What is it?

Lists network interfaces

Invocation

ifconfig

list all active ifaces

ifconfig -a

list all active / inactive ifaces

ifconfig [ifacename]

display info about specific iface

ifconfig en0 down

disable interface

ifconfig en0 up

enable interface

How do you interpret ifconfig output?

For example:

en0: flags=8863<UP,BROADCAST,SMART,RUNNING,SIMPLEX,MULTICAST> mtu 1500

ether 2c:f0:ee:27:77:e6

inet6 fe80::2ef0:eeff:fe27:77e6%en0 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x4

inet 192.168.1.152 netmask 0xffffff00 broadcast 192.168.1.255

nd6 options=1<PERFORMNUD>

media: autoselect

status: active

en0 => name of the interface...ethernet 0

flags => 8863

UP - kernel modules related to the iface have been loaded. Card is configured and ready.

BROADCAST - A broadcast address has been set

RUNNING - iface is ready to accept data

SIMPLEX - communication is in one direction only

MULTICAST - the iface supports multicasting

ether 2c:f0:ee:27:77:e6

mac address

inet6 fe80::2ef0:eeff:fe27:77e6%en0 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x4

inet 192.168.1.152 netmask 0xffffff00 broadcast 192.168.1.255

The ip address assigned to the iface

netmask indicates the size of the network

192.168.1.255 is the broadcast address

nd6 options=1<PERFORMNUD>

related to neighbor discovery protocol

media: autoselect

the ethernet media type being used

used for configuring speed and duplex of an iface

status: active

What is the meaning of interfaces starting with en?

ethernet nic - ethernet controllers

terms

MTU - max transaction unit

max number of octets the interface can send at a time

octet

8 bits (1 byte)

bridge

TODO

bridge interfaces

TODO

nd6

network domain 6

neighbor discovery?

replacement for ARP

lo0

loopback