

Chapter 0:

Kick-Start Process

- What is Kickstart installation?
- How do you perform Kickstart installation?
- Creating a Kickstart file.

1) What is Kickstart installation?

An **automated installation** method to install Red Hat Enterprise Linux on any machines. Using kick-start, a system administrator can create a single file containing the **answers to all the questions** that would normally be asked **during a typical installation**.

2) How do you perform a Kickstart installation?

Kickstart installations can be performed using a local **CD-ROM, a local hard drive, or via NFS, FTP, or HTTP**.

To use Kickstart, you must:

1. Create a Kickstart file.
2. Create a boot media with the Kickstart file or make the Kickstart file available on the network.
3. Make the installation tree available.
4. Start the Kickstart installation.

3) Creating a Kickstart file

The Kickstart file is a **simple text file**, containing a list of items, each identified by a keyword. You can create it by using the **Kickstart Configurator application**, or writing it from scratch.

The Linux installation creates a sample Kickstart file based on the options that selected during installation. It is written to the file **/root/anaconda-ks.cfg**. You should be able to edit it with any text editor.

Following issues need to be addressed in order to create a new Kickstart file-

- **Sections must be specified *in order***. Items within the sections do not have to be in a specific order unless otherwise specified. The section order is:
 - 1) Command section
 - 2) the %packages section
 - 3) the %pre and %post sections.
- Items that are not required can be omitted.
- Omitting any required item results in error.
- “#” is used to write a command.

What is actually Package selection?

Use the `%packages` command to begin a Kickstart file section that lists the packages you would like to install.

`%Pre` installation script –

You can add commands to run on the system immediately after the **ks.cfg** has been parsed. This section must be at the end of the Kickstart file (after the commands) and must start with the **%pre** command.

`%Post` installation script –

You have the option of adding commands to run on the system once the installation is complete. This section must be at the end of the Kickstart file and must start with the **%post** command. This section is useful for functions such as installing additional software and configuring an additional name server.

A Kickstart file must be placed in one of the following locations--

On a **boot diskette**, on a **boot CD-ROM**, on a **network**

If you are performing a hard drive installation, make sure the ISO images of the binary Red Hat Enterprise Linux CD-ROMs are on a hard drive in the computer.

To perform a pen-based **flash memory Kickstart installation**, the Kickstart file must be named "ks.cfg" and must be located in the flash memory's top-level directory. **Create the boot image first, and then copy the ks.cfg file.**

For example, the following transfers a boot image to the pen drive (/dev/sda) using the dd command:

```
dd if=diskboot.img of=/dev/sda bs=1M
```

If you need to use a driver disk with Kickstart, specify the **dd** option as well. For example, to boot off a boot diskette and use a driver disk, enter the following command at the **boot:** prompt:

```
Linux ks = floppy dd
```