4.4.3 System Service Facts

This lesson covers the following topics:

- Services/daemons overview
- Systemctl commands

Services/Daemons Overview

Managing boot targets is an important aspect of administrating a Linux System. System services (often called daemons) run on the operating system but are designed to provide services that keep the system up and running and make it useful in some way. They are not designed to continually interact with the end user (like an application does) and, therefore, usually do not provide any kind of user interface. A few example of Linux daemons include FirewallD, NTPD, and SSHD.

Systemctl Commands

On a systemd-base Linux distribution, the **systemctl** command is used to stop, start, restart, or view the status of services on the system:

Command	Function	Example
systemctl start *service*.service	Starts a daemon.	**systemctl start nfs.service** starts the NFS daemon.
systemctl stop *service*.service	Stops a daemon.	**systemctl stop nfs.service** stops the NFS daemon.
systemctl restart *service*.service	Restarts a daemon.	**systemctl restart nfs.service** stops and then restarts the NFS daemon.
systemctl reload *service*.service	Reloads a daemon's configuration without actually stopping the daemon itself.	**systemctl reload nfs.service** reloads the NFS daemon's configuration file without stopping the daemon itself.
systemctl status *service*.service	Displays a daemon's status.	**systemctl status nfs.service** displays the current status of the NFS daemon.
systemctl enable *service*.service	Automatically start a daemon when the system starts.	**systemctl enable nfs.service** automatically starts the NFS daemon every time the system boots
systemctl disable *service*.service	Prevents a daemon from automatically starting when the system starts.	**systemctl disable nfs.service** disables the NFS daemon so that it does not automatically start when the system boots.
systemctl is-enabled *service*.service	Sees if a daemon is configured to automatically start on system boot.	**systemctl is-enabled nfs.service** displays whether or not the NFS daemon will be automatically started when the system boots.
systemctl mask *service*.service	Prevents a daemon from starting at all, either automatically or manually from the shell prompt.	**systemctl mask nfs.service** prevents the NFS daemon from starting at all.
systemctl unmask *service*.service	Unmasks a previously masked daemon. This allows the daemon to be started either manually or automatically.	**systemctl unmask nfs.service** unmasks the NFS daemon.

Earlier versions of Linux that were based on the init daemon used *init scripts* along with the **chkconfig**, **insserv**, **rc**, and **service** commands to manage system services.