



Linux System Programming & UNIX Internals



Important Linux Directories

/bin : All the executable binary programs (file) required during booting, repairing, files required to run into single-user-mode, and other important,

basic commands

e.g. cat, du, df, tar, rpm, wc, history, etc.

/boot : Holds important files during boot-up process, including Linux Kernel.

/dev : Contains device files for all the hardware devices on themachine e.g., cdrom, cpu, etc

/etc : Contains Application's configuration files, startup, shutdown, start, stop script for every individual program.

/home : Home directory of the users. Every time a new user is created, a directory in the name of user is created within home directory which

contains other directories like Desktop, Downloads, Documents, etc.

/lib : The Lib directory contains kernel modules and shared library images required to boot the system

/lost+found : This Directory is installed during installation of Linux, useful for recovering files which may be broken due to unexpected shutdown.

/media: Temporary mount directory is created for removable devices e.g. media/cdrom.

/mnt: Temporary mount directory for mounting file system.

opt: Optional is abbreviated as opt. Contains third party application software like Java

/proc : A virtual and pseudo file-system which contains information about running process

/root : This is the home directory of root user and should never be confused with '/'

/sbin : Contains binary executable programs, required by System Administrator, for Maintenance. E.g. iptables, fdisk, ifconfig, reboot, etc.

/sry: Service is abbreviated as 'sry'. This directory contains server specific and service related files.

/sys : Modern Linux distributions include a /sys directory as a virtual filesystem, which stores and allows modification of the

devices connected to the system.

/tmp :System's Temporary Directory, Accessible by users and root. Stores temporary files for user and system, till next boot.

/usr : Contains executable binaries, documentation, source code, libraries

/var : Stands for variable. The contents of this file is expected to grow. This directory contains log, mail and temp files.



Important Linux Files

/boot/vmlinuz : The Linux Kernel file.

/dev/hda: Device file for the first IDE HDD (Hard Disk Drive)

/dev/hdc: Device file for the IDE Cdrom, commonly

/dev/null: A pseudo p device, that don't exist. Sometime garbage output

is redirected to/dev/null, so that it gets lost, forever.

/etc/bashrc : Contains system defaults and aliases used by bash shell.

/etc/crontab : A shell script to run specified commands on a predefined time Interval.

/etc/exports: Information of the file system available on network.

/etc/fstab : Information of Disk Drive and their mount point.

/etc/group: Information of Security Group.

/etc/grub.conf : grub bootloader configuration file.

/etc/init.d : Service startup Script.

/etc/lilo.conf : lilo bootloader configuration file.

/etc/hosts: Information of IP addresses and corresponding host names.

/etc/hosts.allow: List of hosts allowed to access services on the local machine.

/etc/host.deny: List of hosts denied to access services on the local machine.

/etc/inittab: INIT process and their interaction at various run level.

/etc/issue: Allows to edit the pre-login message.

/etc/motd:motd stands forMessage Of The Day, The Message users gets upon login.

/etc/mtab: Currently mounted blocks information.

/etc/passwd: Contains password of systemusers in a shadow file, a security implementation.

/etc/printcap: Printer Information

/etc/profile.d : Application script, executed after login.

/etc/rc.d: Information about run level specific script.

/etc/rc.d/init.d: Run Level Initialization Script.

/etc/resolv.conf : Domain Name Servers (DNS) being used by System.

/etc/skel : Script that populates new user home directory.



/etc/X11: Configuration files of X-windowSystem.

/usr/bin: Normal user executable commands.

/usr/bin/X11: Binaries of X windows System.

/usr/include: Contains include files used by 'c' program.

/usr/share: Shared directories ofman files, info files, etc.

/usr/lib: Library files which are required during programcompilation.

/usr/sbin: Commands for Super User, for System Administration.

/proc/cpuinfo : CPU Information

/proc/filesystems: Filesystem Information being used currently.

/proc/meminfo: Memory Usages Information.

/proc/mount : Mounted File-systemInformation.

/proc/stat : Detailed Statistics of the current System.

/proc/swaps: Swap File Information.

/version : Linux Version Information.

/var/log/lastlog: log of last boot process.

/var/log/messages : log of messages produced by syslog daemon at boot.

/var/log/wtmp: list login time and duration of each user on the system currently