**CONFIGURING THE SERVICES**

To allow you to configure which services are started at boot time, Red Hat Enterprise Linux is shipped with the following utilities: the **Service Configuration** graphical application, the **ntsysv** text user interface, and the **chkconfig** command-line tool.

**Important**

To ensure optimal performance on POWER architecture, it is recommended that the irqbalance service is enabled. In most cases, this service is installed and configured to run during the Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6 installation. To verify that irqbalance is running, as root, type the following at a shell prompt:

~]# service irqbalance status

irqbalance (pid 1234) is running...

For information on how to enable and run a service using a graphical user interface, see [Section 12.2.1, “Using the Service Configuration Utility”](https://access.redhat.com/documentation/en-us/red_hat_enterprise_linux/6/html/deployment_guide/s1-services-configuring#s2-services-serviceconf). For instructions on how to perform these task on the command line, see [Section 12.2.3, “Using the chkconfig Utility”](https://access.redhat.com/documentation/en-us/red_hat_enterprise_linux/6/html/deployment_guide/s2-services-chkconfig) and [Section 12.3, “Running Services”](https://access.redhat.com/documentation/en-us/red_hat_enterprise_linux/6/html/deployment_guide/s1-services-running) respectively.

12.2.1. Using the Service Configuration Utility

The **Service Configuration** utility is a graphical application developed by Red Hat to configure which services are started in a particular runlevel, as well as to start, stop, and restart them from the menu. To start the utility, select **System** → **Administration** → **Services**from the panel, or type the command system-config-services at a shell prompt.

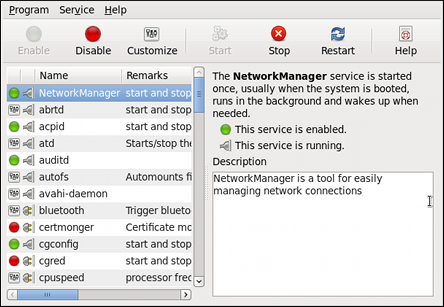
**Note**

The system-config-services utility is provided by the system-config-servicespackage, which may not be installed by default on your version of Red Hat Enterprise Linux. To ensure that, first run the following command:

~]$ rpm -q system-config-services

If the package is not installed by default, install it manually by running the following command as root:

~]# yum install system-config-services



**Figure 12.1. The Service Configuration utility**

The utility displays the list of all available services (services from the /etc/rc.d/init.d/directory, as well as services controlled by **xinetd**) along with their description and the current status. For a complete list of used icons and an explanation of their meaning, see [Table 12.2, “Possible service states”](https://access.redhat.com/documentation/en-us/red_hat_enterprise_linux/6/html/deployment_guide/s1-services-configuring#tab-services-serviceconf-states).

Note that unless you are already authenticated, you will be prompted to enter the superuser password the first time you make a change.

**Table 12.2. Possible service states**

| **Icon** | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| https://access.redhat.com/webassets/avalon/d/Red_Hat_Enterprise_Linux-6-Deployment_Guide-en-US/images/80bb9e36d0c8c6637b0065e91a747361/controlling-access-to-services-service_enabled.png | The service is enabled. |
| https://access.redhat.com/webassets/avalon/d/Red_Hat_Enterprise_Linux-6-Deployment_Guide-en-US/images/cd084ab38d4af2206887fe193c8fd19b/controlling-access-to-services-service_disabled.png | The service is disabled. |
| https://access.redhat.com/webassets/avalon/d/Red_Hat_Enterprise_Linux-6-Deployment_Guide-en-US/images/f43c19165c7011b1585b07112608a472/controlling-access-to-services-service_selected.png | The service is enabled for selected runlevels only. |
| https://access.redhat.com/webassets/avalon/d/Red_Hat_Enterprise_Linux-6-Deployment_Guide-en-US/images/cc3d7d1d25b6f223fbc39db1821ec921/controlling-access-to-services-service_running.png | The service is running. |
| https://access.redhat.com/webassets/avalon/d/Red_Hat_Enterprise_Linux-6-Deployment_Guide-en-US/images/ede53d29e9c5d6850b44e79a04650b51/controlling-access-to-services-service_stopped.png | The service is stopped. |
| https://access.redhat.com/webassets/avalon/d/Red_Hat_Enterprise_Linux-6-Deployment_Guide-en-US/images/2cb1bf6313adf2a60773f1659cec39e1/controlling-access-to-services-service_wrong.png | There is something wrong with the service. |
| https://access.redhat.com/webassets/avalon/d/Red_Hat_Enterprise_Linux-6-Deployment_Guide-en-US/images/726c8bbcd8f7fbb27843ea31e495565d/controlling-access-to-services-service_unknown.png | The status of the service is unknown. |

**12.2.1.1. Enabling and Disabling a Service**

To enable a service, select it from the list and either click the **Enable** button on the toolbar, or choose **Service** → **Enable** from the main menu.

To disable a service, select it from the list and either click the **Disable** button on the toolbar, or choose **Service** → **Disable** from the main menu.

**12.2.1.2. Starting, Restarting, and Stopping a Service**

To start a service, select it from the list and either click the **Start** button on the toolbar, or choose **Service** → **Start** from the main menu. Note that this option is not available for services controlled by **xinetd**, as they are started by it on demand.

To restart a running service, select it from the list and either click the **Restart** button on the toolbar, or choose **Service** → **Restart** from the main menu. Note that this option is not available for services controlled by **xinetd**, as they are started and stopped by it automatically.

To stop a service, select it from the list and either click the **Stop** button on the toolbar, or choose **Service** → **Stop** from the main menu. Note that this option is not available for services controlled by **xinetd**, as they are stopped by it when their job is finished.

**12.2.1.3. Selecting Runlevels**

To enable the service for certain runlevels only, select it from the list and either click the **Customize** button on the toolbar, or choose **Service** → **Customize** from the main menu. Then select the check box beside each runlevel in which you want the service to run. Note that this option is not available for services controlled by **xinetd**.