

### 4.5.3 Use wall to Message Users

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Use wall to Message Users 0:00-0:47

In this demonstration, we're going to practice working with the wall utility. The wall utility is used to send a message to all logged in users on a Linux system. As such, if you're using Linux as a workstation, a desktop workstation, and you're the only person who logs in to it, the wall command is not terribly useful.

But if you're managing a server system, where lots of people are logged in to the system simultaneously, then the wall utility can be very, very useful--especially if you need to take the system down for some reason. For example, let's say you need to take the system offline for some reason and you need to warn everybody to save their work and log out. You can use the wall command to send a message to let everyone know what you need them to do.

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wall Command 0:48-3:07

I'm going to switch to my root user account in this terminal window. I'm logged in to my root user here, and in this window, I'm logged in as my rtracy user. This is done to simulate a multiuser environment, where we would have multiple people logged in to the system at the same time from different terminal sessions.

To use the wall command, you simply type 'wall' and then specify what text you want to be sent to all the users who are currently logged in. One option is just to provide that text in the command line itself, and you place that text within quotation marks.

For example, we could say, "We have experienced a power outage and are running on backup generators. Please save your work and log out of the system." Press Enter, and notice that the message is displayed on the terminals of the other users. That's one option. You can just type out the text that you want sent.

In addition to typing out the text you want sent, you can also send the contents of a file with the wall command, and this can be useful for messages that have to go out on a regular basis. You don't have to re-type them every single time.

For example, let's say our organization performs a server maintenance Saturday night at midnight, and every Friday we want to remind users that they need to log out and save all their files before they leave work, so that's nothing's left open before we take the server down for maintenance.

What we could do is use the 'vi' editor, create a text file. Let's call it 'warn.txt' and we'll go into insert mode, and enter some text. "Remember the server will be going down for maintenance Saturday night at midnight. Please save your work and log out before you leave on Friday." Hit Escape. Enter 'exit' to save the changes to the file and exit our editor.

Now we can send the message with the 'wall' command, but this time instead of typing out text that we want wall to send, we'll just tell it to send the contents of the 'warn.txt' file. Press Enter, and the text that we entered into the file is displayed at everybody's terminal.

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Summary 3:08-3:10

That's it for this demonstration. In this demo, we talked about how to use the wall command in order to send messages to logged in users.

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