

Linux Scenario Practice Guide for DevOps Engineers

This guide is designed for DevOps engineers to practice real-world Linux scenarios. Each scenario includes the situation, question, and answer with practical commands you'll use daily in production environments.

1. Disk Space Alert

Situation: Jenkins jobs are failing due to low disk space.

Solution:

```
df -h; du -sh /* 2>/dev/null | sort -hr | head -10; find /var/log -type f -name '*.*log' -mtime +7 -delete; docker system prune -a --volumes
```

2. High CPU Usage

Situation: Web server is slow due to CPU hogging.

Solution:

```
top; ps -eo pid,comm,%cpu,%mem --sort=-%cpu | head; kill -9
```

3. SSH Access Denied

Situation: A new DevOps user cannot SSH into the server.

Solution:

```
id devopsuser; ls -ld /home/devopsuser/.ssh; cat /home/devopsuser/.ssh/authorized_keys; systemctl status sshd
```

4. Application Port Not Listening

Situation: Nginx running but website unreachable.

Solution:

```
ss -tulnp | grep nginx; curl -I http://localhost:80; firewall-cmd --permanent --add-port=80/tcp; firewall-cmd --reload
```

5. Service Fails After Reboot

Situation: Docker doesn't start automatically.

Solution:

```
systemctl enable docker; systemctl start docker; systemctl status docker
```

6. Log File Analysis

Situation: Application crashed last night.

Solution:

```
grep -i 'error' /var/log/syslog | tail -20; journalctl -u nginx --since 'yesterday'
```

7. Network Connectivity Issue

Situation: Ping to internal server fails.

Solution:

```
ping ; ip a; ip route; systemctl status NetworkManager
```

8. File Permission Error

Situation: Jenkins reports 'Permission denied'.

Solution:
ls -l /var/lib/jenkins; chown -R jenkins:jenkins /var/lib/jenkins; chmod -R 755 /var/lib/jenkins

9. Automation with Cron

Situation: Run cleanup script daily.

Solution:
crontab -e; 0 0 * * * /usr/local/bin/cleanup.sh

10. Package Installation

Situation: Install jq and git on RHEL.

Solution:
yum install -y jq git

11. Check System Uptime

Situation: Check how long system has been up.

Solution:
uptime; who -b

12. Find Recently Modified Files

Situation: Find modified files in last 24h.

Solution:
find /path/to/dir -type f -mtime -1

13. Port Conflict

Situation: Port 8080 is busy.

Solution:
lsof -i :8080; netstat -tulnp | grep 8080

14. Copy Files Between Servers

Situation: Copy backup file to another node.

Solution:
scp /backup/db_backup.sql user@10.10.10.2:/data/backups/

15. File System Read-Only Error

Situation: Can't save logs: Read-only FS.

Solution:
mount -o remount,rw /; df -hT; dmesg | tail -20

16. Docker Container Not Starting

Situation: Container exits immediately.

Solution:
docker ps -a; docker logs ; docker inspect | grep Error

17. Docker Image Consuming Space

Situation: Disk full due to Docker images.

Solution:

```
docker system df; docker system prune -a --volumes; du -sh /var/lib/docker/*
```

18. Docker Network Issue

Situation: Containers can't reach each other.

Solution:

```
docker network ls; docker network inspect ; docker exec -it ping
```

19. Ansible Permission Error

Situation: Playbook fails with permission issue.

Solution:

```
ansible-playbook site.yml -vvv; ansible all -m ping; ansible all -a 'whoami'
```

20. Dynamic Inventory

Situation: Auto-discover EC2 instances via Ansible.

Solution:

```
ansible-inventory -i aws_ec2.yml --list
```

21. Kubernetes Pod CrashLoopBackOff

Situation: Pod restarts repeatedly.

Solution:

```
kubectl describe pod ; kubectl logs --previous
```

22. Node NotReady

Situation: Kubernetes worker node shows NotReady.

Solution:

```
kubectl describe node ; df -h; du -sh /var/lib/containerd /var/lib/kubelet
```

23. Pod External Connection Issue

Situation: Pod can't connect to external API.

Solution:

```
kubectl exec -it -- curl -v https://api.example.com; kubectl get networkpolicy
```

24. ConfigMap Not Updated

Situation: Pods not showing latest config.

Solution:

```
kubectl rollout restart deployment
```

25. High System Load

Situation: Prometheus alert: high load average.

Solution:

```
uptime; top; vmstat 1 5; iostat -xz 1 5
```

26. Time Desync

Situation: Timestamps differ between servers.

```
Solution:
timedatectl; systemctl restart chronyd
```

27. SELinux Blocking App

Situation: Permission denied due to SELinux.

```
Solution:
getenforce; setenforce 0
```

28. Firewall Blocking App

Situation: Grafana port not accessible.

```
Solution:
firewall-cmd --list-all; firewall-cmd --permanent --add-port=3000/tcp; firewall-cmd
--reload
```

29. Deleted Log File Still in Use

Situation: File missing but process writing.

```
Solution:
lsof | grep deleted
```

30. Backup Database Script

Situation: Automate PostgreSQL backups daily.

```
Solution:
pg_dump -U postgres mydb > /backup/mydb_$(date +%F).sql; find /backup -type f -mtime
+7 -delete
```

Keep Practicing!

Use these scenarios daily to strengthen your Linux troubleshooting and automation skills.
Remember — mastery comes from repetition, observation, and automation.