

CentOS / RHEL 7 : How to create custom script to run automatically during boot

by admin

In RHEL 5 and 6, we were using automatic startup feature of RHEL through `/etc/rc.d/init.d` to run any script at system boot. Starting with RHEL 7 init is replaced by `systemd` and the prior method is now deprecated. There is another way in RHEL 7 to do the same.

Creating the custom script

1. Let us first create a sample custom script to be run at system boot automatically.

```
# vi /var/tmp/test_script.sh
#!/bin/bash
echo "This is a sample script to test auto run during boot" > /var/tmp/script.out
echo "The time the script run was --> `date`" >> /var/tmp/script.out
```

2. Check and verify the file permission.

```
# ls -lrt /usr/local/sbin/myscript.sh
```

3. Add execute permission(if it's not already set).

```
# chmod +x /var/tmp/test_script.sh
```

Creating new systemd service unit

Create a new service unit file at **/etc/systemd/system/sample.service** with below content. The name of the service unit is user defined and can be any name of your choice.

```
# vi /etc/systemd/system/sample.service
[Unit]
Description=Description for sample script goes here
After=network.target

[Service]
Type=simple
ExecStart=/var/tmp/test_script.sh
```

```
TimeoutStartSec=0
```

```
[Install]
```

```
WantedBy=default.target
```

Here,

After= : If the script needs any other system facilities (networking, etc), modify
Type= : Switch Type=simple for Type=idle in the [Service] section to delay execution
WantedBy= : target to run the sample script in

Enable the systemd service unit

1. Reload the systemd process to consider newly created sample.service OR every time when sample.service gets modified.

```
# systemctl daemon-reload
```

2. Enable this service to start after reboot automatically.

```
# systemctl enable sample.service
```

3. Start the service.

```
# systemctl start sample.service
```

4. Reboot the host to verify whether the scripts are starting as expected during system boot.

```
# systemctl reboot
```

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