NETWORKING & SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION LAB

Experiment No.: 8

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Batch: MCA -A

Date: 22/04/2022

Aim

b) Study of system configuration files in /etc, familiarizing log files for system events, user activity, network events.

Procedure

1. /etc – system configuration files.

/etc/alternatives

It is possible for several programs fulfilling the same or similar functions to be installed on a single system at the same time. For example, many systems have several text editors installed at once. This gives choice to the users of a system, allowing each to use a different editor, if desired, but makes it difficult for a program to make a good choice of editor to invoke if the user has not specified a particular preference.

The alternatives system aims to solve this problem. A generic name in the filesystem is shared by all files providing interchangeable functionality. The alternatives system and the system administrator together determine which actual file is referenced by this generic name. For example, if the text editors ed(1) and nvi(1) are both installed on the system, the alternatives system will cause the generic name /usr/bin/editor to refer to /usr/bin/nvi by default. The system administrator can override this and cause it to refer to /usr/bin/ed instead, and the alternatives system will not alter this setting until explicitly requested to do so.

The generic name is not a direct symbolic link to the selected alternative. Instead, it is a symbolic link to a name in the alternatives directory, which in turn is a symbolic link to the actual file referenced. This is done so that the system administrator's changes can be confined within the /etc directory.

/etc/bash.bashrc

System wide functions and aliases' file for interactive bash shells.

/etc/bash_completion

Programmable completion functions for bash 2.05a.

/etc/crontab

'cron' configuration file. This file is for the cron table to setup the automatic running of system routines. A cron table can also be established for individual users. The location of these user cron table files will be explained later on.

```
# /etc/crontab: system-wide crontab
# Unlike any other crontab you don't have to run the `crontab'
# command to install the new version when you edit this file.
# This file also has a username field, that none of the other crontabs do.

SHELL=/bin/sh
PATH=/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/sbin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin

# m h dom mon dow user command
25 6 * * * root test -e /usr/sbin/anacron || run-parts --report
/etc/cron.daily
47 6 * * 7 root test -e /usr/sbin/anacron || run-parts --report
/etc/cron.weekly
52 6 1 * * root test -e /usr/sbin/anacron || run-parts --report
/etc/cron.monthly
#
```

/etc/cups

Configuration files for the Common UNIX Printing System (CUPS). Files here are used to define client-specific parameters, such as the default server or default encryption settings.