LPIC-1 Exam Workbook

A Chapter-by-Chapter Syllabus with Practice Questions

Version 1.0

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Chapter 1

Topic 101: System Architecture

101.1 Determine and Configure Hardware Settings

Reference to LPI Objectives:

- LPIC-1 v5, Exam 101, Objective 101.1
- Weight: 2

Key Knowledge Areas

- Enabling/disabling integrated peripherals (BIOS/UEFI).
- Identifying different types of mass storage devices.
- Determining hardware resources for devices (IRQ, DMA, etc.).
- Using tools (lsusb, lspci, lsmod) for hardware inspection.
- Manipulating USB devices.
- Understanding sysfs, udev, and dbus concepts.

Important Files, Terms, and Utilities

- /sys/
- /proc/
- /dev/
- modprobe
- 1smod
- lspci
- lsusb

Lesson Overview

Modern computers rely on standards for firmware and hardware interaction. On x86 platforms, the firmware could be traditional **BIOS** or newer **UEFI**. Both allow for configuring hardware resources (e.g., integrated peripherals, IRQs, DMA settings) even before the operating system loads.

Once Linux is running, device detection and configuration rely on the kernel and support from user-space utilities such as lspci, lsmsd, and various pseudo-filesystems in /proc and /sys.

1. BIOS and UEFI Configuration

- Accessing Firmware: Typically press Del, F2, or F12 at startup.
- Common Configurations:
 - Enable/disable integrated peripherals (USB ports, onboard audio, etc.).
 - Set boot order and define the primary device for the bootloader.
 - Adjust CPU features or RAM parameters if needed.
- Impact: Misconfiguration (e.g., wrong boot device) can prevent the OS from loading.

2. Device Detection in Linux

- Goal: Match hardware parts to the correct driver (kernel module).
- Basic Workflow:
 - 1. Check if hardware is detected (e.g., lspci, lsusb).
 - 2. Verify if a driver is loaded (e.g., lsmod, lspci -k).
 - 3. Confirm functionality via logs, testing, or additional tools.

3. Commands for Hardware Inspection

- 1. lspci
 - Lists PCI devices (graphics cards, network interfaces, etc.).
 - Use -v for more detail and -k to see which kernel modules are in use.
 - Example:

```
lspci -s 04:02.0 -v
lspci -s 01:00.0 -k
```

2. lsusb

- Lists USB devices (keyboards, mice, USB hubs, etc.).
- Use -v for verbose output and -d <vendor:product> to focus on a specific device.
- Example:

```
lsusb -v -d 1781:0c9f
lsusb -t # Show devices in a tree structure
```

3. lsmod

- Shows loaded kernel modules.
- Columns: Module, Size, Used by (dependency information).
- Example:

```
lsmod | grep snd_hda_intel
```

4. modprobe

- Loads or unloads modules (with dependencies).
- modprobe -r <module> removes a module if not in use.
- modinfo <module > shows module details (author, license, parameters, etc.).
- Configuration files in /etc/modprobe.d/ can blacklist or set module parameters.

4. Hardware Information Files

- /proc (pseudo-filesystem for processes and hardware info)
 - /proc/cpuinfo, /proc/interrupts, /proc/ioports, /proc/dma
- /sys (sysfs for device and kernel data)
- /dev (device files)
 - Each entry represents a device (e.g., /dev/sda1, /dev/fd0).
 - udev dynamically creates/removes these files as devices connect or disconnect.

5. Storage Devices

- Block Devices: Accessed in fixed-size blocks (hard disks, SSDs, etc.).
- Naming Conventions:
 - Newer kernels use sd prefix for most disks; partitions are numbered (/dev/sda1).

- IDE devices also appear as sd on modern kernels
- NVMe devices get names like /dev/nvme0n1p1.
- SD Cards often appear as /dev/mmcblk0p1.

• Hotplug and Coldplug:

- **Hotplug:** device recognized after boot (e.g., USB).
- Coldplug: device recognized during boot (built-in or already connected).

Workbook Exercises

1. Accessing BIOS/UEFI

- Reboot a test machine and enter BIOS/UEFI.
- Locate the sections that let you enable/disable integrated peripherals.
- Identify the menu where boot order is set.

2. Listing Hardware

- On a Linux system, run lspci -k.
 - Identify which driver is used by the video card.
- Run lsusb -t.
 - Check which USB driver modules are in use (e.g., btusb, usbhid).

3. Exploring /proc and /sys

- View CPU details with cat /proc/cpuinfo.
- Inspect interrupts with cat /proc/interrupts.
- Explore /sys/class and /sys/block to see how devices are represented.

4. Managing Kernel Modules

- Use 1smod to list all loaded modules.
- Pick a module (e.g., a sound driver) and unload it with sudo modprobe -r <module>.
 - Check if removal is allowed (the module should not be in use).
- Use modinfo -p <module> to see possible parameters, and note how you might apply them in /etc/modprobe.d/.

5. Blacklisting a Module

- Create a test file in /etc/modprobe.d/ to blacklist an unwanted module (e.g., nouveau).
- Reboot and confirm it is not loaded by checking lsmod.

Summary

- Modern systems rely on firmware (BIOS/UEFI) for initial hardware configuration.
- Linux identifies devices via kernel modules; tools like lspci, lsusb, lsmod, and modprobe allow you to inspect and manage hardware.
- /proc and /sys provide detailed, real-time system information, while udev dynamically manages device nodes in /dev.
- Storage device naming conventions follow standard patterns such as sd, nvme, mmcblk, and partition numbers like /dev/sda1.
- Understanding how to enable/disable devices, load/unload modules, and explore hardware information files is crucial for effective system administration and LPIC-1 success.

Multiple-Choice Questions for 101.1

1.	When trying to enable or disable motherboard-integrated peripherals, which component of the system is typically used?
	A) The BIOS or UEFI configuration utility
	B) The Linux kernel's initrd
	C) The /boot partition
	D) The lsusb command
2.	Which command lists devices currently connected to the PCI bus?
	${ m A)}$ modprobe
	B) lsmod
	C) lspci
	D) lshw
3.	Which of the following commands helps you list USB devices in a tree-like hierarchy?
	A) lsusb -a
	B) lsusb -s
	C) lsusb -f
	D) lsusb -t
4.	To remove a kernel module (along with its dependencies) while the system is running, which command should be used?
	A) modinfo -r
	B) modprobe -r
	C) rmmod –all
	D) lsmod -r
5.	On modern Linux systems, SATA disks are generally identified as which kind of device name?
	A) $/\text{dev/sdX}$
	B) $/\text{dev/hdX}$
	C) /dev/nvmeXnY
	D) $/\text{dev}/\text{fdX}$

6. Which file below would you edit to permanently blacklist a problematic kernel module

such that it doesn't load automatically?

	$ m A) \ /etc/rc.local$
	$\rm B) \ /etc/modprobe.d/blacklist.conf$
	${\rm C)\ /boot/grub/grub.cfg}$
	${\rm D)\ /proc/blacklist/modules}$
7.	Which pseudo-filesystem is most specifically devoted to storing device and kernel data related to hardware?
	m A) / dev
	B) /proc
	C) /sys
	D) /home
8.	Which command line will show a specific USB device's verbose information using its vendor:product ID (e.g., 1781:0c9f)?
	A) lsusb -d 1781:0c9f -v
	B) lsusb -p 1781:0c9f -v
	C) lsusb -i 1781:0c9f
	D) lsusb -v -s 01:02
9.	In the output of lsmod, the "Used by" column indicates:
	A) the file size of the module on disk
	B) the user-level applications that installed the module
	C) the modules or processes depending on that module
	D) kernel version compatibility for that module
10.	If you need to confirm which kernel driver is in use by a particular PCI device, which lspci option combination is most helpful on recent distributions?
	A) lspci -m
	B) lspci -k
	C) lspci -D

 $11. \ \ What does the output of \verb|lsusb| -t specifically highlight that differs from plain \verb|lsusb|?|$

A) The exact partition layout of attached USB drives

D) lspci –driver

- B) A hierarchical (tree-like) representation of USB devices and drivers
- C) The SCSI ID mappings of USB-attached devices

- D) A summary of device's kernel modules only
- 12. Which best describes the function of the modinfo command?
 - A) It removes the specified module from the kernel
 - B) It displays all processes currently using a kernel module
 - C) It lists detailed information about a specified module, including parameters
 - D) It inserts the specified module and resolves dependencies
- 13. What is the role of udev on a modern Linux system?
 - A) It is a pseudo-filesystem used to track hardware devices in /sys
 - B) It permanently stores device drivers in /boot
 - C) It manages device nodes in /dev, handling hotplug/coldplug events
 - D) It only configures CPU frequency scaling
- 14. Which file inside /proc would you inspect to see how many interrupts have occurred for each device?
 - A) /proc/ioports
 - B) /proc/dma
 - C) /proc/cpuinfo
 - D) /proc/interrupts
- 15. If a device is recognized by the kernel but not functioning correctly, which of the following is the most likely underlying cause?
 - A) The BIOS is not set to read the device's firmware
 - B) The associated kernel module (driver) is not loaded or is misconfigured
 - C) The CPU lacks the required SSE instruction set
 - D) The device was not assigned a correct IRQ in the /etc/fstab
- 16. Which file is typically used to pass persistent module load options like options nouveau modeset=0?
 - A) /etc/udev/rules.d/99-custom.rules
 - B) /proc/meminfo
 - C) /etc/modprobe.d/<module>.conf
 - D) /etc/modules-load.d/module.options
- 17. What is the main purpose of SysFS (/sys) in a Linux system?
 - A) Stores process information like CPU usage

	B) Holds user configuration data for /home
	C) Exports device and driver information from the kernel to user space
	D) Contains scripts to mount all system filesystems
18.	Which command is most appropriate for listing all currently loaded kernel modules?
	A) ls -la /lib/modules/\$(uname -r)
	B) depmod -a
	C) lsmod
	D) insmod
19.	To selectively unload the snd-hda-intel module along with related dependent modules, which command would you use?
	A) modinfo snd-hda-intel -remove
	B) lsmod -unload snd-hda-intel
	C) depmod -r snd-hda-intel
	$\mathrm{D})$ modprobe -r snd-hda-intel
20.	If you see a disk labeled as /dev/mmcblk0p1, which type of physical device is this likely referring to?
	A) A SATA SSD
	B) An older IDE HDD
	C) An SD card or MMC device
	D) A USB DVD drive
\mathbf{F}	ill-in-the-Blank Questions for 101.1
1.	The older firmware commonly used before the UEFI standard is called
2.	The command lists all kernel modules currently loaded into the system.
3.	A kernel module responsible for controlling hardware in Linux is often referred to as a
4.	The Linux subsystem that manages device node creation in /dev and handles hot-plug/coldplug events is called
5.	The special, memory-based filesystem used for storing process and hardware information is the directory.

6. To configure boot device priority and enable or disable onboard peripherals, a user

must typically access the $___$ or UEFI setup utility.

7.	In Linux, disks commonly appear under /dev as devices (e.g., /dev/sda, /dev/sdb) on modern systems.
8.	The command is used to insert or remove kernel modules and their dependencies.
9.	When blacklisting a kernel module to prevent it from loading automatically, the configuration file is often placed in
10.	To see a hierarchical (tree-like) view of USB devices and the drivers handling them,

101.2 Boot the System

Reference to LPI Objectives:

- LPIC-1 v5, Exam 101, Objective 101.2
- Weight: 3

Key Knowledge Areas

- Providing common bootloader commands and kernel options at boot.
- Understanding the boot sequence (BIOS/UEFI through OS startup).
- Familiarity with SysVinit, systemd, and Upstart.
- Checking boot events and logs (dmesg, journalctl).

Important Files, Terms, and Utilities

- dmesg
- journalctl
- BIOS / UEFI
- bootloader (GRUB)
- kernel
- initramfs
- init (SysVinit, systemd, Upstart)
- /proc/cmdline
- /var/log/

Lesson Overview

Booting a Linux system involves multiple stages:

- 1. Firmware Load: BIOS or UEFI initializes basic hardware.
- 2. Bootloader: Typically GRUB, which locates and loads the kernel.
- 3. **Kernel & initramfs:** Kernel initializes hardware and reads modules from the initramfs.
- 4. **System Initialization: init** (SysVinit, systemd, Upstart) starts services and completes the boot process.

1. BIOS vs. UEFI

• BIOS

- Uses MBR (first 512 bytes) to load boot code (GRUB stage 1).
- Relies on a DOS partition scheme and the Master Boot Record.
- Boots the second stage of the bootloader, which in turn loads the kernel.

• UEFI

- Looks at entries in **NVRAM** to find an **EFI application** (usually GRUB).
- Loads the EFI application from a dedicated **EFI System Partition (ESP)**.
- Supports **Secure Boot** to allow only signed EFI applications.

2. Bootloader (GRUB)

- Presents a menu of installed kernels or operating systems.
- Enables passing **kernel parameters** (e.g., quiet, acpi=off, root=/dev/sdaX, etc.).
- Kernel parameters can be made persistent in /etc/default/grub and then updated with:

grub-mkconfig -o /boot/grub/grub.cfg

• Current kernel parameters are visible in /proc/cmdline.

3. System Initialization

1. initramfs

- Temporary root filesystem with essential drivers/modules.
- Lets the kernel mount the actual root filesystem.

2. init

- The "first process" in user space.
- SysVinit: uses runlevels (0-6).
- systemd: uses targets, concurrency, D-Bus, cgroups. Most common in modern distros.
- **Upstart:** parallel boot focusing on faster startup. Largely replaced by systemd.

4. Boot Logging and Inspection

• dmesg

- Displays the **kernel ring buffer** (including boot messages).
- Clears with dmesg -clear.

• journalctl

- Systemd-based logging tool.
- journalctl -b shows current boot messages.
- journalctl -list-boots lists previous boots.
- Traditional log files also found in /var/log/, e.g., /var/log/messages or /var/log/syslog.

Workbook Exercises

1. Firmware Awareness

- Reboot a test machine.
- Determine whether it uses **BIOS** or **UEFI**.
- In BIOS: Find where the boot order is set.
- In UEFI: Locate the ESP partition and explore contents if possible.

2. GRUB Menu and Kernel Parameters

- Boot into the GRUB menu by pressing **Shift** (BIOS) or **Esc** (UEFI).
- Edit a menu entry to add or change a kernel parameter (e.g., init=/bin/bash, acpi=off).
- After boot, check /proc/cmdline to confirm your changes.

3. System Initialization Tools

- Identify which init system your distribution uses (ps -p 1 -o comm=).
- If it's systemd, compare output of these commands:

```
systemctl list-units --type=service
journalctl -b
```

• If SysVinit is present, inspect runlevel scripts in /etc/rc.d/ or /etc/init.d/.

4. Inspecting Boot Logs

• Run dmesg | less to page through the kernel ring buffer.

- If using systemd, run journalctl -list-boots to see previous boots.
- View the logs for the current boot with journalctl -b 0.

5. initramfs Exploration

- Locate your initramfs file (commonly in /boot, e.g., initramfs-<version>.img).
- List contents using lsinitrd or unmkinitramfs (may require additional packages).
- Identify which modules are included for the root filesystem.

Summary

- The boot process starts with BIOS/UEFI firmware, which calls GRUB to load the kernel.
- The initramfs contains essential modules and mounts the real root filesystem.
- An init system (SysVinit, systemd, Upstart) then starts daemons and services.
- dmesg and journalctl provide essential logs for troubleshooting.
- Understanding these steps ensures you can troubleshoot common startup issues and manage kernel parameters effectively.

Multiple-Choice Questions for 101.2

- 1. Which of the following best describes the role of the **kernel ring buffer** during the boot process?
 - A) It stores a copy of the MBR after BIOS initialization.
 - B) It holds user processes' initialization scripts during startup.
 - C) It temporarily stores kernel messages, including boot messages.
 - D) It provides secure boot verification for the EFI System Partition.
- 2. On a typical Linux system with GRUB, which file should be edited to **persistently** add kernel boot parameters?
 - A) /etc/default/grub
 - B) /etc/systemd/system.conf
 - C) /boot/vmlinuz
 - D) /proc/cmdline
- 3. Which bootloader is most commonly associated with modern x86-based Linux systems?
 - A) LILO
 - B) SYSLINUX
 - C) BURG
 - D) GRUB
- 4. Which of the following statements about **Secure Boot** is **true**?
 - A) It forces the user to boot only from a local disk rather than USB devices.
 - B) It requires EFI applications to be signed/authorized by the hardware vendor or a trusted party.
 - C) It loads the SysVinit scripts in parallel to reduce the boot time of the OS.
 - D) It uses MBR partition tables exclusively and disables GPT.
- 5. The BIOS in a legacy (non-UEFI) x86 system typically reads and executes boot code from what specific location?
 - A) The first 440 bytes of the MBR on the primary boot device
 - B) The second stage of GRUB in /boot/grub
 - C) The NVRAM partition labeled /efi/boot
 - D) /boot partition

- 6. What is the **primary purpose** of initramfs during the boot process?
 - A) To store the kernel ring buffer.
 - B) To provide early user accounts for system security.
 - C) To load required kernel modules so the real root filesystem can be mounted.
 - D) To replace the BIOS firmware in older systems.
- 7. You want to limit a Linux guest system to a maximum of 1 GB of RAM at boot time. Which kernel parameter should be used?
 - A) nosmp=1G
 - B) mem=1G
 - C) ram=1G
 - D) maxcpus=1G
- 8. Which of the following is a feature of **systemd**?
 - A) Entirely depends on runlevels 0-6 and SysV scripts.
 - B) Uses sockets and D-Bus for on-demand service activation.
 - C) Must be installed as a kernel module.
 - D) It can only run one service at a time to avoid concurrency issues.
- 9. While troubleshooting a boot issue, you want to see **previous** system boots' log messages. Which systemd-related command enables you to do this?
 - A) dmesg -previous
 - B) journalctl -list-boots
 - C) systemctl -history
 - D) logrotate -b
- 10. After you edit /etc/default/grub to add a new kernel parameter, which command is typically used to update the GRUB configuration on many distributions?
 - A) cp /etc/default/grub /boot/grub/grub.conf
 - B) touch /boot/grub/grub.cfg
 - C) grub-install /boot
 - D) grub-mkconfig -o /boot/grub/grub.cfg
- 11. What does the kernel parameter acpi=off do?
 - A) Disables multi-processor support, similar to nosmp.
 - B) Disables BIOS POST checks and loads the kernel directly.

- C) Disables ACPI functions to troubleshoot power management or ACPI-related issues.
- D) Forces the root filesystem to be mounted as read-only.
- 12. In a SysVinit-based system, which file primarily determines which **runlevel** the system will go to when it finishes booting?
 - A) /etc/fstab
 - B) /boot/initramfs-<version>.img
 - C) /etc/inittab
 - D) /var/log/boot.log
- 13. When using UEFI, which partition **must** contain the bootloader or EFI applications?
 - A) The root (/) filesystem partition
 - B) A dedicated GPT partition labeled "MBR"
 - C) An NVRAM-based partition called /var/lib/EFI
 - D) The EFI System Partition (ESP)
- 14. Which kernel parameter instructs the system to **start** a different **initial process** instead of the default /sbin/init or systemd?
 - A) init=/bin/bash
 - B) systemd.unit=multi-user.target
 - C) noapic
 - D) ro
- 15. The term **daemon** is typically used to describe which kind of program in a Linux system?
 - A) A program that only runs once at boot and then terminates.
 - B) A service that remains **running** in the background.
 - C) Any script that an administrator invokes manually from the command line.
 - D) A background service process (e.g. system or network) that runs indefinitely.
- 16. Which of the following is **not** a valid kernel parameter for controlling the amount of displayed boot information?
 - A) verbose=0
 - B) quiet
 - C) vga=ask
 - D) maxcpus=1

17.	If a critical system service fails to start during boot and the system uses systemd , where would you most likely check first for the relevant error messages?
	A) /proc/cmdline
	B) /etc/default/grub
	C) systemctl list-jobs
	D) journalctl -b or journalctl -boot
18.	In a system that uses SysVinit, which runlevel is commonly used for single-user mode (maintenance mode)?
	A) 2
	B) 5
	C) 1
	D) 3
19.	Which of the following statements about Upstart is correct?
	A) It can parallelize the initialization of services but has largely been replaced by systemd.
	B) It replaces the BIOS in older systems.
	C) It is strictly a tool for reading the kernel ring buffer.
	D) It is used to sign EFI applications for Secure Boot.
20.	The BIOS POST (Power-On Self-Test) primarily checks for:
	A) Valid ext4 partitions on the system's boot drive.
	B) Basic hardware components and any major hardware failures.
	C) Corrupted kernel parameters in /proc/cmdline.
	D) Upstart jobs that should be started first.
\mathbf{F}	ill-in-the-Blank Questions for 101.2
1.	The firmware on modern x86 systems can be either traditional or the more advanced
2.	On legacy BIOS-based systems, the first stage of the bootloader is typically located in the first bytes of the
3.	When using UEFI, the bootloader or EFI applications are stored in a dedicated partition called the, often formatted with a FAT filesystem.

4.	The kernel parameter=/bin/bash causes the system to start a Bash shell as the first user-space process instead of the standard init system.
5.	The file /etc/default/grub contains the directive GRUB_CMDLINE_LINUX, which is used to specify passed to the kernel at boot time.
6.	The command grub-mkconfig -o /boot/grub/grub.cfg is needed after modifying /etc/default/grub to the bootloader configuration.
7.	The memory area that stores kernel messages, including boot information, is called the, which can be viewed with the dmesg command.
8.	The process runs basic hardware checks (like checking memory) as soon as the machine is powered on, before loading the bootloader.
9.	In a SysVinit-based system, the file /etc/ typically defines which runlevel the system will enter when it finishes booting.
10.	A(n) is a background service or process that remains running to provide system or network functionality.

101.3 Change Runlevels / Boot Targets and Shutdown or Reboot System

Reference to LPI Objectives:

- LPIC-1 v5, Exam 101, Objective 101.3
- Weight: 3

Key Knowledge Areas

- Setting the default runlevel/boot target.
- Changing between runlevels/targets, including single-user mode.
- Shutting down and rebooting from the command line.
- Alerting users before switching runlevels/boot targets or major system events.
- Properly terminating processes.
- Awareness of **acpid** (power management).

Important Files, Terms, and Utilities

- /etc/inittab (SysVinit)
- shutdown
- init, telinit (SysVinit)
- /etc/init.d/ (SysVinit scripts)
- ullet systemd, systemctl
- /etc/systemd/, /usr/lib/systemd/
- wall (send messages to all logged-in users)

Lesson Overview

Linux can operate in different "states" or "modes" called **runlevels** in SysVinit or **targets** in systemd. Being able to switch between them and perform system shutdowns or reboots is essential for system administration.

1. SysVinit Runlevels

1. Runlevels

- 0 Shutdown
- 1 (single), s Single-user (maintenance) mode
- 2, 3, 4 Multi-user modes (3 is typical, 2/4 vary by distro)
- 5 Multi-user plus graphical mode
- **6** Reboot

2. Configuration

- /etc/inittab defines default runlevel (id:x:initdefault:)
- Each runlevel has a dedicated directory: /etc/rc0.d/, /etc/rc1.d/, etc.
- Scripts in /etc/init.d/ are symlinked to these runlevel directories.
 - Names starting with **S** start services.
 - Names starting with **K** kill services.

3. Switching Runlevels

- init or telinit commands set the current runlevel.
- telinit 1: move to runlevel 1 (maintenance mode).
- runlevel: shows current and previous runlevel (e.g., N 3 means currently 3 and no prior change).

4. Reloading /etc/inittab

• After editing /etc/inittab, run telinit q to re-read the config.

2. systemd Targets

1. systemd Concepts

- Units represent services, sockets, devices, mounts, automounts, targets, and snapshots.
- systemctl is the primary command to manage these units (start, stop, enable, etc.).

2. Targets

- systemd uses **targets** to group units. Examples:
 - multi-user.target analogous to runlevel 3 (no GUI).
 - graphical.target analogous to runlevel 5 (GUI mode).
- You can isolate a target:

```
systemctl isolate multi-user.target
```

3. Default Target

• Change default target:

```
systemctl set-default multi-user.target
```

• View current default:

```
systemctl get-default
```

• Avoid pointing to **shutdown.target** or **reboot.target**.

4. Service Management

- systemctl start/stop/restart <service>.service
- systemctl enable/disable <service>.service (at boot)
- systemctl status <service>.service
- systemctl list-unit-files -type=service list available services
- systemctl list-units -type=service list loaded/running services

5. Power Management

- systemctl suspend, systemctl hibernate
- For finer power-event control (e.g., lid close), **acpid** can be used instead of systemd's built-in power management.

3. Upstart (Historical)

- 1. Upstart was used in older Ubuntu-based systems before switching to systemd.
- 2. Commands:
 - initctl list list services and states
 - start / stop / status <service> control services
 - Initialization scripts: /etc/init/
- 3. runlevel and telinit still work for basic runlevel tasks.

4. Shutting Down and Rebooting

1. shutdown

• Syntax:

```
shutdown [option] time [message]
```

- time can be now, +m (minutes from now), or hh:mm (absolute time).
- Common options:
 - -**h** halt/power off
 - - \mathbf{r} reboot
- Notifies logged-in users and prevents new logins (unless overridden).

2. systemctl (systemd)

- systemctl reboot reboot system
- systemctl poweroff power off system
- Sometimes distros alias poweroff and reboot to systemd commands.

3. wall

- Sends a message to all logged-in users' terminals (similar to shutdown's broadcast).
- Useful for manual warnings before switching to single-user mode or shutting down.

Workbook Exercises

1. Identify Your Init System

• Run ps -p 1 -o comm= to see if your system uses systemd, init, or Upstart.

2. Practice Switching Runlevels (SysV)

- On a SysVinit system, edit /etc/inittab to set default runlevel to 3.
- Run telinit q and verify with runlevel.
- Switch to single-user mode: telinit 1.

3. Practice Managing systemd Targets

- Show the current default target: systemctl get-default.
- Switch from **graphical.target** to **multi-user.target** using:

```
systemctl isolate multi-user.target
```

• Confirm the change: systemctl status multi-user.target.

4. Service Control with systemd

• Start a service (e.g., ssh.service):

```
sudo systemctl start ssh
```

- Check service status: systemctl status ssh.
- Enable service at boot: systemeth enable ssh.

5. Shutdown Commands

• Schedule a reboot in 10 minutes, sending a warning message:

```
sudo shutdown -r +10 "System will reboot in 10 minutes."
```

• Cancel a scheduled shutdown with:

```
sudo shutdown -c
```

• Use systemctl to reboot immediately: systemctl reboot.

6. Sending Warnings

• Open a second terminal and log in as a test user.

• From the admin terminal, run:

```
wall "Warning! System moving to single-user mode in 1 minute."
```

• Confirm the message appears in the other terminal.

Summary

- SysVinit uses numbered runlevels (0-6), configured via /etc/inittab, and manages services in /etc/init.d/.
- systemd uses targets and units, with systemctl providing service control and target isolation.
- Upstart (historical) uses initctl and scripts in /etc/init/.
- Shutting down, rebooting, or switching modes should alert current users (via wall or shutdown's broadcast).
- Proper runlevel/target configuration ensures the correct set of services starts at boot, maximizing system stability and user support.

Multiple-Choice Questions for 101.3

1.	Which file traditionally defines the default runlevel in a SysVinit system?
	A) /etc/inittab
	B) /etc/rc.conf
	C) /etc/systemd/system.conf
	D) /etc/default/runlevel
2.	In SysVinit, which runlevel usually corresponds to system restart ?
	A) Runlevel 1
	B) Runlevel 3
	C) Runlevel 5
	D) Runlevel 6
3.	Which command is used on a SysVinit system to check the current runlevel ?
	A) who -r
	B) runlevel
	C) init
	D) sysvcheck
4.	On a SysVinit system, which runlevel is typically reserved for multi-user mode without a graphical environment?
	A) Runlevel 0
	B) Runlevel 1
	C) Runlevel 3
	D) Runlevel 6
5.	Which command reloads the /etc/inittab file after changes are made (on a SysVinit system)?
	A) telinit q
	B) init reload
	C) systemctl daemon-reload
	D) reload runlevel
6.	Which systemd unit type is used for grouping other units so they can be controlled as a single entity?

A) service

	B) automount
	C) target
	D) socket
7.	On a systemd system, which command would you use to switch the system to multi-user.target immediately?
	A) systemctl default multi-user.target
	B) systemctl multi-user.target
	C) systemctl reload multi-user.target
	D) systemctl isolate multi-user.target
8.	Which command is commonly used on SysVinit systems to change the current runlevel without rebooting?
	A) systemctl isolate
	B) telinit
	C) initctrl
	D) switchrun
9.	In a SysVinit layout, scripts in directories like /etc/rc3.d/ typically start with what letter if they are launched upon entering that runlevel?
	A) R
	B) G
	C) S
	D) T
10.	Which runlevel or mode is typically used for maintenance when the system is only available to the administrator (no network services)?
	A) Single-user (Runlevel 1)
	B) Graphical mode (Runlevel 5)
	C) Multi-user mode (Runlevel 3)
	D) Runlevel 2
11.	Which SysVinit command can be used to halt the system, after modifying the /etc/inittab entry for Ctrl+Alt+Del with the -a option?
	A) halt -a
	B) shutdown
	C) poweroff

D) stop system 12. Which **systemctl** command would you use to **turn off** the system immediately on a systemd host? A) systemctl shutdown B) systemctl down C) systemctl isolate runlevel0.target D) systemctl poweroff 13. Which **systemd** unit type is used for hardware devices identified by the kernel? A) target B) service C) device D) mount 14. Which file is **not** used by **systemd** to set the default system target? A) /etc/systemd/system/default.target B) /lib/systemd/system/multi-user.target C) /lib/systemd/system/graphical.target D) /etc/inittab 15. If you see the output tty5 start/running, process 1764 on an Ubuntu system, which **init system** is likely in use? A) SysVinit B) Upstart C) systemd D) OpenRC 16. On a **systemd** system, which command **reboots** the machine? A) systemctl shutdown -r B) systemctl kill C) systemctl isolate reboot.target D) systemctl reboot 17. Which **systemd** unit type is used to define an on-demand mount point?

A) device

	B) service
	C) socket
	D) automount
18.	Which Upstart command is used to stop a currently running job or service?
	A) upstartctl kill
	B) stop
	C) service halt
	D) haltjob
19.	Which command is typically used to send a message to all logged-in users' terminals?
	A) wall
	B) announce
	C) globalmsg
	D) bcast
20.	In the SysVinit scheme, which directory contains startup scripts (symbolic links) specifically for runlevel 2 ?
	A) /etc/init.d2/
	B) /etc/rc.d/2/
	C) /etc/rc2.d/
	D) /etc/sysvinit/2/
F'	ill-in-the-Blank Questions for 101.3
1.	In a SysVinit system, the default runlevel is configured in the file
2.	To switch the system to single-user mode (runlevel 1) on a SysVinit system, you can type 1 or s.
3.	The command q is used to make init re-read the /etc/inittab file after changes are made.
4.	In System V style initialization, scripts controlling services are located in,
	while each runlevel (e.g., runlevel 3, 5) has its own subdirectory like /etc/rc3.d/ or /etc/rc5.d/.
5.	Under systemd , each background process or subsystem is referred to as a(e.g., httpd.service).

6.	To change the default target in systemd without editing kernel parameters directly, you can use the command systemctl set-default target.
7.	In systemd , if you want to switch to multi-user mode without rebooting, you can execute systemctl multi-user.target .
8.	When switching from Upstart , Ubuntu replaced its init system with
9.	The command sends a message to the terminal sessions of all logged-in users and is useful before shutting down or switching runlevels.
10.	In a SysVinit system, Runlevel 0 corresponds to, while Runlevel 6 corresponds to a restart of the system.

Chapter 2

Topic 102: Linux Installation and Package Management

102.1 Design Hard Disk Layout

Reference to LPI Objectives:

- LPIC-1 v5, Exam 102, Objective 102.1
- Weight: 2

Key Knowledge Areas

- Allocating filesystems and swap space to separate partitions or disks.
- Tailoring the partitioning scheme to system usage.
- Understanding /boot or EFI System Partition requirements for booting.
- Basic familiarity with LVM (Logical Volume Manager).

Important Terms and Utilities

- / (root), /boot, /home, /var
- EFI System Partition (ESP)
- swap
- mount points (e.g., /mnt, /media/USER/LABEL)
- partitions and logical volumes
- LVM (Physical Volumes, Volume Groups, Logical Volumes)

Lesson Overview

Designing an effective disk layout is critical for system stability, performance, and ease of administration. You must understand partitions, filesystems, mount points, swap, and how LVM can simplify storage allocation.

1. Partitions, Filesystems, and Mount Points

1.1 Partitions

- Logical "fences" on a disk; each partition has its own filesystem.
- Partition information is stored in the **partition table**.
- Partitions cannot span multiple disks (unless using LVM or RAID).

1.2 Filesystems

- Define how data is organized in directories, files, and metadata.
- Must be mounted on a mount point (e.g., /mnt/mydata).

1.3 Mount Points

- Directory where a filesystem is attached.
- Common directories:
 - /mnt/ traditional manual mount point.
 - /media/ automatic mounting of removable media.
- Existing contents of a mount point become hidden while another filesystem is mounted.

2. Recommended Partitions and Their Uses

2.1 Root Partition (/)

- Base of the Linux directory structure.
- Typically holds OS binaries and system config if not separated elsewhere.

2.2 /boot or EFI System Partition (ESP)

- /boot stores bootloader files (kernel images, initramfs, GRUB).
- ESP is used on UEFI systems (formatted as FAT).
- Usually 200–300 MB in size is sufficient for either.
- Keeping boot files separate can help ensure the system can still boot if root is damaged.

2.3 /home

- Houses users' personal files and preferences.
- Separating /home allows OS reinstallation without erasing user data.
- Size depends on user data and expected usage.

2.4 /var

- Contains variable data: logs (/var/log), caches (/var/cache), temp data (/var/tmp), etc.
- On servers, /var can grow significantly (e.g., web or database data).
- Putting /var on a separate partition (or disk) improves stability and prevents root from filling up.

2.5 Swap

- Extension of RAM to disk; cannot be mounted as a normal directory.
- Often sized according to usage (e.g., old rule was 2×RAM; modern guidelines vary).
- Consider hibernation requirements (swap \geq RAM if hibernation is used).

3. LVM (Logical Volume Manager)

3.1 Overview

- Provides flexible "virtual" partitions called Logical Volumes (LVs).
- Physical Volumes (PVs) \rightarrow grouped into Volume Groups (VGs) \rightarrow split into Logical Volumes (LVs).
- LVM allows resizing or adding storage more easily than traditional partitions.

3.2 Advantages

- Ease of extension: add space without reformatting or migrating data.
- **Abstracts** underlying physical disks.
- Logical volumes appear in /dev/VG_NAME/LV_NAME.

3.3 Basic Workflow (High-level)

- 1. Create or identify a partition (or entire disk) as a PV (pvcreate /dev/sdaX).
- 2. Combine PVs into a Volume Group (vgcreate MYVG /dev/sdaX).
- 3. Create a Logical Volume (lvcreate -L 20G -n MYSERVICELV MYVG).
- 4. Format LV with a filesystem (mkfs.ext4 /dev/MYVG/MYSERVICELV).
- 5. Mount where desired (/etc/fstab entry or mount command).

Workbook Exercises

1. Plan a Basic Partition Scheme

- Imagine you have a 500 GB disk for a personal workstation.
- Sketch out your proposed partition table: /boot (300 MB), root (/), /home, /var, and swap.
- Consider sizes for each partition and justify your choices.

2. Identify ESP/BIOS Partitions

- On a UEFI-based system, locate and identify the **EFI System Partition** (/boot/efi).
- Check partition type using gdisk -l /dev/sda or fdisk -l /dev/sda.
- Verify its filesystem (FAT-based) with lsblk -f or blkid.

3. Decide on Swap Size

- If your system has 8 GB of RAM, use Red Hat's guidelines to propose a recommended swap size.
- If planning hibernation, recalculate.

4. Mount Points

- Create a directory /mnt/testmount.
- Using an existing spare partition (or loopback device), manually mount it on /mnt/testmount.
- Verify it is mounted with mount | grep /mnt/testmount.

5. LVM Planning

- Using a virtual environment with two disks, plan an LVM layout:
 - (a) Convert one partition from each disk into PVs.
 - (b) Create a Volume Group that spans both.
 - (c) Create one or more Logical Volumes for /data.
- Write down how you will format and mount /data.

6. Storage Scenarios

- You run out of disk space on /home. What steps can you take with LVM to add more space?
- If /var was not separated and you frequently run out of space due to logs, how might you redesign?

Summary

- Partitions define logical divisions of a disk, while **filesystems** define how data is stored.
- Strategic partitioning improves **stability**, **security**, **and maintenance** (e.g., /boot, /home, /var separate).
- UEFI systems require an EFI System Partition (ESP); BIOS systems may benefit from a separate /boot.
- Adequate **swap** is essential; guidelines depend on RAM, system usage, and whether hibernation is used.
- LVM adds flexibility for resizing and pooling storage among multiple physical disks.

102.2 Install a Boot Manager

Reference to LPI Objectives:

- LPIC-1 v5, Exam 102, Objective 102.2
- Weight: 2

Key Knowledge Areas

- Providing alternate or backup boot options.
- Installing and configuring boot loaders (GRUB Legacy, GRUB 2).
- Performing basic GRUB 2 configuration changes.
- Interacting with the boot loader at startup.

Important Files, Terms, and Utilities

- MBR (Master Boot Record)
- /boot directory or partition (often containing GRUB files, kernels, initrd)
- menu.lst, grub.cfg, and grub.conf
- grub-install, grub-mkconfig (or update-grub)
- chainloading (for non-Linux OS, e.g., Windows)

Lesson Overview

A system's boot loader is the first software executed when a machine powers on. On Linux, this is typically **GRUB** (either Legacy or GRUB 2). GRUB loads the kernel and passes control to it. Having a working knowledge of installing and configuring GRUB is essential for system recovery and customizing boot behavior.

1. GRUB Legacy vs. GRUB 2

1.1 GRUB Legacy

- Older, no longer actively developed (last release 0.97 from 2005).
- Configuration file: /boot/grub/menu.lst (sometimes grub.conf).
- Simpler configuration, fewer features.

1.2 GRUB 2

- Complete rewrite, default on most modern distributions.
- Configuration files:
 - /etc/default/grub (main user-editable file)
 - /boot/grub/grub.cfg (auto-generated, do not edit manually)
- More modular, supports more filesystems, better scripting, theming, etc.

2. Bootloader Locations and Partitions

2.1 MBR Partition Scheme

- Legacy layout where the first 512 bytes of the disk contain the MBR (boot code + partition table).
- Boot loader code often placed in MBR + post-MBR gap (32 KB) before the first partition.

2.2 GPT (GUID Partition Table)

- Modern layout for large disks (>2 TB).
- Requires a **BIOS boot partition** (for BIOS systems) or uses **EFI System Partition** (**ESP**) on UEFI systems.

2.3 /boot Partition

- Often first partition on the disk, historically to avoid BIOS cylinder limits.
- Typically ~300 MB in size, containing kernel images (vmlinuz), initrd, GRUB files, etc.
- Helps ensure boot files remain accessible (especially if / uses encryption or an unsupported filesystem).

3. Installing GRUB 2

3.1 grub-install

- Installs GRUB 2 boot code onto a disk (e.g., /dev/sda) or EFI partition.
- Syntax examples:

```
grub-install --boot-directory=/boot /dev/sda
# or for a dedicated /boot partition mounted at /mnt/tmp:
grub-install --boot-directory=/mnt/tmp /dev/sda
```

• Must point to the **disk** (e.g., /dev/sda), not a specific partition (unless UEFI requires otherwise).

3.2 Configuration

- /etc/default/grub main file for user edits. Common parameters:
 - GRUB_DEFAULT: default menu entry (0-based index, or saved).
 - GRUB_SAVEDEFAULT: if set to true with GRUB_DEFAULT=saved, boots the lastchosen entry.
 - GRUB_TIMEOUT: seconds before auto-booting the default. -1 waits indefinitely.
 - GRUB_CMDLINE_LINUX: universal kernel parameters (e.g., quiet, splash).
- grub-mkconfig (or update-grub) generates /boot/grub/grub.cfg from the above file and scripts in /etc/grub.d/.

```
grub-mkconfig -o /boot/grub/grub.cfg
# or:
update-grub
```

3.3 Menu Entries

- Auto-discovered for Linux, other OS, or kernels.
- Custom entries often added to /etc/grub.d/40_custom, then re-run update-grub.

3.4 Interacting with GRUB 2

- Boot Menu: highlight an entry with arrow keys, press e to edit before booting.
- Shell Mode: press c to access grub> shell.
- Rescue Shell (grub rescue>): minimal commands, must insmod needed modules (e.g., normal, linux) if GRUB config is broken.

4. GRUB Legacy (for Reference)

4.1 Installing

• Via grub-install /dev/sda (must specify the disk, not a partition).

• From GRUB Legacy shell:

```
grub> root (hd0,0)
grub> setup (hd0)
```

• root (hd0,0) means the first disk (hd0), first partition (0), if /boot is there.

4.2 Configuration: /boot/grub/menu.lst

• Example menu entry:

```
title My Linux
root (hd0,0)
kernel /vmlinuz root=/dev/hda1
initrd /initrd.img
```

• chainloader +1 used to boot Windows or other OS by loading their own bootloader code.

5. Booting from the GRUB Shell

1. Identify Partitions:

```
grub> ls
(hd0) (hd0,msdos1)
```

2. **Set root** (example):

```
grub> set root=(hd0,msdos1)
```

3. Load Kernel & Initrd (GRUB 2 example):

```
grub> linux /vmlinuz root=/dev/sda1
grub> initrd /initrd.img
grub> boot
```

4. Rescue Mode: need to set prefix=(hd0,msdos1)/boot/grub and insmod normal, insmod linux before proceeding.

Workbook Exercises

1. Identify Boot Device

- Run fdisk -1 /dev/sda or lsblk -f and find your boot partition.
- Note which partition is marked as bootable.

2. Install GRUB 2

- Mount your /boot (or boot partition) if needed at /mnt/tmp.
- Run:

```
grub-install --boot-directory=/mnt/tmp /dev/sda
```

• Verify GRUB files are placed in /mnt/tmp/boot/grub.

3. Customize GRUB Timeout

- Edit /etc/default/grub and set GRUB_TIMEOUT=5.
- Run update-grub (or grub-mkconfig -o /boot/grub/grub.cfg).
- Reboot and confirm you see the menu for 5 seconds.

4. Add a Kernel Parameter

- In /etc/default/grub, add an option to GRUB_CMDLINE_LINUX="quiet splash".
- Update GRUB and reboot. Check /proc/cmdline to confirm the new parameter.

5. Practice Chainloading

• If you have a Windows install at (hd0,2), add a custom entry in /etc/grub.d/40_custom (or in GRUB Legacy's menu.lst):

```
menuentry "Windows" {
    set root=(hd0,2)
    chainloader +1
}
```

• Update GRUB and verify you can boot into Windows.

6. GRUB Rescue Simulation

- Temporarily rename /boot/grub/grub.cfg to break GRUB.
- Reboot to force the grub rescue> prompt.
- Use 1s, set prefix=, insmod normal, etc., to recover manually.
- Restore grub.cfg after testing.

Summary

- GRUB 2 is the modern bootloader on most Linux systems, replacing GRUB Legacy.
- grub-install places boot code on the MBR (BIOS) or ESP (UEFI).
- /etc/default/grub and scripts in /etc/grub.d/ define the GRUB 2 menu.
- Use update-grub (or grub-mkconfig) to regenerate /boot/grub/grub.cfg.
- In emergencies, the **GRUB shell** (normal or rescue) can manually load kernel and initrd to boot.
- 102.3 Manage shared libraries
- 102.4 Use Debian package management
- 102.5 Use RPM and YUM package management
- 102.6 Linux as a virtualization guest

Topic 103: GNU and Unix Commands

- 103.1 Work on the command line
- 103.2 Process text streams using filters
- 103.3 Perform basic file management
- 103.4 Use streams, pipes and redirects
- 103.5 Create, monitor and kill processes
- 103.6 Modify process execution priorities
- 103.7 Search text files using regular expressions
- 103.8 Basic file editing

Topic 104: Devices, Linux Filesystems, Filesystem Hierarchy Standard

4.1 104.1 Create partitions and filesystems

[Brief syllabus and questions to be added here]

4.2 104.2 Maintain the integrity of filesystems

[Brief syllabus and questions to be added here]

4.3 104.3 Control mounting and unmounting of filesystems

[Brief syllabus and questions to be added here]

4.4 104.5 Manage file permissions and ownership

[Brief syllabus and questions to be added here]

104.5 Lesson 1

[Brief syllabus and questions to be added here]

4.5 104.6 Create and change hard and symbolic links

4.6 104.7 Find system files and place files in the correct location

Topic 105: Shells and Shell Scripting

5.1 105.1 Customize and use the shell environment

[Brief syllabus and questions to be added here]

5.2 105.2 Customize or write simple scripts

Topic 106: User Interfaces and Desktops

6.1 106.1 Install and configure X11

[Brief syllabus and questions to be added here]

6.2 106.2 Graphical Desktops

[Brief syllabus and questions to be added here]

6.3 106.3 Accessibility

Topic 107: Administrative Tasks

7.1 107.1 Manage user and group accounts and related system files

[Brief syllabus and questions to be added here]

7.2 107.2 Automate system administration tasks by scheduling jobs

[Brief syllabus and questions to be added here]

7.3 107.3 Localisation and internationalisation

Topic 108: Essential System Services

8.1 108.1 Maintain system time

[Brief syllabus and questions to be added here]

8.2 108.2 System logging

[Brief syllabus and questions to be added here]

8.3 108.3 Mail Transfer Agent (MTA) basics

[Brief syllabus and questions to be added here]

8.4 108.4 Manage printers and printing

Topic 109: Networking Fundamentals

9.1 109.1 Fundamentals of internet protocols

[Brief syllabus and questions to be added here]

9.2 109.2 Persistent network configuration

[Brief syllabus and questions to be added here]

9.3 109.3 Basic network troubleshooting

[Brief syllabus and questions to be added here]

9.4 109.4 Configure client side DNS

Topic 110: Security

10.1 110.1 Perform security administration tasks

[Brief syllabus and questions to be added here]

10.2 110.2 Setup host security

[Brief syllabus and questions to be added here]

10.3 110.3 Securing data with encryption

Answers

Topic 101: System Architecture

101.1 Determine and Configure Hardware Settings

Multiple-Choice Questions (101.1)

- 1. A
- 2. C
- 3. D
- 4. B
- 5. A
- 6. B
- 7. C
- 8. A
- 9. C
- 10. B
- 11. B
- 12. C
- 13. C
- 14. D
- 15. B
- 16. C
- 17. C
- 18. C

19. D
20. C
Fill-in-the-Blank Questions (101.1
1. BIOS
2. lsmod
3. driver
4. udev
5. /proc
6. BIOS
7. SCSI
8. modprobe
$9. \ / etc/modprobe.d$
10. lsusb
10. lsusb 101.2 Boot the System
101.2 Boot the System
101.2 Boot the System Multiple-Choice Questions (101.2)
101.2 Boot the System Multiple-Choice Questions (101.2) 1. C
101.2 Boot the System Multiple-Choice Questions (101.2) 1. C 2. A
101.2 Boot the System Multiple-Choice Questions (101.2) 1. C 2. A 3. D
101.2 Boot the System Multiple-Choice Questions (101.2) 1. C 2. A 3. D 4. B
101.2 Boot the System Multiple-Choice Questions (101.2) 1. C 2. A 3. D 4. B 5. A
101.2 Boot the System Multiple-Choice Questions (101.2) 1. C 2. A 3. D 4. B 5. A 6. C
101.2 Boot the System Multiple-Choice Questions (101.2) 1. C 2. A 3. D 4. B 5. A 6. C 7. B

11. C

12. C
13. D
14. A
15. D
16. A
17. D
18. C
19. A
20. B
Fill-in-the-Blank Questions (101.2)
1. BIOS, UEFI
2. 440, MBR
3. EFI System Partition (ESP)
4. init
5. Kernel parameters
6. regenerate
7. kernel ring buffer
8. POST (Power-On Self-Test)
9. inittab
10. daemon
101.3 Change Runlevels / Boot Targets and Shutdown or Reboot System Multiple-Choice Questions (101.3)
1. A
2. A
3. B

- 4. C
- 5. A
- 6. C
- 7. D
- 8. B
- 9. C
- 10. A
- 11. B
- 12. D
- 13. C
- 14. A
- 15. B
- 16. D
- 17. C
- 18. B
- 19. A
- 20. D

Fill-in-the-Blank Questions (101.3)

- 1. /etc/inittab
- 2. telinit 1 or telinit s
- 3. telinit q
- 4. /etc/init.d/
- 5. unit
- 6. multi-user.target
 - graphical.target
 - (Any valid systemd target name is acceptable here.)
- 7. isolate

- 8. systemd
- 9. wall
- 10. shutdown