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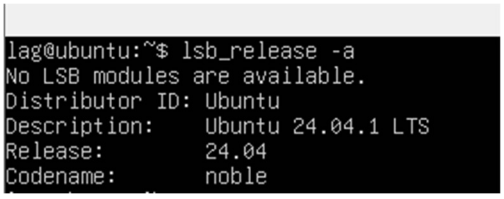
Networking

The first part of this document will outline some of the networking capabilities for the Ubuntu and CentOS servers. It will detail popular commands and provide examples of the output. The second section will include a basic networking script that can be used with each system, and the reasoning for the various commands within the script.

Ubuntu Server

To identify what version of Ubuntu is installed, use the **lsb_release -a** command (Kinsta, 2024). The version is listed on the Description line.

Figure 1.1 Results of **lsb_release -a**



The **ip addr**, or **ip a**, command displays information about the network interfaces (van Vugt, 2016). The first section indicated by “lo” represents the loopback interface. This interface is used for internal communication within the system. For this server, the IPv4 address is 127.0.0.1. The second section indicated by “enp0s3” represents the broadcast and multicast interface (McKay, 2020). According to McKay, “the “en” stands for ethernet or the wireless adapter, “p0” is the bus number of the ethernet card, and “s3” is the slot number.” The inet, or IPv4 address for this system is 10.0.0.49.

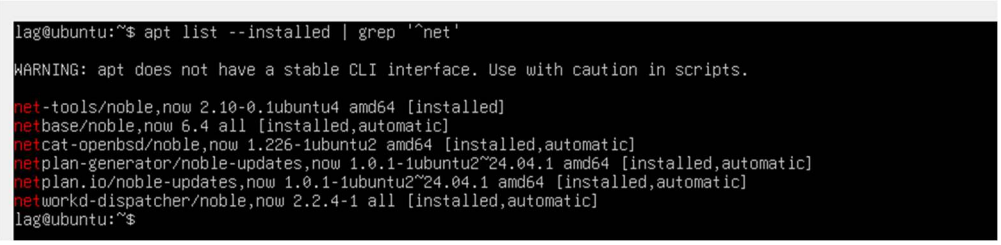
Figure 1.2 Results of **ip addr**

The **ip route** command shows the interfaces that data packets are sent through. To view the routes that are defined in the Ubuntu server, use the command **ip route**. The first line specifies the default route. In the default route, the “dev enp0s3” specifies that the 10.0.0.1 interface should be used to send packets to the system’s router. The “proto dhcp” signifies that the routing protocol indicated that routes will be selected dynamically. The “metric 100” refers to the preference of one route over another.

Figure 1.3 Results of **ip route**

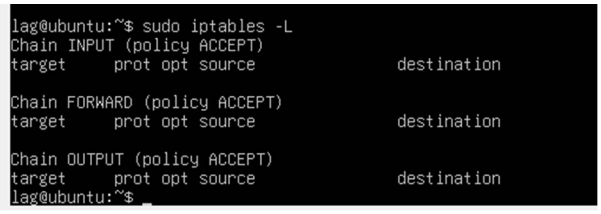
The command to list all installed packages on the Ubuntu server is **apt list –installed** (Gite, 2024). To specifically search for network related packages use the command with grep to search for all packages that start with “net.” The **apt list -–installed** command, used with grep, can search for all network related packages. Below is a list of network related packages that were found with the command **apt list –installed | grep ‘^net.’**

Figure 1.4 Results of **apt list –installed | grep ‘^net’**



This Ubuntu server uses iptables for the firewall. To view the current iptables rules use the command **sudo iptables -L** (Ubuntu, 2020). Figure 1.5 shows that there are no rules in place.

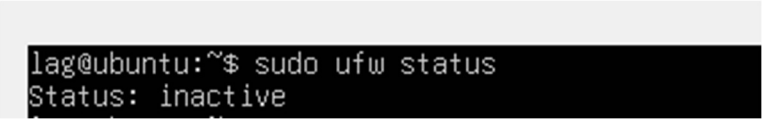
Figure 1.5 Results of **sudo iptables -L**



The Uncomplicated Firewall (UFW) is an interface that can simply the firewall configuration on the Ubuntu server (Boucheron et al., 2024). The UFW is disabled by default (Ubuntu , 2024).

To check the UFWs status use the command **sudo ufw status**.

Figure 1.6 Results of **sudo ufw status**

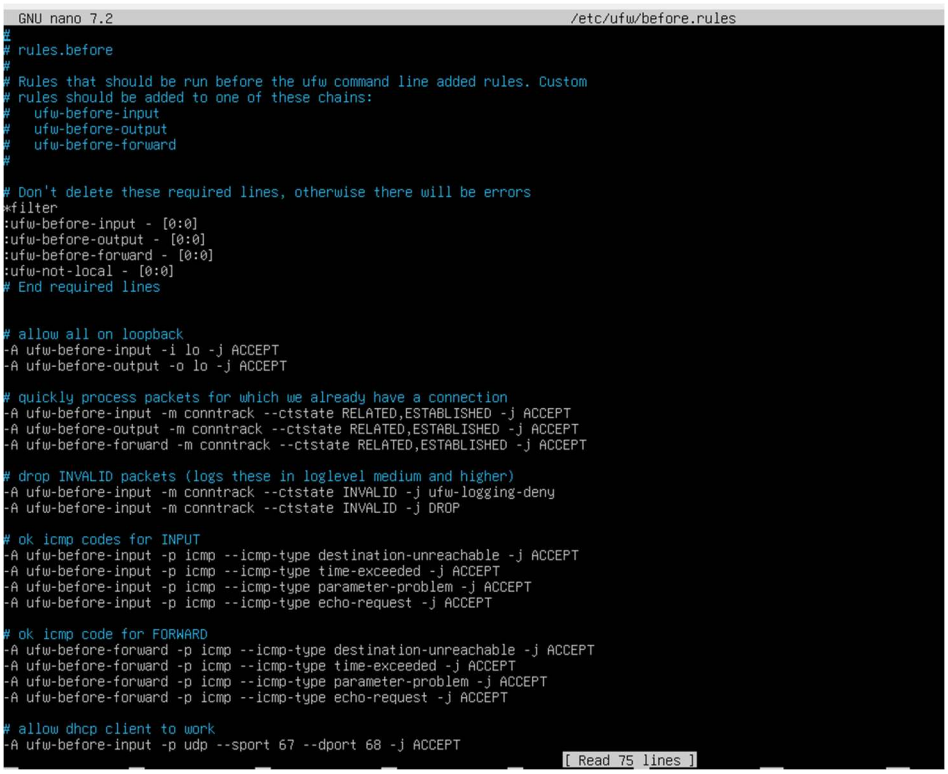


By default, the UFW's rules deny incoming traffic and allow outgoing connections. To view which profiles are registered with the UFW, use the command **ufw app list**. The OpenSSH was installed with the server setup, but the Postfix programs were installed with emacs.

Figure 1.7 Results of **sudo ufw app list**

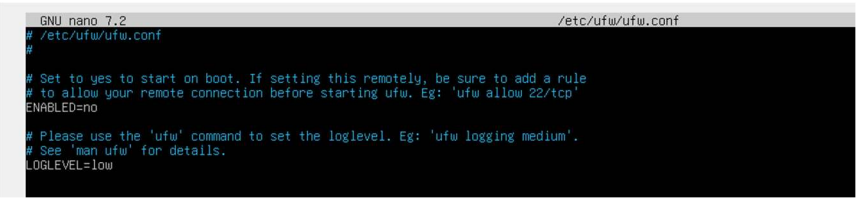
To view the rules that should be run before the command line added rules view the rules.before file in the etc/ufw/ directory.

Figure 1.8 Image of /etc/ufw/before.rules



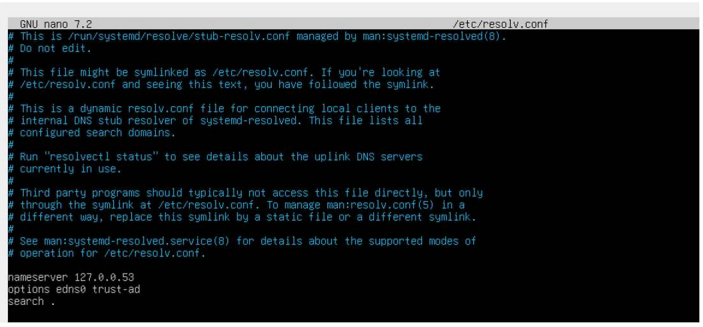
To view custom firewall rules use the command **sudo nano /etc/ufw/ufw.conf**.

Figure 1.9 Image of /etc/ufw/ufw.conf



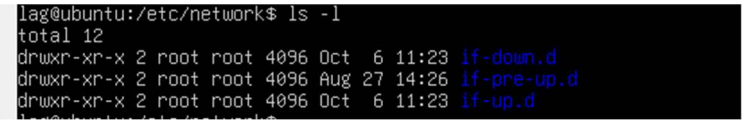
The resolv.conf file outlines how the system will resolve alpha-numeric names into numerical network addresses (Debian, 2024). This file will hold the IP addresses of the domain name system (DVS) resolvers, or nameservers, that can do this translation. Below, the IP address 127.0.0.53 is the address used for this purpose.

Figure 1.10 Image of /etc/resolv.conf



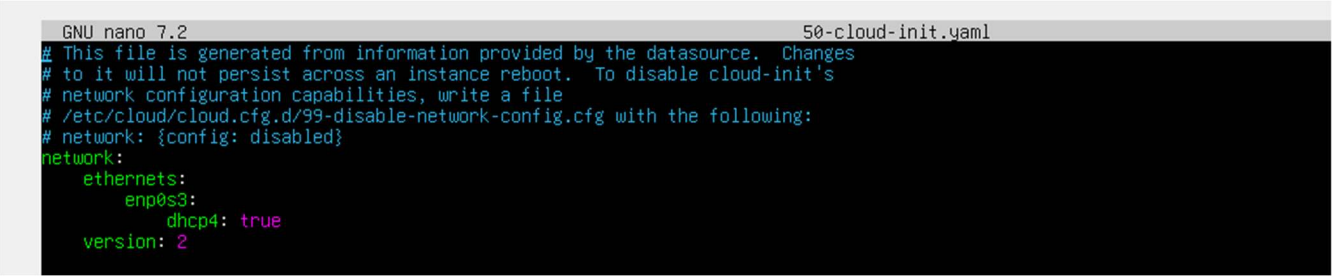
This server does not have the /etc/network/interfaces configuration file. This is the content of the /etc/network/ directory.

Figure 1.11 Contents of /etc/networks directory



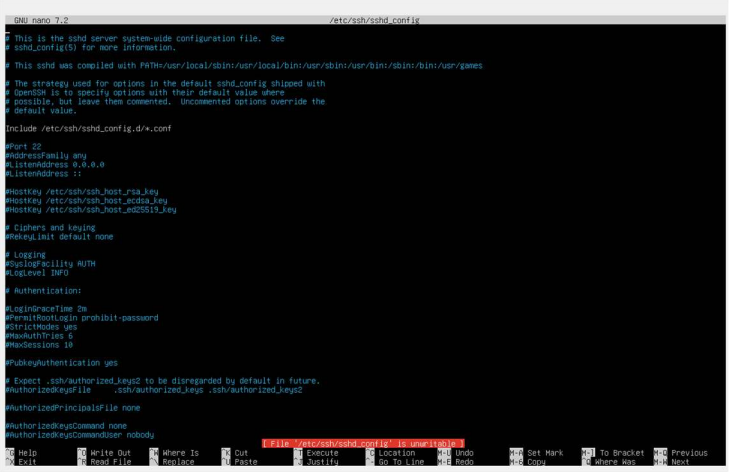
Modern versions of Ubuntu use netplan (Ubuntu Core, 2024). In the /etc/netplan directory, there was a file 50-cloud-init.yaml. This shows the default network configuration.

Figure 1.12 Contents of 50-cloud-init.yaml



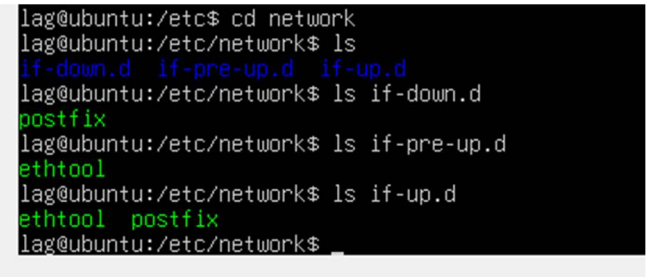
To view the ssh server configuration, open the sshd_config file. This file does not have any rules, only comments (SSH Academy, 2024).

Figure 1.13 results of /etc/ssh/sshd_config



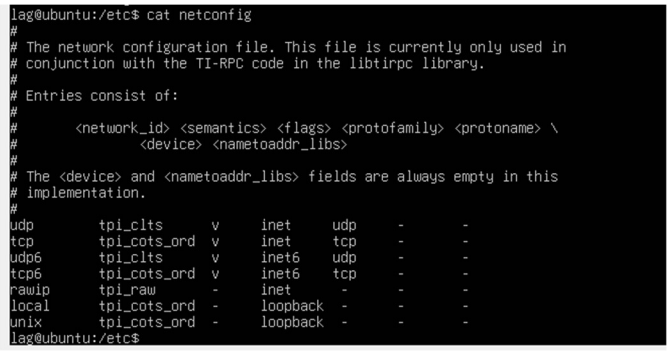
To explore what types of networking files exist, you can **ls** different network related directories. Here is information about what is in the /etc/network directory.

Figure 1.14 Contents of /etc/network directory



If you find different files, you can use cat to see their contents. Here is the netconfig file.

Figure 1.15 The contents of netconfig



To see summarized information about system sockets use the **ss** command with the summary option (**-s**). The **-tuln** option shows all the listening TCP and UDP ports.

Figure 1.16 The results of the **ss -s** command

```
lag@ubuntu:~$ ss -s
Total: 154
TCP:   3 (estab 0, closed 0, orphaned 0, timewait 0)

Transport Total     IP        IPv6
RAW       1         0         1
UDP       4         3         1
TCP       3         2         1
INET      8         5         3
FRAG      0         0         0
```

Figure 1.17 The results of **ss -tuln**.

```
lag@ubuntu:~$ ss -tuln
Netid       State        Recv-Q       Send-Q                                  Local Address:Port                Peer Address:Port       Process
udp         UNCONN       0            0                                          127.0.0.54:53                     0.0.0.0:*
udp         UNCONN       0            0                                       127.0.0.53%lo:53                     0.0.0.0:*
udp         UNCONN       0            0                                    10.0.0.49%enp0s3:68                     0.0.0.0:*
udp         UNCONN       0            0                 [fe80::a00:27ff:fe82:2a86]%enp0s3:546                        [::]:*
tcp         LISTEN       0            4096                                       127.0.0.54:53                     0.0.0.0:*
tcp         LISTEN       0            4096                                    127.0.0.53%lo:53                     0.0.0.0:*
tcp         LISTEN       0            4096                                            *:22                           *:*
```

CentOS Server

To identify what version of CentOS is installed, use the **lsb_release -d** command (Rendek, 2015). The version is listed on the Description line.

Figure 2.1 Results of **lsb_release -d**

```
[lindsayg@localhost ~]$ lsb_release -d
Description:    CentOS Stream 9
```

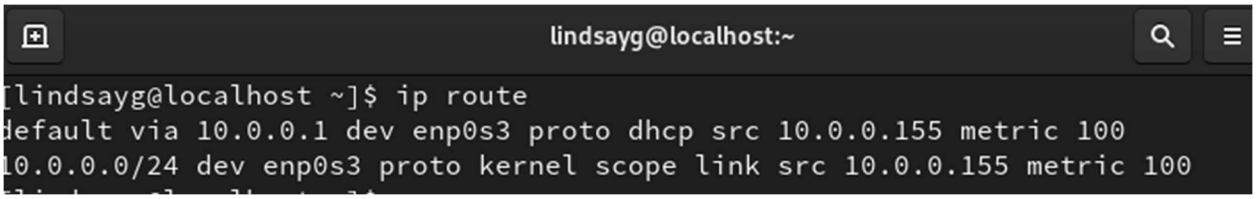
The **ip addr**, or **ip a**, commands display information about the network interfaces (van Vugt, 2016). The first section indicated by “lo” represents the loopback interface. This interface is used for internal communication within the system. For this server, the IPv4 loopback address is 127.0.0.1. The second section indicated by “enp0s3” represents the broadcast and multicast interface (McKay, 2020). According to McKay, “the “en” stands for ethernet or the wireless adapter, “p0” is the bus number of the ethernet card, and “s3” is the slot number.” The inet, or IPv4 address for this system is 10.0.0.155.

Figure 2.2 Results of **ip addr**

```
[lindsayg@localhost ~]$ ip addr
1: lo: <LOOPBACK,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 65536 qdisc noqueue state UNKNOWN group defaul
t qlen 1000
    link/loopback 00:00:00:00:00:00 brd 00:00:00:00:00:00
    inet 127.0.0.1/8 scope host lo
       valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
    inet6 ::1/128 scope host
       valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
2: enp0s3: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc fq_codel state UP gr
oup default qlen 1000
    link/ether 08:00:27:7a:16:38 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
    inet 10.0.0.155/24 brd 10.0.0.255 scope global dynamic noprefixroute enp0s3
       valid_lft 172143sec preferred_lft 172143sec
    inet6 2601:18a:807d:3080::1cf1/128 scope global dynamic noprefixroute
       valid_lft 85870sec preferred_lft 85870sec
    inet6 2601:18a:807d:3080:a00:27ff:fe7a:1638/64 scope global dynamic noprefix
route
       valid_lft 298sec preferred_lft 298sec
    inet6 fdd8:4a53:48b3:9186:a00:27ff:fe7a:1638/64 scope global dynamic noprefi
xroute
       valid_lft 1680sec preferred_lft 1680sec
    inet6 fe80::a00:27ff:fe7a:1638/64 scope link noprefixroute
       valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
```

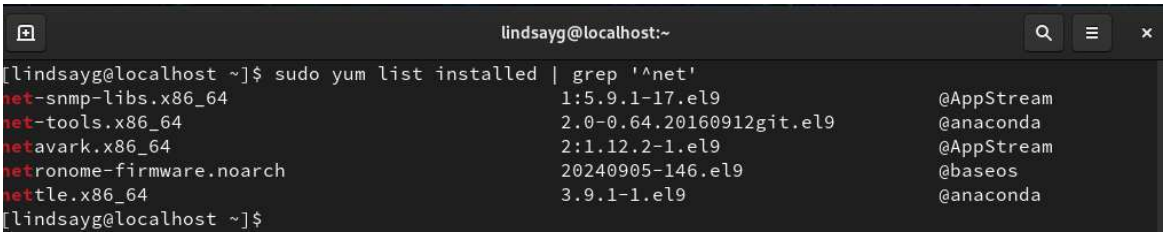
The **ip route** command shows the interfaces that data packets are sent through along with which interfaces they should use. To view the routes that are defined in the CentOS server, use the command **ip route**. The first line specifies the default route. In the default route, the “dev enp0s3” specifies that the 10.0.0.1 interface should be used to send packets to the system’s router. The “proto dhcp” signifies that the routing protocol indicated that routes will be selected dynamically. The “metric 100” refers to the preference of one route over another.

Figure 2.3 Results of **ip route**



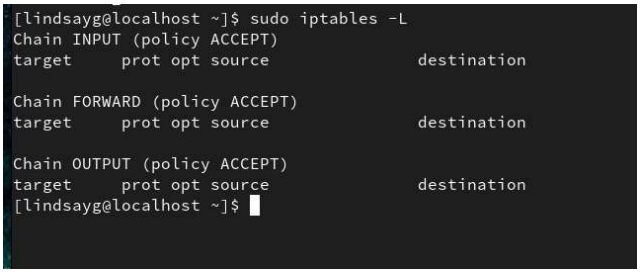
The command to list all installed packages on the CentOS server is **sudo yum list installed** (Jevtic, 2019). To specifically search for network related packages use the command with grep to search for all packages that start with "net." The **yum list installed** command, used with grep, can search for all network related packages. Below is a list of network related packages that were found with the command **sudo yum list installed | grep '^net.'**

Figure 2.4 Results of **sudo yum list installed | grep '^net'**



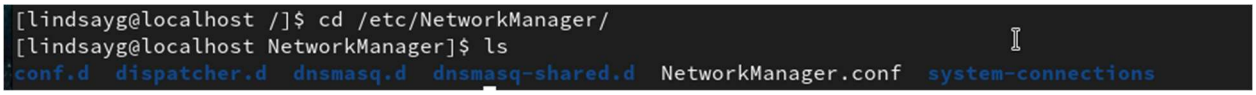
To view the current iptables rules use the command **sudo iptables -L** (Ubuntu, 2020). Figure 1.5 shows that there are no rules in place.

Figure 2.5 Results of **sudo iptables -L**



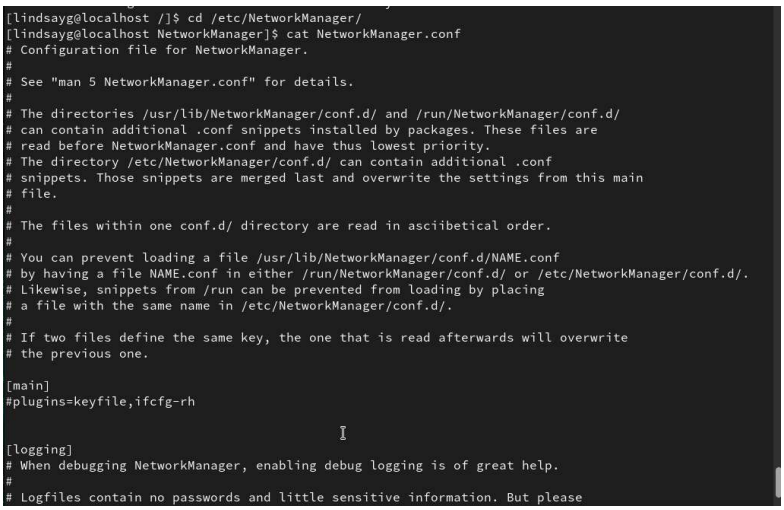
To view the network configuration settings navigate to etc/NetworkManager/ directory (Horn, 2022).

Figure 2.6 Content of NetworkManager directory



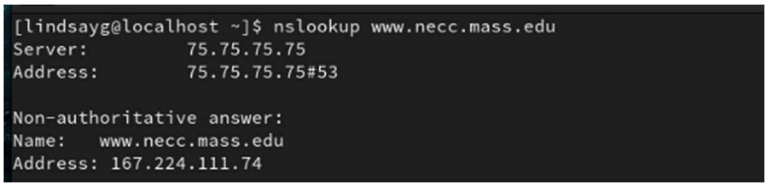
The NetworkingManager.conf file refers to the main configuration file of CentOS. It looks at keyfiles first then ifcfg-rh files next. These files contain the configuration rules.

Figure 2.7 Sample of NetworkManager.conf



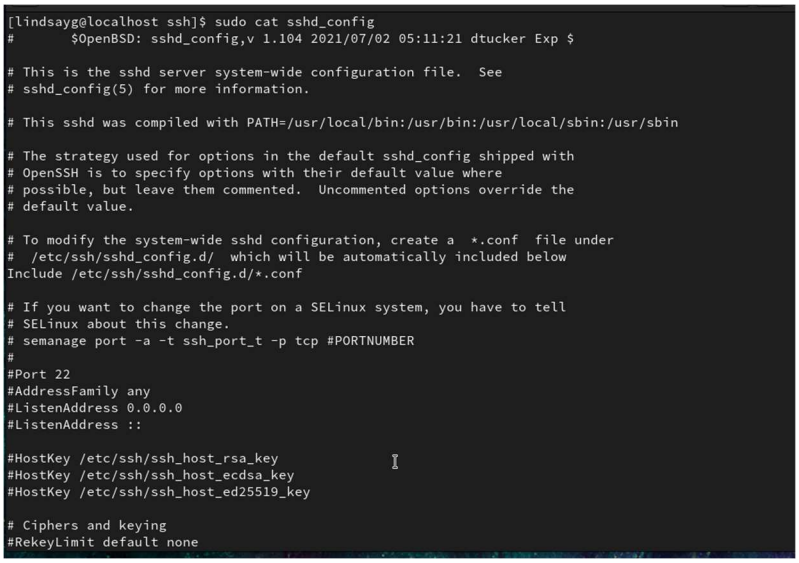
The command **nslookup** with a web address can show the DNS settings for a particular address (Garn, 2022).

Figure 2.8 Results of **nslookup www.necc.mass.edu**



To view the ssh server configuration, open the sshd_config file. This file does not have any rules, only comments (SSH Academy, 2024).

Figure 2.9 results of /etc/ssh/sshd_config



To see summarized information about system sockets use the **ss** command with the summary option (**-s**). The **-tuln** option shows the listening TCP and UDP ports.

Figure 2.10 The results of the **ss -s** command

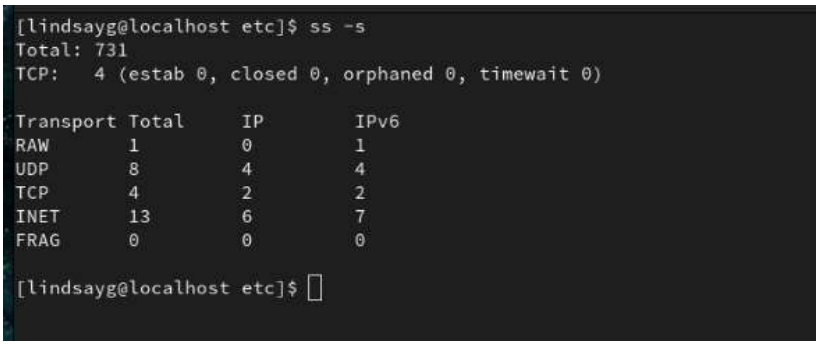
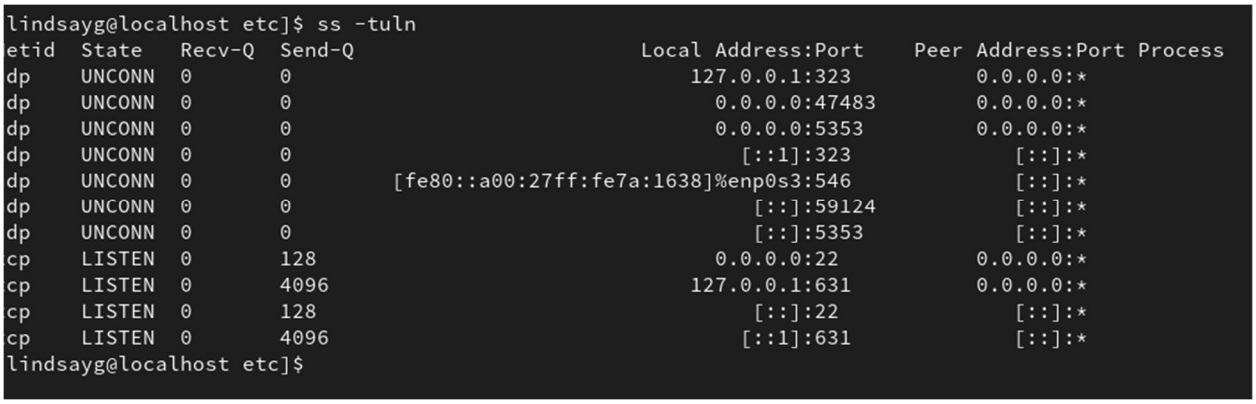


Figure 2.11 The results of **ss -tuln**



Network Information Script

The simple networking script in Figure 3.1 illustrates commonly used network commands. The first two commands, **ip a show enp0s3** and **ip link show enp0s3**, focus on the enp0s3 address and its associated network interface link. The enp0s3 interface is a physical interface, often connected to an ethernet cable or wireless adapter (McKay, 2020). It is the address used to communicate with other network devices and the internet. When using **scp** to transfer files from my laptop to the server, this is the address that I use. If a connectivity issue were to occur, the enp0s3 interface would be helpful for troubleshooting as it is the primary gateway for external communication.

The next command, **ip route show**, provides information about the routing table, which defines where network traffic is forwarded. The results of this command list the routes that are configured on the server. Traffic is routed based on defined rules. If no rule applies, the default route is used. For example, if a new network interface card is installed on a system, a new route may need to be added to enable its use. By reviewing the current routes, administrators can determine if any new routes need to be added, or others removed.

Next, the script retrieves information about the domain name system (DNS) records with the **dig** command. The **dig** command is used to gather details about domain names and their associated records (Dancuk, 2023). In this instance, the script uses **dig www.necc.mass.edu** to query the NECC web address. It also performs a reverse lookup on the server's IP address with the command **dig -x 10.0.0.49**. Network administrators commonly use the **dig** command for troubleshooting DNS issues or verifying DNS configurations.

Lastly, the **ss** command was used to display network statistics, including information about network sockets. The **-s** option with **ss** provides summary statistics, while **-tuln** lists all listening TCP and UDP ports on the system (Wake, 2024). This can be helpful for identifying unexpected listening ports, which might indicate a security risk. The commands were enclosed in brackets to group them together, and their output was appended to a new file named netscript.txt.

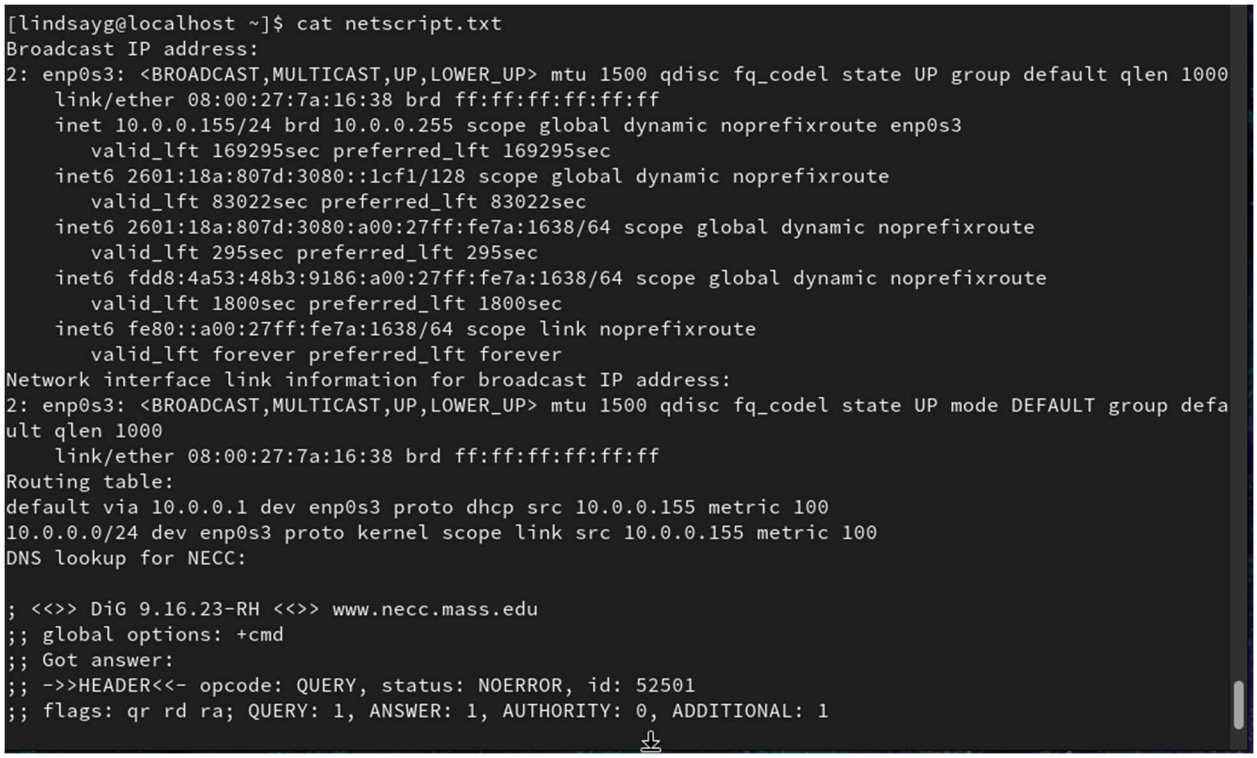
Figure 3.1 Simple networking script

```
  GNU nano 7.2                                                    netscript.sh
#!
{
echo "Broadcast IP address:"
ip a show enp0s3
#The ip command will show the network interfaces IP information

echo "Network interface link information for broadcast IP address:"
ip link show enp0s3
#This command will show the network interface link information

echo "Routing table:"
ip route show
#Shows the ip routing table

echo "DNS lookup for NECC:"
dig www.necc.mass.edu
#sample DNS lookup for NECC's website

echo "Reverse DNS lookup for Ubuntu server"
dig -x 10.0.0.49
#reverse DNS lookup for server's broadcast address

echo "Network Statistics summary:"
ss -s
#ss command with -s option shows network statistics summary

echo "Open ports:"
ss -tuln
##ss with -tuln option shows listening TCP and UDP ports

} > netscript.txt
```

Figure 3.2 Sample of results from cat netscript.txt output file on Ubuntu Server

```
www.necc.mass.edu.      720     IN      A       167.224.111.74

;; Query time: 20 msec
;; SERVER: 127.0.0.53#53(127.0.0.53) (UDP)
;; WHEN: Tue Oct 15 21:36:08 UTC 2024
;; MSG SIZE  rcvd: 62

Reverse DNS lookup for Ubuntu server

; <<>> DiG 9.18.28-0ubuntu0.24.04.1-Ubuntu <<>> -x 10.0.0.49
;; global options: +cmd
;; Got answer:
;; ->>HEADER<<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 64015
;; flags: qr aa rd ra ad; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 2, AUTHORITY: 0, ADDITIONAL: 1

;; OPT PSEUDOSECTION:
; EDNS: version: 0, flags:; udp: 65494
;; QUESTION SECTION:
;49.0.0.10.in-addr.arpa.                IN      PTR

;; ANSWER SECTION:
49.0.0.10.in-addr.arpa. 0       IN      PTR     ubuntu.
49.0.0.10.in-addr.arpa. 0       IN      PTR     ubuntu.local.

;; Query time: 15 msec
;; SERVER: 127.0.0.53#53(127.0.0.53) (UDP)
;; WHEN: Tue Oct 15 21:36:08 UTC 2024
;; MSG SIZE  rcvd: 97

Network Statistics summary:
Total: 154
TCP:   3 (estab 0, closed 0, orphaned 0, timewait 0)

Transport Total     IP        IPv6
RAW       1         0         1
UDP       4         3         1
TCP       3         2         1
INET      8         5         3
FRAG      0         0         0

Open ports:
Netid State  Recv-Q Send-Q                    Local Address:Port Peer Address:PortProcess
udp   UNCONN 0      0                           127.0.0.54:53        0.0.0.0:*
udp   UNCONN 0      0                        127.0.0.53%lo:53        0.0.0.0:*
udp   UNCONN 0      0                     10.0.0.49%enp0s3:68        0.0.0.0:*
udp   UNCONN 0      0      [fe80::a00:27ff:fe82:2a86]%enp0s3:546          [::]:*
tcp   LISTEN 0      4096                        127.0.0.54:53        0.0.0.0:*
tcp   LISTEN 0      4096                     127.0.0.53%lo:53        0.0.0.0:*
tcp   LISTEN 0      4096                              *:22              *:*
lag@ubuntu:~$ cat netscript.txt_
```

Figure 3.3 Sample of results from cat netscript.txt on CentOS Server



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