples illustrating the ip command are as follows; using the table above you should be able to figure out what they do.

```
# ip link show dev eth0
```

[#] ip a add 10.11.12.13/8 dev eth0

[#] ip link set dev eth0 up

[#] ip link set dev eth0 mtu 1500

[#] ip link set dev eth0 address 00:70:b7:d6:cd:ef

Iptunnel

Deprecated iptunnel commands	Replacement
iptunnel [add change del show]	ip tunnel a or add ip tunnel chg or change ip tunnel d or del ip tunnel ls or show
iptunnel add [name] [mode {ipip gre sit}] remote [remote_addr] local [local_addr]	ip tunnel add [name] [mode {ipip gre sit isatap ip6in6 ipip6 any }] remote [remote_addr] local [local_addr]
iptunnel -V orversion	not apparent

The syntax between **iptunnel** and **ip tunnel** is very similar as these examples show.

[iptunnel | ip tunnel] add ipi-tunl2 mode ipip remote 104.137.4.160 local 104.137.4.150 ttl 1

[iptunnel | ip tunnel] add gre-tunl1 mode gre remote 192.168.22.17 local
192.168.10.21 ttl 255

Iptunnel is covered in more depth <u>here</u>.

Iwconfig

Iwconfig's successor, **iw**, is still in development. Official documentation for **iw** is available <u>here</u> and here.

^{# [}iptunnel | ip tunnel] add ipip-tunl1 mode ipip remote 83.240.67.86 (*ipip-tunl1* is the name of the tunnel, 83.240.67.86 is the IP address of the remote endpoint).

Deprecated iwconfig commands	Replacement
iwconfig	
Displays basic details about wireless interfaces, such as supported protocols (802.11a/b/g/n), Extended Service Set ID (ESSID), mode, and access point. To view these details about a particular interface, use iwconfig [interface] where the interface is the device name, such as wlan0 .	iw dev [interface] link
iwconfig [interface] ap [address]	
Forces the wireless adapter to register with the access point given by the [address], if possible. This address is the cell identity of the access point (as reported by wireless scanning) which may be different from its MAC address.	Not apparent
iwconfig commit	
Some wireless adapters may not apply changes immediately (they may wait to aggregate the changes, or apply them only when the card is brought up via ifconfig). This command (when available) forces the adapter to immediately apply all pending changes.	Not apparent
iwconfig [interface] essid [name]	
Connects to the WLAN with the ESSID [name] provided. With some wireless adapters, you can disable the ESSID checking (ESSID promiscuous) with off or any (and on to re-enable it).	iw [interface] connect [name]
iwconfig [interface] frag [num]	
Sets the maximum fragment size which is always lower than the maximum packet size. This parameter may also control Frame Bursting available on some wireless adapters (the ability to send multiple IP packets together). This mechanism would be enabled if the fragment size is larger than the maximum packet size. Other valid frag parameters to auto , on , and off .	Not apparent
iwconfig [interface] [freq channel]	iw dev [interface] set freq
Sets the operating frequency or channel on the wireless device. A value below 1000 indicates a channel number, a value greater than 1000 is a frequency in Hz. You can append the suffix k , M or G to the value (for example, "2.46G" for 2.46 GHz frequency). You may also use off or auto to let the adapter pick up the best channel (when supported).	[freq] [HT20 HT40+ HT40-] . iw dev [interface] set channel [chan] [HT20 HT40+ HT40-]

iwconfig [interface] key [key] [mode] [on off] To set the current encryption [key], just enter the key in hex digits as XXXX-XXXX-XXXX or XXXXXXXX. You can also enter the key as an ASCII string by using the s: prefix. On and off re=enable and disable encryption. The security mode may be open or restricted, and its meaning depends on the card used. With most cards, in open mode	iw [interface] connect [name] keys [key] (for WEP) . To connect to an AP with WPA or WPA2 encryption,
no authentication is used and the card may also accept non-encrypted sessions, whereas in restricted mode only encrypted sessions are accepted and the card will use authentication if available.	you must use wpa_supplicant.
iwconfig [interface] mode [mode] . Sets the operating mode of the wireless device. The [mode] can be Ad-Hoc, Auto, Managed, Master, Monitor, Repeater, or Secondary. . Ad-Hoc: the network is composed of only one cell and without an access point. Managed: the wireless node connects to a network composed of many access points, with roaming. Master: the wireless node is the synchronization master, or it acts as an access point. Monitor: the wireless node is not associated with any cell and passively monitors all packets on the frequency. Repeater: the wireless node forwards packets between other wireless nodes. Secondary: the wireless node acts as a backup master/repeater.	Not apparent
iwconfig [interface] modu [modulation] . Forces the wireless adapter to use a specific set of modulations. Modern adapters support various modulations, such as 802.11b or 802.11g. The list of available modulations depends on the adapter/driver and can be displayed using iwlist modulation. Some options are 11g, CCK OFDMa, and auto.	Not apparent
iwconfig [interface] nick [name].Sets the nick name (or station name).	Not apparent
iwconfig [interface] nwid [name] . Sets the Network ID for the WLAN. This parameter is only used for pre-802.11 hardware as the 802.11 protocol uses the ESSID and access point address for this function. With some wireless adapters, you can disable the Network ID checking (NWID promiscuous) with off (and on to re-enable it).	Not apparent

adapter is to poor operating conditions such as low signal, signal interference, etc). Modern adapter designs seem to control these

thresholds automatically.

iwconfig [interface] txpower [value] . For adapters supporting multiple transmit powers, this sets the transmit power in dBm. If W is the power in Watt, the power in dBm is $P = 30 + 10.log(W)$. If the [value] is postfixed by mW, it will be automatically converted to dBm. In addition, on and off enable and disable the radio, and auto and fixed enable and disable power control (if those features are available).	iw dev [interface] set txpower [auto fixed limit] [tx power in mBm] . iw phy [phyname] set txpower [auto fixed limit] [tx power in mBm]
iwconfighelp.Displays the iwconfig help message.	iw help
iwconfig version.Displays the version of iwconfig installed.	iw version

Some examples of the **iw** command syntax are as follows.

- # iw dev wlan0 link
- # iw wlan0 connect CoffeeShopWLAN
- # iw wlan0 connect HomeWLAN keys 0:abcde d:1:0011223344(for WEP)

Nameif

Deprecated nameif commands	Replacement
nameif [name] [mac_address] . If no name and MAC address are provided, it attempts to read addresses from /etc/mactab. Each line of mactab should contain an interface name and MAC address (or comments starting with #).	ip link set dev [interface] name [name] . ifrename -i [interface] -n [newname]
nameif -c [config_file] . Reads from [config_file] instead of /etc/mactab.	ifrename -c [config_file]

namei	f -s
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Error messages are sent to the syslog.

Not apparent

Netstat

Deprecated netstat commands	Replacement
netstat -a or all . Shows both listening and non-listening sockets.	ss -a or all
netstat -A [family] orprotocol=[family] . Specifies the address families for which connections are to be shown. [family] is a comma separated list of address family keywords like inet, unix, ipx, ax25, netrom, and ddp. This has the same effect as using the inet,unix (-x),ipx,ax25,netrom, andddp options.	ss -f [family] or -family=[family] . Families: unix, inet, inet6, link, netlink.
netstat -c or continuous . Configures netstat to refresh the displayed information every second until stopped.	Not apparent
netstat -C . Prints routing information from the route cache.	ip route list cache
netstat -e orextend . Displays an increased level of detail. Can be entered as twice (asee) for maximum details.	ss -e or extended
netstat -F . Prints routing information from the forward information database (<u>FIB</u>).	Not apparent
netstat -g or groups . Displays multicast group membership information for IPv4 and IPv6.	ip maddr, ip maddr show [interface]

netstat -t or tcp	
	ss -t or tcp
Filters results to display TCP only.	
netstat -T or notrim	
	Not apparent
Stops trimming long addresses.	
netstat -u or udp	
•	ss -u or udp
Filters results to display UDP only.	
netstat -v or verbose	
	Not apparent
Produces verbose output.	
netstat -w or raw	
•	ss-w orraw
Filter results to display <u>raw sockets</u> only.	
netstat -Z or context	
Prints the <u>SELinux</u> context if SELinux is enabled. On hosts running	Not apparent
SELinux, all processes and files are labeled in a way that represents	- to tappe and the
security-relevant information. This information is called the SELinux	
context.	

Route

Deprecated route commands	Replacement
route . Displays the host's routing tables.	ip route
route -A [family] [add] or route [family] [add] . Uses the specified address family with add or del. Valid families are inet (DARPA Internet), inet6 (IPv6), ax25 (AMPR AX.25), netrom (AMPR NET/ROM), ipx (Novell IPX), ddp (Appletalk DDP), and x25 (CCITT X.25).	<pre>ip -f [family] route . [family] can be inet (IP), inet6 (IPv6), or link. Additionally, -4 = -f inet and -6 = -f inet6.</pre>

route -C or cache . Operates on the kernel's routing cache instead of the forwarding information base (<u>FIB</u>) routing table.	Not apparent; ip route show cache dumpe the routing cache.
route -e or -ee . Uses the netstat-r format to display the routing tableee will generate a very long line with all parameters from the routing table.	ip route show
route -F or fib Operates on the kernel's Forwarding Information Base (FIB) routing table (default behavior).	Not apparent
route -h or help . Prints the help message.	ip route help
route -n . Shows numerical IP addresses and bypass host name resolution.	Not apparent
route -v or verbose Enables verbose command output.	ip -s route
route -V or version . Dispays the version of net-tools and the route command.	ip -V
route add or del . Adds or delete a route in the routing table.	ip route [add chg repl del] [ip_addi via [ip_addr]
route [add or del] dev [interface] . Associates a route with a specific device. If dev [interface] is the last option on the command line, the word dev may be omitted.	ip route [add chg repl del] dev [interface]
route [add or del] [default] gw [gw] . Routes packets through the specified gateway IP address.	ip route add default via [gw]
route [add or del] -host . Specifies that the target is a host (not a network).	Not apparent

Deprecated Linux networking commands and thei h route [add or del] -irtt [n]	ttps://dougvitale.wordpress.com/2011/12/21/dep
Sets the initial round trip time (<u>IRTT</u>) for TCP connections over this route to [n] milliseconds (1-12000). This is typically only used on AX.25 networks. If omitted the <u>RFC 1122</u> default of 300ms is used.	Not apparent; ip route [add chg repl del] rtt [number] sets the RTT estimate; rttvar [number] sets the initial RTT variance estimate.
route [add or del] -net . Specifies that the target is a network (not a host).	Not apparent
route [add or del] [-host or -net] netmask [mask] . Sets the subnet [mask].	Not apparent
route [add or del] metric [n] . Sets the metric field in the routing table (used by routing daemons) to the value of [n].	ip route [add chg repl del] metric [number] or preference [number]
route [add or del] mod, dyn, or reinstate . Install a dynamic or modified route. These flags are for diagnostic purposes, and are generally only set by routing daemons.	Not apparent
route [add or del] mss [bytes] . Sets the TCP Maximum Segment Size (MSS) for connections over this route to the number of [bytes] specified.	ip route [add chg repl del] advmss [number] (the MSS to advertise to these destinations when establishing TCP connections).
route [add or del] reject . Installs a blocking route, which will force a route lookup to fail. This is used to mask out networks before using the default route. This is not intended to provide firewall functionality.	ip route add prohibit [network_addr]
route [add or del] window [n] . Set the <u>TCP window size</u> for connections over this route to the value of [n] bytes. This is typically only used on AX.25 networks and with drivers unable to handle back-to-back frames.	ip route [add chg repl del] window [W]

Some examples of **ip route** command syntax are as follows.

[#] ip route add 10.23.30.0/24 via 192.168.8.50

[#] ip route del 10.28.0.0/16 via 192.168.10.50 dev eth0 16 di 18

ip route get [ip_address] (shows the interface and gateway that would be used to reach a remote host. This command would be especially useful for troubleshooting routing issues on hosts with large routing tables and/or with multiple network interfaces).

Discussion

This article and the topic of deprecated Linux networking commands has generated much interesting commentary on <u>Reddit</u>.

Recommended reading

If you found the content of this article helpful and want to expand your knowledge further, please consider buying a relevant book using the links below. Thanks!



Linux Kernel Networking



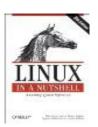
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Written by Doug Vitale

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Posted in Computer Networking Techniques and Concepts

Tagged with ip command, ip link, ip neighbor, ip route, iproute2, iwconfig, linux deprecated

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