

Linux Logbook Portfolio 2

Tatenda Manyepa | 2020

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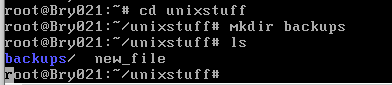
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# 1. Linux Tutorials Basic Linux

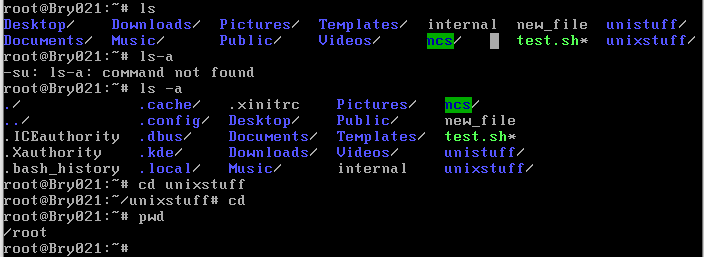
**1.1. Making Directories**

A new directory called backups was created inside the directory unixstuff. The *cd unixstuff* command was used to navigate into the unixstuff directory and the command *mkdir backups* was then used to create the backups directory.

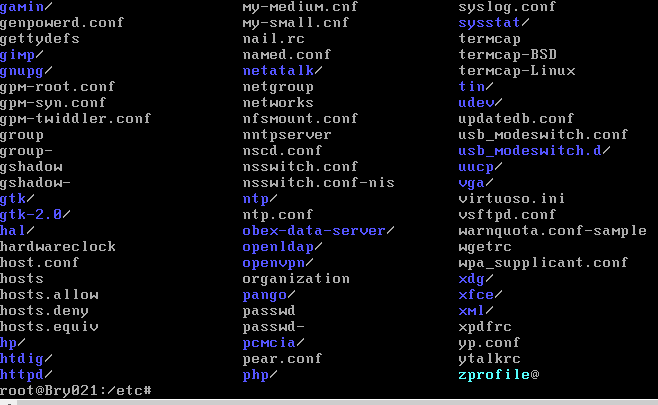


**1.2. ls, pwd and cd Commands**

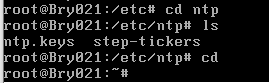
The *ls* command was used to list all the files in the current working directory which in this case is the home directory. However, the files listed did not include hidden files therefore the *ls -a* command was then executed to show all files including the hidden files indicated by (.) at the beginning of file names. *cd unixstuff* was then executed to navigate to the unixstuff directory and the command *cd* was also used to navigate back to the home directory. The *pwd* command was then executed to print the pathname of the current working directory which is /root.



The command *cd /etc* was executed to navigate into the /etc directory which is the central location of where all Linux configuration files are located (Surendra, 2016). The image below shows the contents of the /etc directory.

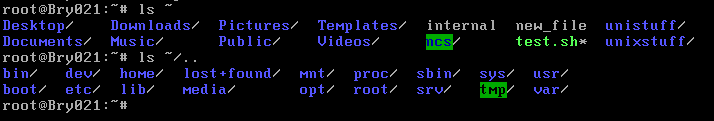


The *cd ntp* command was used inside the /etc directory to view the ntp protocol. The ntp protocol is utilized in synchronizing the computer system clock automatically over networks (Cezar, 2018). The *cd* command was then executed to navigate back to the home directory root as shown in the image below.



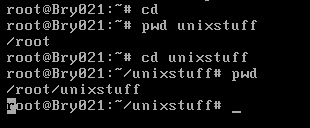
**1.3. ls ~ and ls ~/.. Commands**

The ls ~ command lists the contents of the home directory which in this case is root while the ls ~/.. command lists all files in the parent directory under the home directory. This is illustrated in the image below (Saive, 2012).



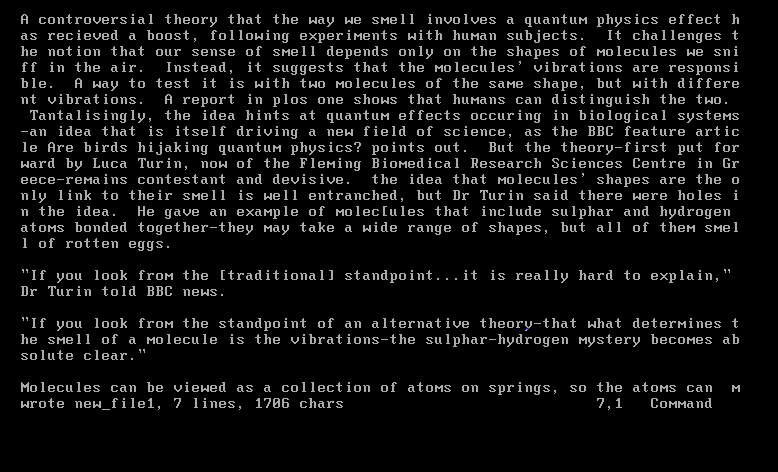
**1.4. Relative and Absolute Pathnames**

The *cd* command was executed to navigate to the home directory and *cd unixstuff* was used to navigate to the unixstuff directory. To find the absolute pathname of the unixstuff directory the *pwd* command was executed and the result obtained was that /root/unixstuff is the absolute pathname for the unixstuff directory. From this result we can deduce that the relative pathname of the unixstuff directory relative to the home directory is unixstuff/.

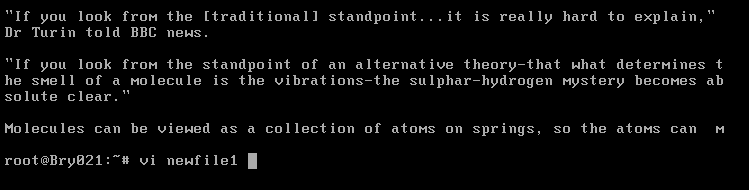


**1.5. Creating Files in VI Text Editor**

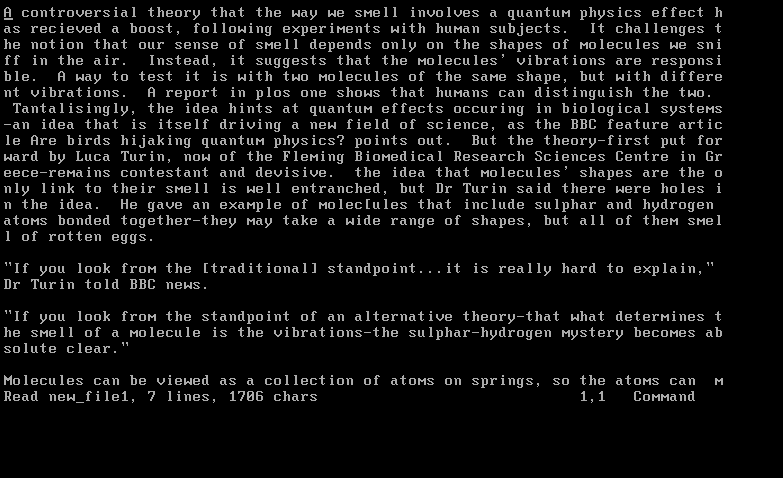
The command *vi new\_file* was executed to create a new text editor file and text was added to the in the insert mode as shown below. The file was then saved as new\_file1 in the command mode and the command *:q* was used to exit the vi text editor.



As shown in the image below the command vi new\_file1 was used to open the file in the vi text editor.

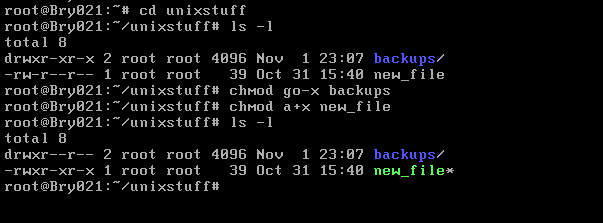


The following image shows that the vi new file1 still exists and is the result of using the command vi new\_file1.



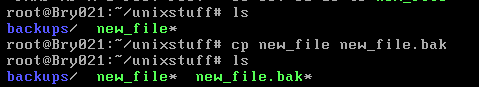
**1.6. Changing File Mode: chmod**

The *cd unixstuff* command was used to navigate into the unixstuff directory. The *ls -l* command was then used to view the file permissions of the backups and new\_file sub directories in the unixstuff directory. The backups directory had read, write and execute permissions for the user, execute and read permissions for the group and only execute permissions for others on the server while new\_file had read and write permissions for the user and only read permissions for both the group and others. The command *chmod go-x backups* was used to add execute permissions to the group and others while the command *chmod a+x new\_file* was used to give execute permissions on the new\_file to all people on the server. The command *ls -l* was then again used to check if the file permissions had been changed as illustrated in the image below.



**2.1. Further File Handling**

In the unixstuff directory the command *ls* was executed to view the contents of the directory. The result showed that a file new\_file exists in the backups directory. A copy of the file new\_file was created by using the command *cp new\_file new file.bak* and *ls* was then again executed to see if the backup folder had been created.



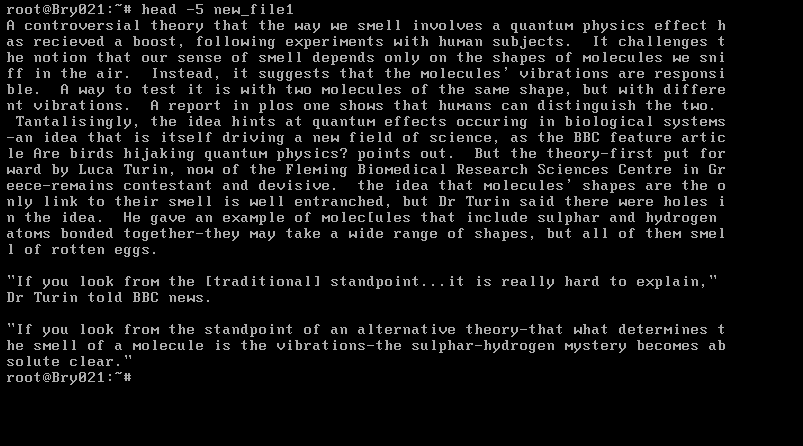
**2.2. Removing Files**

A new directory tempstuff was created in the unixstuff directory by using the command *mkdir tempstuff* and the command *ls* was executed to see if the tempstuff directory had been created. The command *rm -r tempstuff* was then used to remove the tempstuff directory and the command *ls* was again executed to check if the removal had been successful.

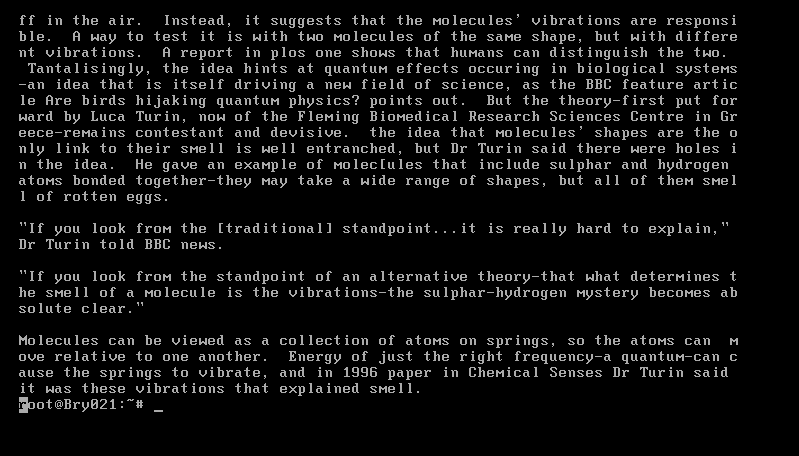


**2.3. Displaying File Contents**

The command *head -5 new\_file1* was executed. The head command allows for the viewing of the first 10 lines of your file and adding the -5 option should ideally only allow for the viewing of the first 5 lines of any file.



In order to view the last 15 lines of the file the command *tail -15 new\_file1* can the used and the results are shown below.



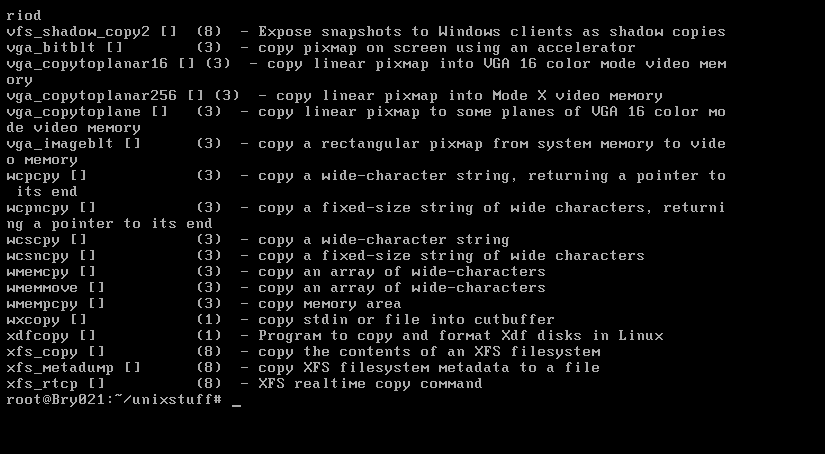
**2.4. Redirection**

A file called list2 was created using the command *cat > list2* and four names of fruit were added to that file. In order to read the contents of the file list2 the command *cat list2* was executed as shown below.

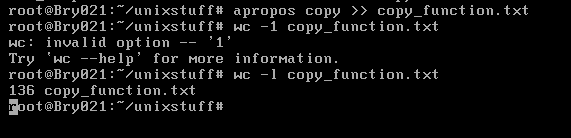


**2.5. Wildcards, filename Conventions and Getting Help**

The command *apropos copy* was executed, and the results are shown in the screen below. To scroll through the whole file the command *less* can be used because the file contents are larger than the screen and therefore only the bottom contents are being displayed.



The results were then saved into a text file called copy\_functions.txt by executing the command *apropos >> copy\_function.txt*. To view the amount of different functions available the command *wc -l copy\_function.txt* was executed and the results below show that there are 136 functions available.



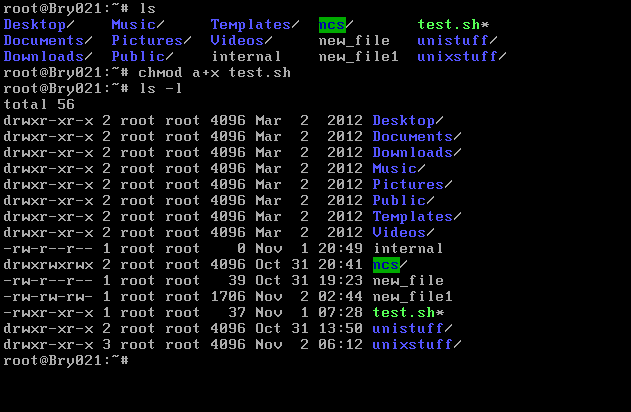
# 2. Linux Systems and Shell Scripting

**2.1 Creating an executable bash script**

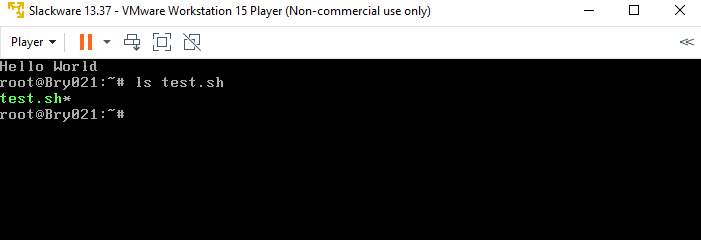
A script called test.sh was created in the home directory using a vi text editor. The command *vi new\_file* was executed to create this script. The following image shows the contents of the script in the text editor and the script ends with the extension .sh implying that this is a bash shell script (EDUCBA, 2019). Other console text editors such as nano and emacs could have been used to create the script as they also contain high functionality and are simple to use and easy to navigate in (Blum and Bresnahan, 2015).



The command *ls* was executed to find out if the test.sh script has been saved in the home directory and the results in the image below show that the script now exists in the directory. The symbols ~# suggests that a user is currently operating in the home directory which in this case is root (Soyinka, 2016).To set execute permissions that allow the script to be executable, the command *chmod a+x test.sh* was executed and the script was run by executing the command *./test.sh* as shown in the image below



The image below shows the result of running the shell script test.sh. The message “Hello World” was successfully printed on the console screen.

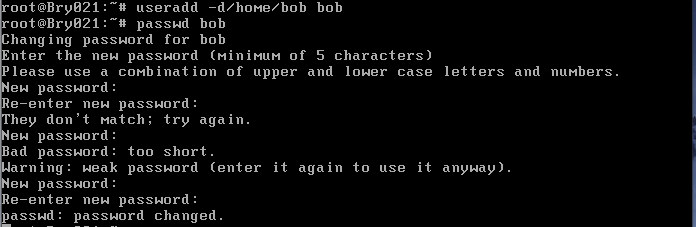


**2.2. Why giving 777 permissions to a file is a bad idea**

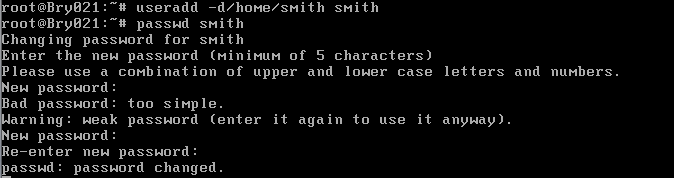
777 file permissions indicate that any individual who is a user on a server can read, write and execute any files on that server (Coulter, 2014). This is risky because it gives files and directories low security since the files and directories on the server can altered and/or deleted without the administrator’s permission or knowledge (McKinnon, 2017). These files can also be tempered with by having corrupt files added onto them (McDonald, 2012). 777 permissions can also lead to attacks such as cross-site scripting attacks which occur when malicious html and/or JavaScript are copied into an open folder on a server leading to a malicious user stealing the administrator login cookie thereby allowing them to gain full access to the administrator’s account (Coulter, 2014). The normal safe permissions for files should be 644 which means that the administrator or user can only have read and write permissions while everyone else will only be able to read the files or scripts (McKinnon, 2017).

**2.3. Creating new users**

A user account was created for a new user bob using the command *useradd -d/home/bob bob* and a new password bob was assigned to the new user bob. This is shown in the image below:



Another user account for a new user smith was also created using the command *useradd -d/home/smith* and the user was assigned a password smith when prompted by the console as shown below.

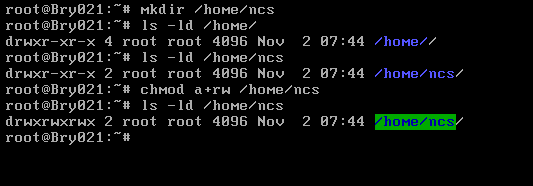


There are several other ways by which new users can be added in Linux. The useradd part of the command used to create new users bob and smith can be substituted by the term adduser generating the command *adduser -d/home/newusername newusername*. In Linux, every user has their own specific UID (Unique Identification Number) which is assigned to them when their new account is created, therefore, for example, the command *useradd -u 888* *newusername* can be executed to create a new user account assigning them the UID of 888. The option for using a UID to create a new user is -u. In the same way a new user can be created using a UID, a new user can also be created using a specific GID (Group Identification Number) with the -g option generating the command *useradd -u 200 -g 300 newusername*. The figure 100 being the chosen IUD and 300 being the chosen GID. New users can also be created without being assigned to a home directory for security reasons using the option -M create the following command *useradd -M newusername* and a new user can also be given an expiry date with the option -e using the following command, *useradd -e 2019-08-24 newusername*. This means that the account will expire on 24-08-2019 (Saive, 2019).

**2.4. Creating a shared executable script**

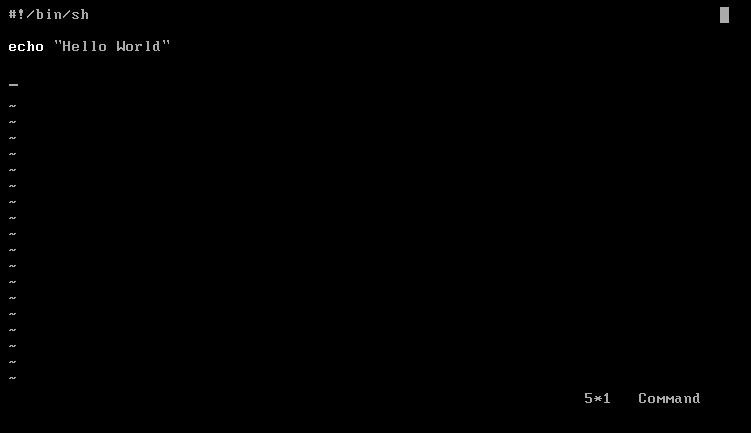
A publicly readable and writeable directory with the path /home/ncs was created using the command *mkdir /home/ncs*. The command *ls -ld /home/ncs* was then executed to view the permissions of the directory. The option -l for the command ls allows for the listing of long formats and the showing of their permissions while the option -d allows for the listing of directories starting with / (RapidTables, 2019). The results in the image below show that the directory has readable, writable and executable permissions for the main user, executable and readable permissions for the group on the server and only executable permissions for all others on the server. To give the directory readable and writable permissions the command *chmod a+rw /home/ncs* was used. As shown below, the directory’s permissions changed to all users on the server having read, write and execute permissions.

Permissions can also be set in Linux using numeric codes, 0 means no permission, 1 means execute, 2 means write, and 4 means read. For instance, to create the ncs directory and make it publicly readable and writable *chmod 666* could have been used instead. The numbers are added up depending on the permissions being given (Rafacz, 2019).

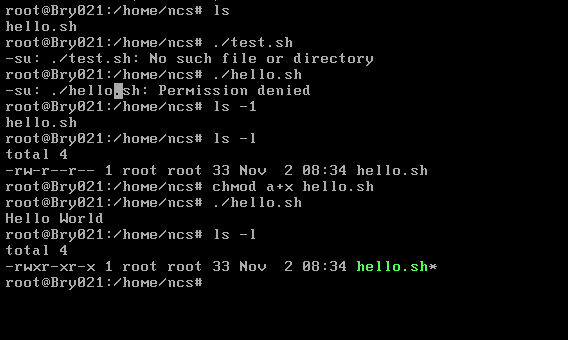


**2.5. Creating a Bash Script**

A bash script called hello.sh was created in the vi text editor using the command vi new\_file in the ncs directory. The following image shows the contents of the script.

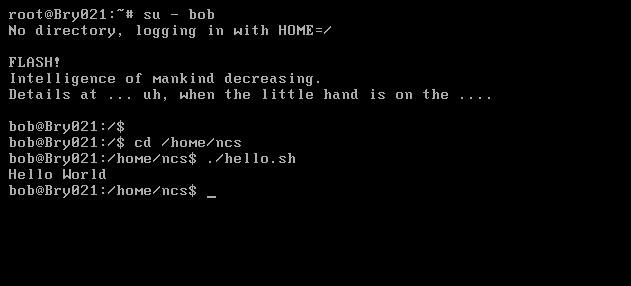


The command *ls* was used to ensure that the new bash script was in the ncs directory. The script was then run by executing *./hello.sh* but permission was denied. To find out why execute permission was denied *ls -l* was executed to check the permissions on the script and the results showed that there were no execute permissions for all users on the server including the owner root. To rectify this the command *chmod a+x hello.sh* was used to give execute permissions to all users. The script was run again by executing *./hello.sh* and the message “Hello World” was successfully printed out on the console window. This can be attributed to the new file permissions which allow the user root to read, write and execute the script, the group to read and execute the script and all others to only execute the script. However, allowing all users to execute the script might not have been the most secure option and the command *chmod u+x hello.sh* could have been used instead only giving execute permissions to only the administrator root (McKinnon, 2017).

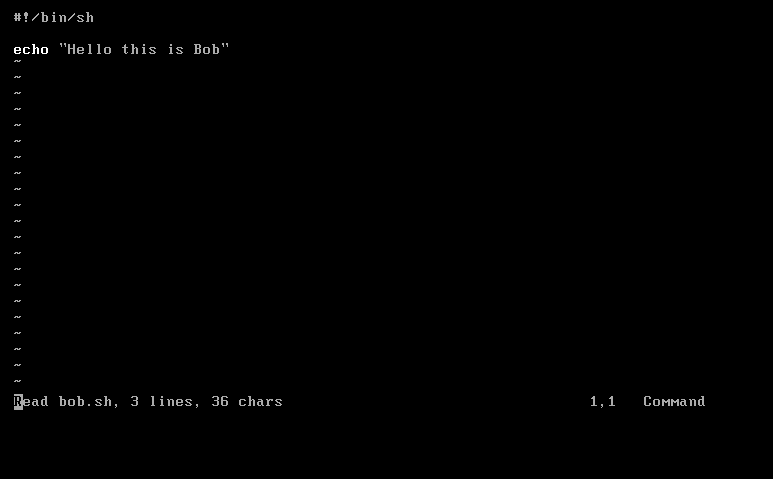


**2.6. Accessing files from different user accounts**

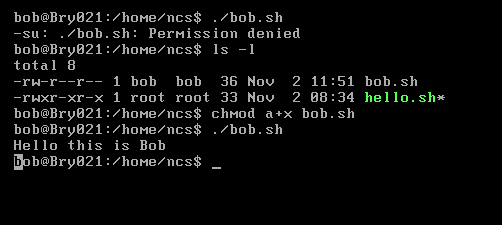
The command *su - bob* (McDonnel, 2020) was used to login as bob on the server as shown in the image below. The command *cd /home/ncs* was executed to access the ncs directory and in the ncs directory a $ sign is present suggesting that the current user accessing the directory is not the administrator. The command *./hello.sh* was executed and the message “Hello World” was printed on the screen. This execution success can be attributed to the ncs file having permissions that allow other users other than the administrator on the server to execute the ncs directory (Saive, 2012).



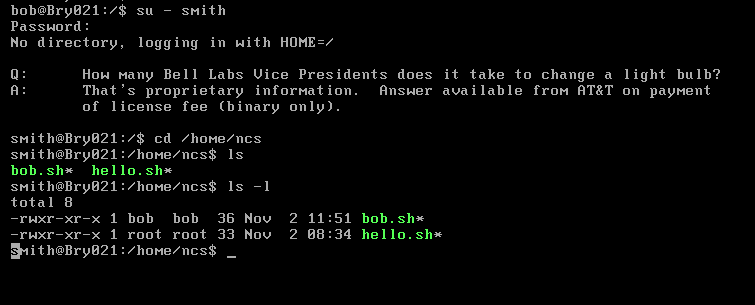
The command *vi new\_file* was used to create the script bob.sh in the ncs directory as shown below.



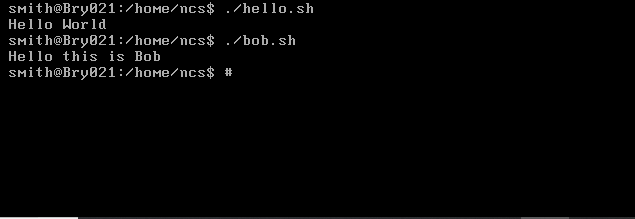
The command *./bob.sh* was used to execute the script bob.sh. However, the permission to execute this script was denied. The command *ls -l* (McKinnon, 2017) was then executed to check the file permissions on the bob.sh script and as shown in the image below there were no execute permissions for all users including the administrator root. In order to rectify this the command *chmod a+x bob.sh* was executed to add execute permissions on the script. The script was run again and the message “Hello this is Bob” was successfully printed on the console. Another option would have been to use the command *chmod 111* to give execute permissions to all users on the bob.sh script (Rafacz, 2019).



To log in as smith the command *su – smith* (McDonnell, 2020) was used together with the password smith. The log in was successful and the command *cd /home/ncs* was used to navigate into the /home/ncs directory. The command *ls* was then executed to view the contents of this directory and the command *ls -l* was executed to view the permissions on the files in this directory. Two scripts bob.sh and hello.sh can be found in the /home/ncs directory. Both scripts, bob.sh and hello.sh have read and execute permissions for all users on the server and write permissions for just the administrator root (McKinnon, 2017).

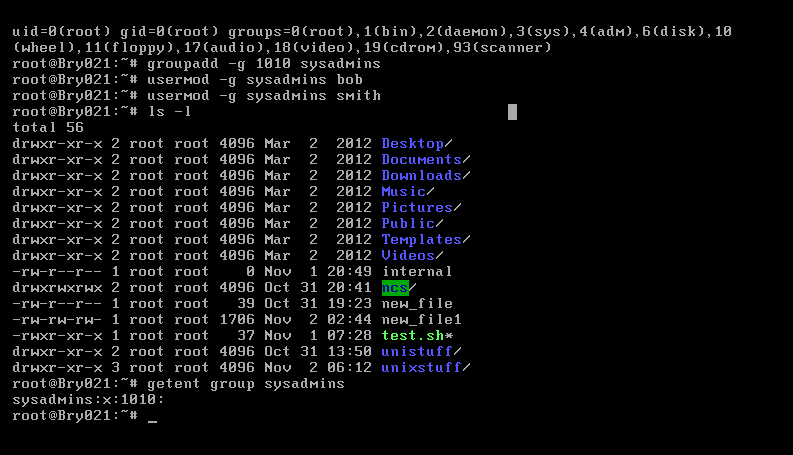


When *./hello.sh* was executed the message “Hello World” was printed and when *./bob.sh* was executed the message “Hello this is Bob” was printed on the console screen. This shows that both scripts contain execute permissions by other users on the server as both smith and bob could execute the scripts when they are both not administrators.



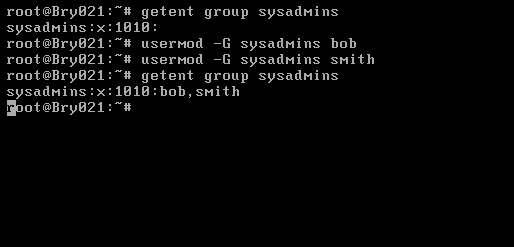
**2.7. Creating Groups and Changing Group Ownerships**

3.5.a1. The command *su – root* (McDonnell, 2020) was used to log on the server as root. The command groupadd -g 1010 sysadmins was then used to create the group sysadmins as shown below (Linuxise, 2019).

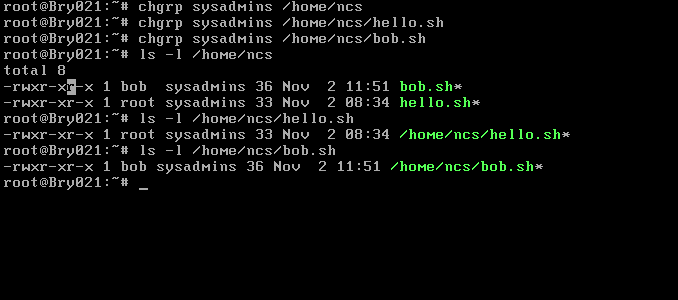


The commands *usermod -G sysadmins bob* and *usermod -G sysadmins smith* were used to add users bob and smith to the group sysadmins and the command *getent group*

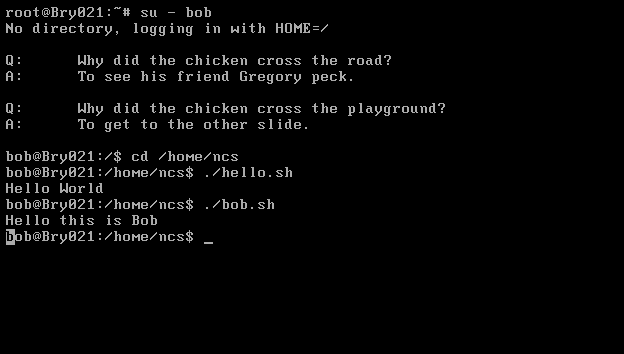
*sysadmins* was executed to verify that the users had been added to the group and the results below show that the users were successfully added to the group (IBM, 2019).



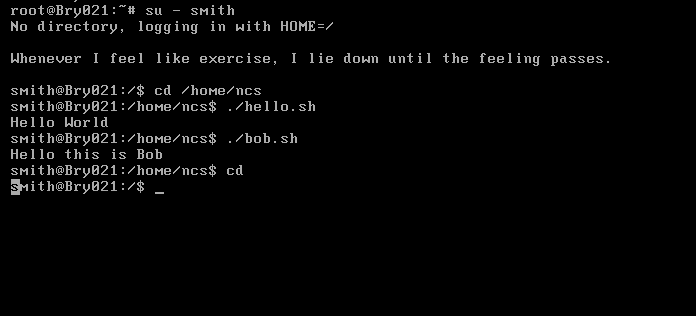
To change the group ownership of /home/ncs, /home/ncs/hello.sh and /home/ncs/bob.sh the *chgrp* command was used as shown below (Fancher, 2018). The *commands ls -l /home/ncs, ls -l /home/ncs/hello.sh* and *ls -l /home/ncs/bob.sh* were executed respectively to ensure that the group ownership of the above files had been successfully changed (McDonnell, 2020). The results below indicate that the group ownership was successfully changed to sysadmins being the owner of /home/ncs, /home/ncs/hello.sh and /home/ncs/bob.sh (Fancher, 2018).



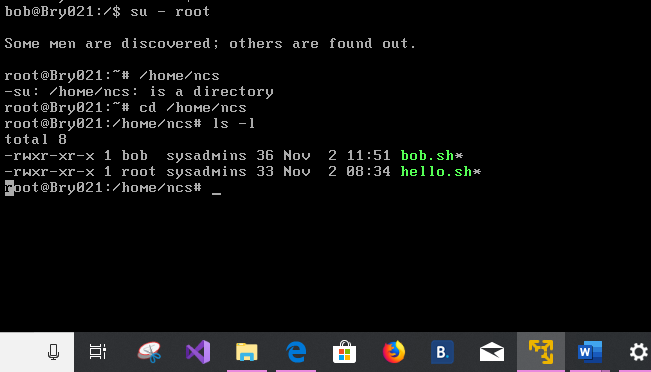
The command *su – bob* (McDonnell,2020) was used to log in as bob and the command *cd /home/ncs* was used to navigate into the ncs directory. Commands *./hello.sh* and *./bob.sh* were used to run hello.sh and bob.sh scripts and the results below show the that both scripts were run successfully.



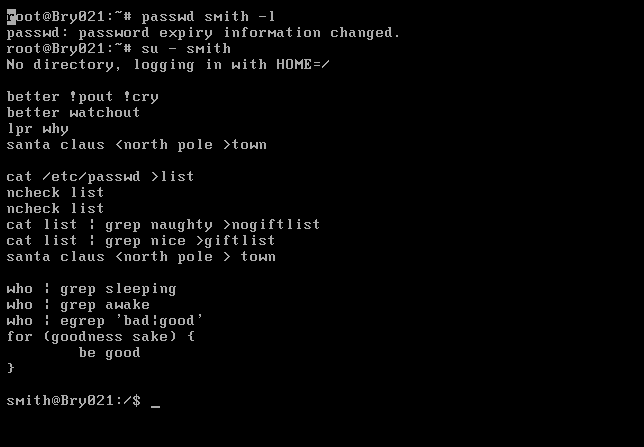
The command *su – smith* (McDonnell, 2020) was used to log in as smith and the command *cd /home/ncs* was used to navigate into the ncs directory. Commands *./hello.sh* and *./bob.sh* were used to run hello.sh and bob.sh scripts and the results below show the that both scripts were run successfully.



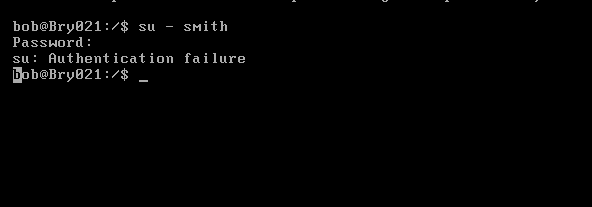
Both scripts were run successfully by users bob and smith because they both have execute permissions on the scripts as shown below.



To disable the user smith’s account the command *passwd smith -l* was used. Most Linux systems utilize the /etc/shadow file to retain any encrypted user passwords therefore the method used only changes this shadow file by adding “!” in front of the user smith’s password. This allows the administrator to keep the account active without allowing the user smith to use the smith account. To re-enable the account for smith the command *passwd smith -u* can be used which removes the “!” character from the user smith’s password line in /etc/shadow (MDLog:/sysadmin, 2007).



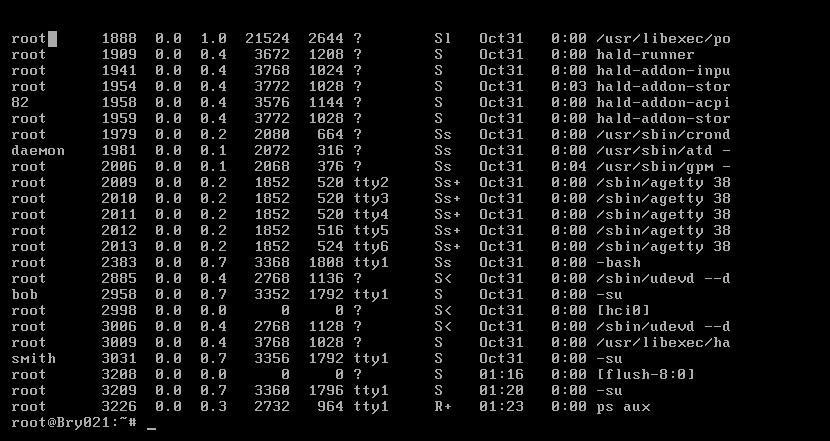
The image below confirms that the account smith was disabled as smith can no longer login into his account using the password smith which was created for him when the account was created.



# 3. Daemons and Processes

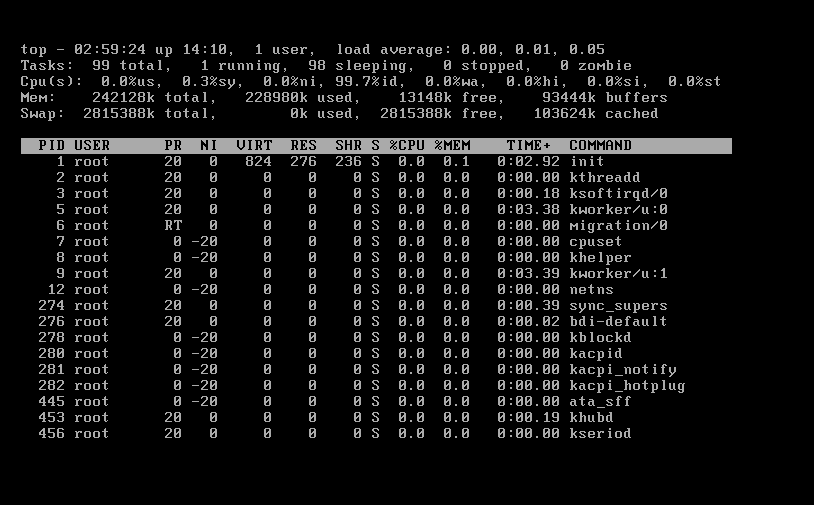
**3.1.**  **Exploring currently running processes**

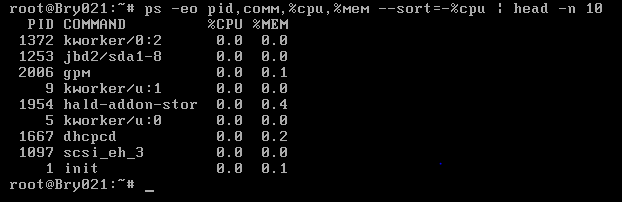
The *ps aux* command is used to identify the processes currently running on the Linux system by producing a process listing such as the one shown below:



To count the number of processes being run on the Linux system by any user the command *ps aux | wc -l* can be executed (Linux Tweaks for You, Anon., 2015). The total number of the processes running in the above image are 24. There is a vast amount of *ps* options, *ps ax* when executed also provides a listing of currently running processes. However, the listing displayed will only provide essential minimal information such as command names and PID (Process ID) values of the processes but adding the u to make it *ps aux* enhances the listing by displaying other variables such as CPU loads and usernames as shown above (Smith, 2012).

The *ps* command sorts the process listing by the PID values and only presents the list at a point in time (Blum and Bresnahan, 2015). To view the listing by CPU use and observe the most CPU-intensive processes in real time which are frequently swapped in and out of the system’s memory the *top* command can be used. The top command also allows you to employ numerous single character commands such as the *r* command which can change a process’s priority and the *h* command which displays help information (Smith, 2012). The following image shows the screen displayed by the Linux system after executing the *top* command.



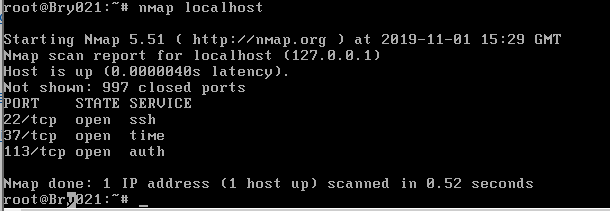
The command *ps -eo pid,comm,%cpu,%mem –sort=-%cpu | head -n 10* was executed to identify the ten most CPU intensive processes. This command allows you to specify the output format with *-eo* such as showing the PIDs and %CPU. The sort part allows you to sort the commands either by %CPU or %MEM while the *head -n 10* tells the system to show the top 10 processes currently running (Canepa, 2016).

The following are the top 10 processes currently running on Linux:

1. Kworker/2.0 is a placeholder process for kernel worker threads and it carries out most of the processing for the kernel particularly in places where there are interrupts, timers and I/O (StackExchange, 2019).
2. Jbd2/sda1-8 is a kernel process associated with journaling on the ext4 filesystem.
3. Gpm is a process that provides mouse support to text-based Linux applications such as vi text and Emacs (nixCraft, 2006)
4. Kworker/u:1 a variation of kworker with the same function of being a placeholder process for kernel worker threads.
5. Hald-addon-stor is function of the hal daemon that allows you to mount CDs and DVDs.
6. Kworker/u:0 another variation of kworker with the function of being a placeholder process for kernel worker threads (StackExchange, 2019).
7. Dhcpcd is a dynamic host configuration protocol and a network protocol which is used on IP networks where a DCP server automatically assigns an IP address and other information to each host on the network so they can communicate efficiently with other endpoints (Keravala, 2018).
8. Scsi\_eh\_3 is an error handling process and a high CPU usage time by the process could be an indicator of issues on your hard drives (StackExchange, 2019).
9. Init is responsible for initializing the system in the required way and it can resist signal 9 which normally kills the process when started by the kernel (StackExchange, 2019).
10. Sync\_super is a process that is responsible for writing to the disk (StackExchange, 2019).

**3.2. Exploring network processes**

The command *nmap localhost* was executed to view the network hosts and services being run on the Linux Server and the results are shown in the image below:

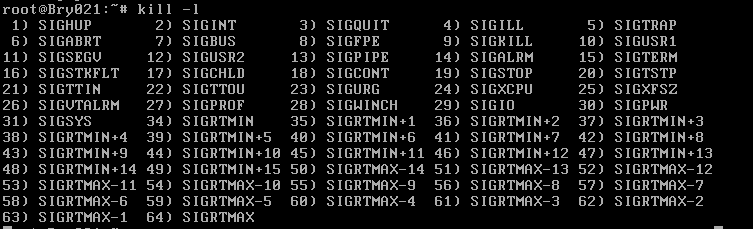


The following processes where returned:

1. Ssh is utilized when logging into the remote machine, executing commands on the machine and transferring files between two machines (Henry-Stocker, 2017).
2. Time synchronizes the software clock of a GNU/Linux system with internet time server mitigating the effects of variable network latency also maintaining time within tens of milliseconds over the public internet (Cezar, 2018).
3. Auth is used to authenticate a user and set up user credentials (Kili, 2018).

**3.3. Exploring UNIX Signals**

The command kill -l was executed and the following results were obtained:



The command *kill* is capable of transmitting signals to running processes on the server. This command contains various options and is manly used to terminate program executions. For this command to be used it is useful to always obtain the process PID first. The *-l* option of the command kill giving the command *kill -l* allows you to view a list of signals that can sent to either halt, kill or start processes. Another variation of the kill command which *killall* can be used to terminate all programs running with a particular name or the same name (Nooning, 2003).

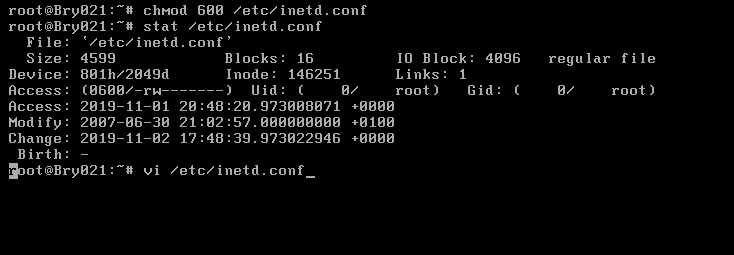
Table Results of the command kill -1 together with signal numbers and functions of the signals

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Signal Name | Signal Number | Description |
| SIGHUP | 1 | Hangs up the process |
| SIGINT | 2 | Interrupts the process |
| SIGQUIT | 3 | Stops the process |
| SIGILL | 4 | An illegal signal which is sent when a process carries out an unknown or faulty process. |
| SIGTRAP | 5 | Used for debugging purposes when a condition that a debugger is waiting for has been met. |
| SIGABRT | 6 | A kill signal that is initiated by the process as an abort signal. |
| SIGBUS | 7 | Sent to processes with a bus errors such an inaccurately set memory alignment. |
| SIGFPE | 8 | Used to kill processes that divide by zero. |
| SIGKILL | 9 | Unconditionally terminates the process |
| SIGTERM | 15 | Terminates the process if possible |
| SIGSTOP | 17 | Unconditionally stops but does not terminate the process |
| SIGTSTP | 18 | Stops or pauses the process without terminating it |
| SIGCONT | 19 | Continues a stopped process |
| SIGVTALRM | 26 | Sent to process whose CPU time usage elapsed. |

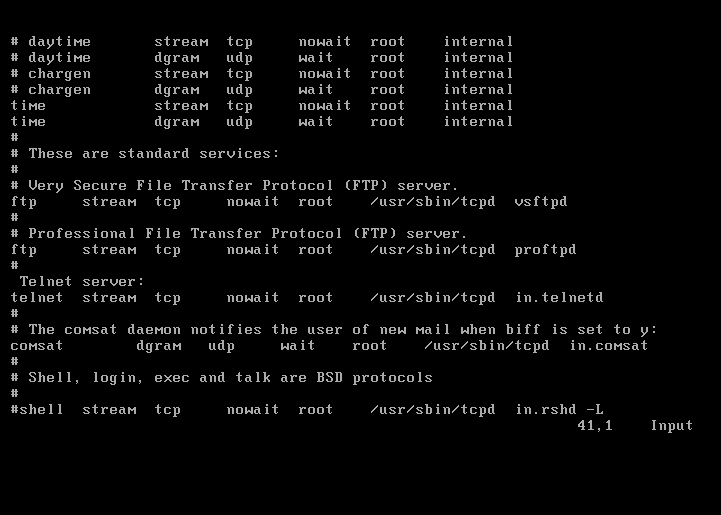
Blum and Bresnahan, 2015.

**3.4. Processes and Networking**

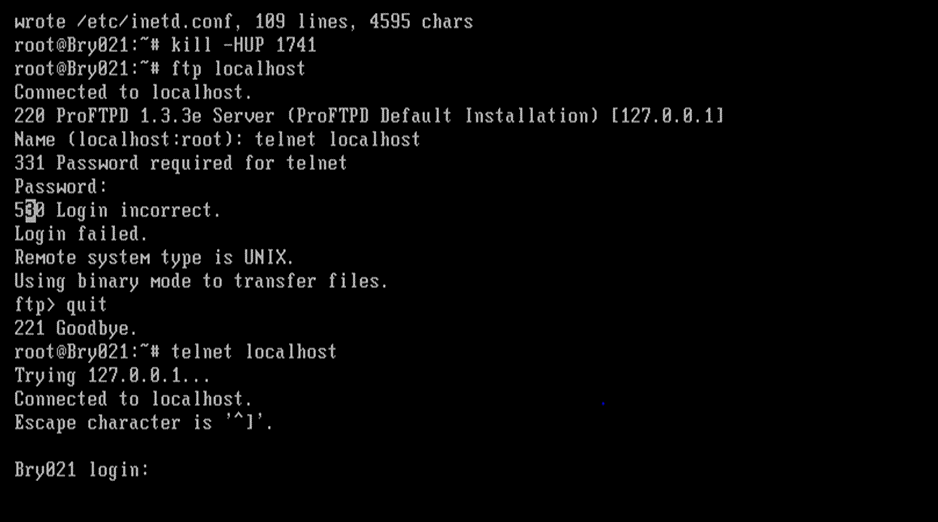
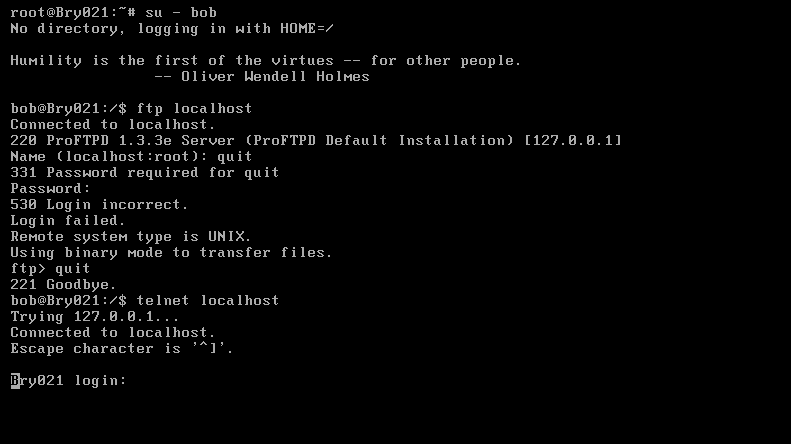
In order to edit /etc/inetd.conf the command *chmod 600 /etc/inetd.conf* was first used to change the permissions on the file allowing the user root to be able to read the file and edit it. The command *stat /etc/inetd.conf* was then executed to view the properties of the file etc/inetd.conf and the command *vi /etc/inetd.conf* was executed to access the file in the vi test editor (IBM, 2019).



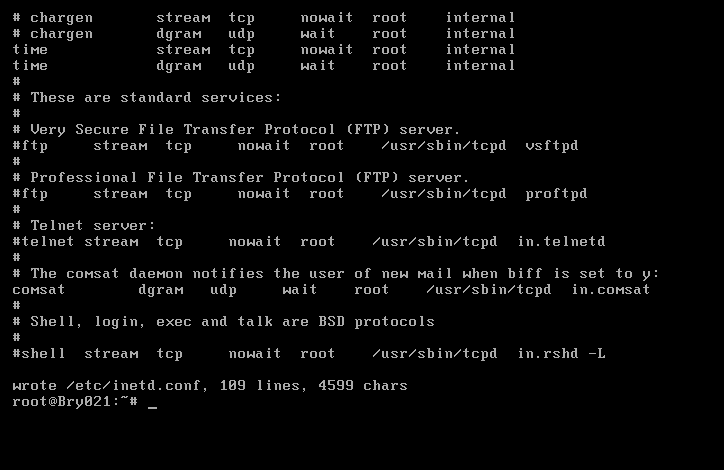
In the vi text editor ftp and telnet were enabled by removing the “#” symbol at the beginning of their lines as shown below (IBM, 2019).



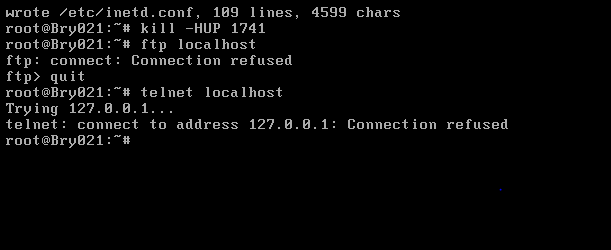
The command *kill -HUP 1741* was executed to restart inetd. To connect to ftp and telnet localhost *ftp localhost* and *telnet localhost* was executed and there were successful connections to both hosts as shown below.

****The command *su – bob* was used to login as bob and the commands ftp localhost and telnet localhost were again executed. Successful connections to telnet and ftp were again obtained. 

To edit /etc/inetd.conf again *vi /etc/inetd.conf* was executed to access the inetd file in the vi text editor. The ftp and telnet daemons were disabled by adding the “#” symbol at the beginning of the lines containing the daemons (IBM, 2019).



The command *kill -HUP 1741* was used to restart inetd and ftp localhost and telnet localhost were executed but no connections were obtained illustrating that ftp and telnet were successfully disabled.



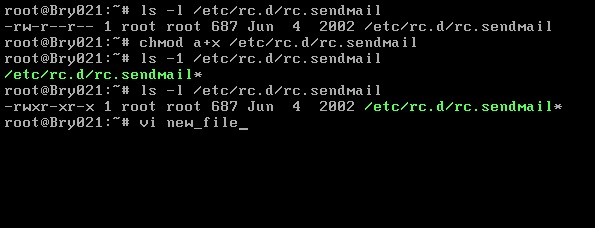
Secure Shell (SSH) is a transport layer that is used in securing logins and information moving from one end to another. It uses both asymmetric, which is public and private key, and symmetric cryptology to provide excellent performance and strong encryption. SSH is also capable of providing secure communications between remote servers and an organization (GoAnywhere, 2019). SHH works in conjunction with a file transfer protocol called SFTTP (SSH File Transfer protocol) to provide secure communications. SFTP is built upon the SSH transport layer and is used to securely transfer enormous amounts of data over an internet connection (Vincent, 2016). It works by implementing a secure authenticated connection providing organizations with a higher level of protection over file transfers and uses the SSH authentication and cryptogenic capabilities to keep files safe during any transfer processes (GoAnywhere, 2019).

The use of Telnet is discouraged because all its data is transferred unencrypted over the network. Usernames and passwords are always sent in plain text meaning that anyone at any point can capture a user’s login information or nay data being managed over the Telnet connection (SSH.COM, 2019).

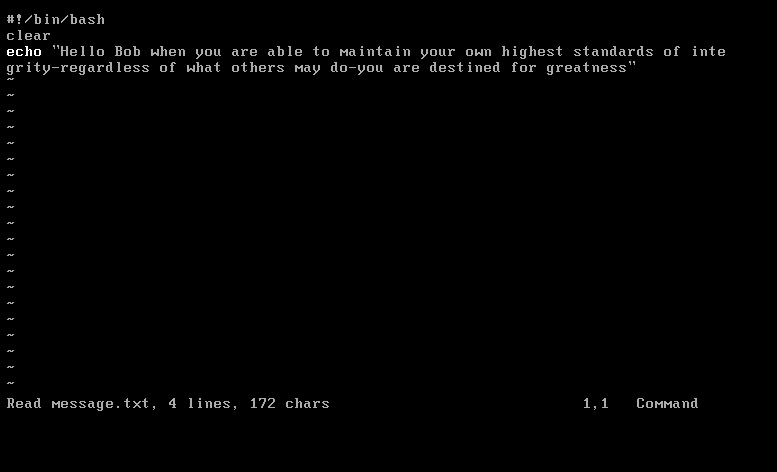
# 5. Email Under Linux

**4.1. Sending Email Using Mail**

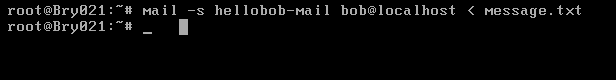
6.1.1 The command *ls -l /etc/rc.d/rc.sendmail* was executed to check the permissions on the sendmail process. The results showed that there were read and write permissions for the user root but only read permissions for all others on the server. To give execute permissions to all users the *chmod a+x /etc/rc.d/rc.sendmail* was executed followed *by ls -l /etc/rc.d/rc.sendmail* to check if the chmod execution had been successful. The results show that execute permissions were successfully added on to the sendmail process. A new file was then created in the vi text editor using the *vi new\_file* command.



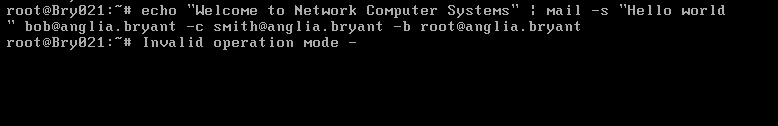
The image below shows the contents of the new file saved as message.txt in the vi text editor.



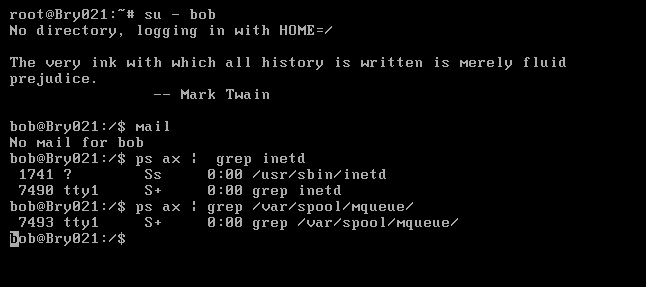
The command *mail -s hellobob-mail bob@localhost < message.txt* was used to send an email to the user bob as shown below. There are other commands that can be used to send mail on the Linux server. For instance, the sendmail command can be used instead of the mail command as follows, *sendmail bob@localhost < message.txt*. It is also possible to send mail with an attachment or attachments on the Linux server using the mutt command. For instance, the following command could have been used to send mail to bob which contains the speakers attachment as shown in the command *mutt -s “hellobob-mail” bob@localhost -a speakers < message.txt* using the *-a* option (Henry-Stocker, 2019).



The command below is an alternative that can be used to send an email to other users. The first part echo is followed by a message or messages to be sent to the recipients. The *-c* represents the carbon copy (Cc) which is where you put email addresses if you are sending information to more than one recipient and would like the email addresses to be visible to everyone receiving the email while the *-b* which represents Blind carbon copy (Bcc) also allows you to send information to various recipients without allowing them to view which other individuals have also received the same information(Baydan, 2017) .



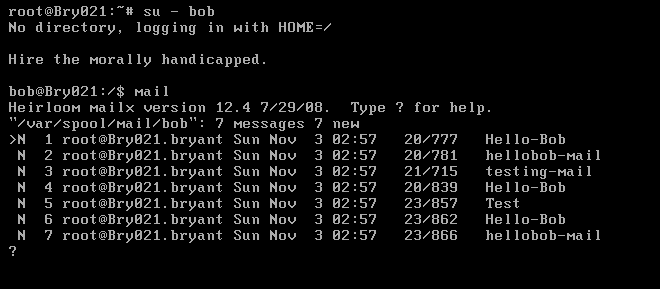
The command *su – bob* was used to login as bob on the server and the command *mail* was used to check for mail from root as shown below. The message returned by the server was that there was no mail for bob.



To rectify the reason why bob could not access the mails sent the command *su – root* was used to log back into root’s account. The command *chmod a+x /etc/rc.d/rc.sendmail* was then executed to make sure all users could execute the sendmail process and the command */etc/rc.d/rc.sendmail start* was executed to start the sendmail process.

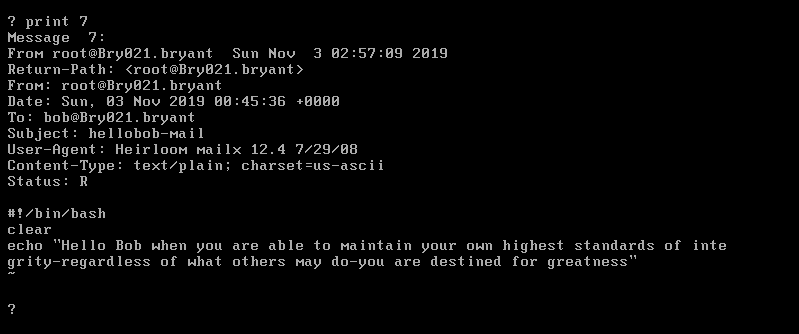


The command su – bob was then again used to log back into bob’s account and command mail was used vies the mail messages sent to bob as shown below.

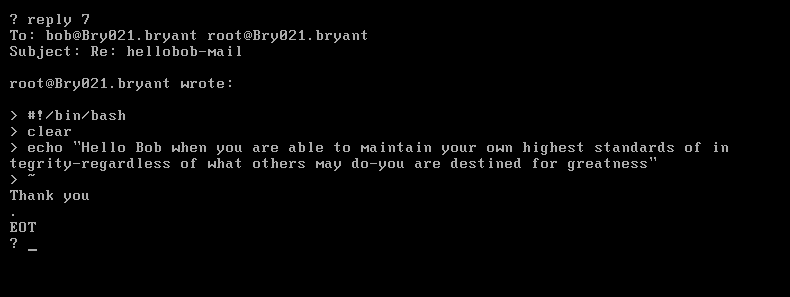


**4.2. Exploring Mail**

Reading Mail: To read any mail the command *print* followed by the massage number can be executed as shown below.



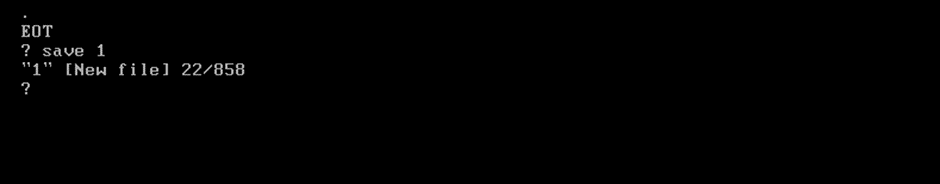
Replying Mail: To reply to *mail* the command reply followed by the number of the message you want to reply to can be used as shown below.



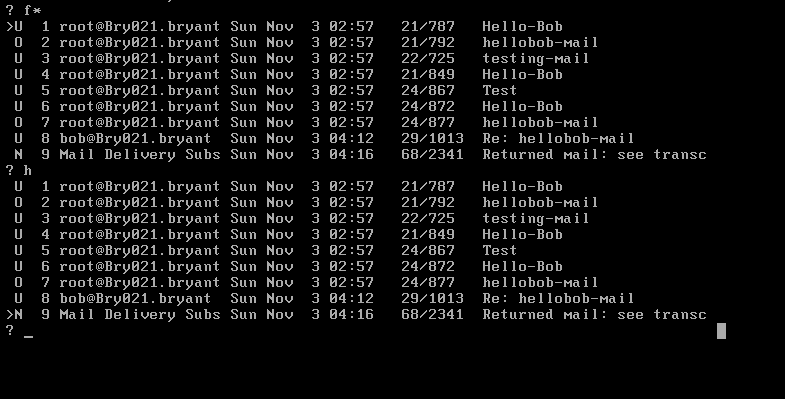
Sending Mail: The command *mail root@slackware-lab.slackware .com* can be used to send a message as shown below.



Saving Mail: To save mail the command *save* can be executed followed by the number of the mail you want to save as shown below.



Listing Messages: To list messages various commands can be used. The commands *f\** and *h* can be used to list all the messages in the inbox. The *f* command can also be varied by adding numbers to it for instance the *f 1-8* command can be used to only list emails 1-8.



/var/spool/mail/ contains flat text files that serve as the user’s mailbox (IBM, 2018). Sendmail uses mail spools to do this and a spool is any file that saves the mail header such the sender’s address or time of delivery as well as the message body for every mail (SimplyWebHosting.com, 2014). Sendmail mailboxes are owned by mail and not users therefore the nature of sendmail can allow mail attackers to flood the server with mail easily leading to denial of the service. Having said that, the effectiveness of such attacks is limited (RedHat, 2020).

The SMTP server is responsible for outgoing messages. For a non-encrypted SMTP server Port 25 or 587 can be used but for secure servers such as TLS and SSL ports 587 and 465 can be used respectively. On the other hand,, POP3 is a server responsible for incoming messages and port 110 is commonly used for a non-encrypted POP3 server while port 995 is commonly used for a secure POP3 server (ARCLAB, 2020).

**4.3. Optional Exercises**

IMAP and POP3 are both ways of connecting to the mail server so that one can read emails through a mail client. IMAP is short for Internet Message Access Protocol. This protocol does not allow messages to be saved on a computer device therefore the messages remain on the server. However, POP3 on the other hand works by allowing mail to be saved or kept on the computer device or other output device. The table below describes the differences between IMAP and POP3 (Name com, 2019).

Table Differences between IMAP and POP3

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| IMAP | POP3 |
| Sent messages are saved on the server. | Sent messages are kept on a single device. |
| Messages can be synched and accessed across multiple devices. | Emails can only be accessed from a single device. |
| Emails are stored on the server | The emails are kept on a single device. |
|  | Messages can be kept on the server, however, the setting “keep email on server” must be enabled for this to be possible. Having said that, once the messages are downloaded they are then instantly deleted from the server. |

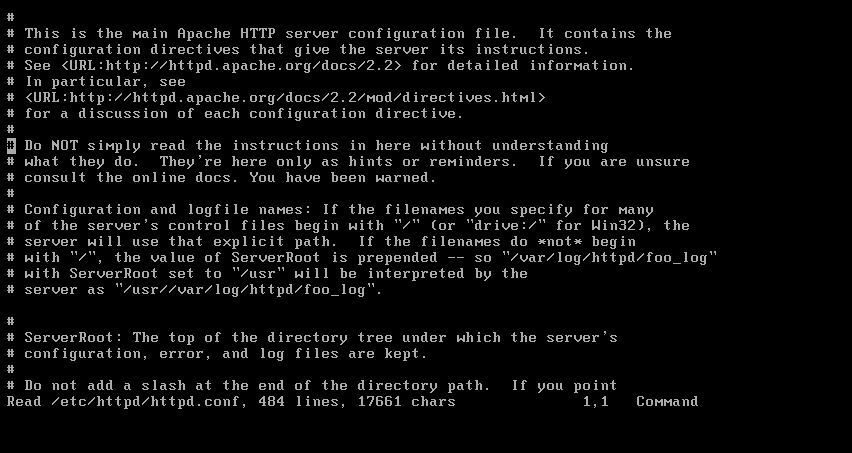
Aol.Help, 2019.

PGP which is an abbreviation of Pretty Good Privacy is a command line tool used in transferring sensitive data or files securely between two systems. In order to encrypt a file or data, a public key which is also shared with end users is needed. This key has to be generated on a source system using the command *gpg –gen-key.* After the public key has been installed it is then used to encrypt a file either using a passphrase or without using a passphrase. To encrypt a file using a passphrase the following command is used, *pg -s --no-tty --always-trust --passphrase "passphrase@test" -u <Key\_Name>-pub-sub.asc "data\_file.txt"*  and to encrypt a file without a passphrase the following command is used, *gpg --encrypt --recipient ‘<Key\_Name>-pub-sub.asc’ data\_file.txt* (Chauhan, 2019).

# 5. Apache HTTP Server and PHP

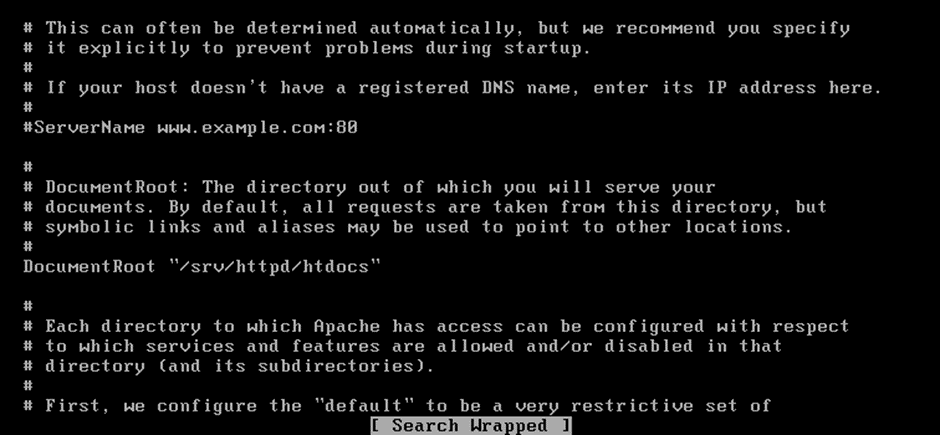
**5.1. Configuring Apache**

The following file was opened in the vi text editor using the command *vi /etc/httpd/httpd.conf.* To browse through the file the syntax */search\_string* was used.

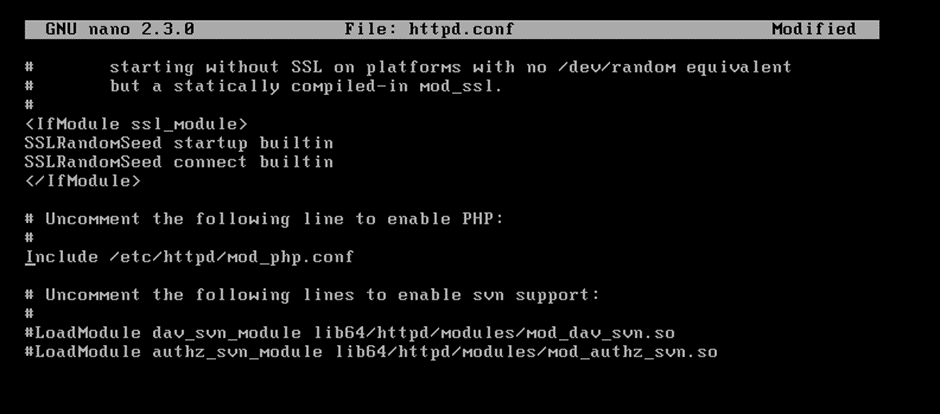


Lines that start with # which are comments have a general purpose of temporarily disabling a specific code meaning that anything that comes after the # will not be executed. The comments disable specific http commands and /or options in httpd.conf (Buzdar, 2019).

The default value of ServerName is www.example .com:80 while that of DocumentRoot is “/srv/httpd/htdocs”. Default values allow you to specify a file for Apache which can be used for specific error events (Ubuntu Documentation, 2020). .



The line Include /etc/httpd/mod\_php.conf was uncommented by removing the # at the beginning of the line as shown in the image below.



**5.2. Running Apache**

The command *ls -l /etc/httpd/httpd.conf* was executed to view the permissions on the Apache HTTP daemon. There were no execute permissions on the daemon for that reason the command *chmod a+x /etc/rc.d/rc.httpd* was executed to add execution permissions on the daemon. These changes were confirmed by executing *ls -l /etc/rc/d/rc.httpd.* 

It is essential to restart httpd after you make changes to the configuration because it enables the changes made to take effect when it restarts and starts running again.

The *ps aux* command is a command used to display all process on the server and can be broken down in parts in order to understand its function. The *ps* command lists processes running under the logged in user account from the current terminal. The *a* option prints any running processes from all users on the server, the *u* option shows the user or owner column in the output and the *x* option prints the processes that have not been executed from the terminal (ComputerNetworkingNotes, 2020).

The *grep* command searches files for specific words or patterns therefore *grep httpd* searches for any files, processes or daemons containing the word or phrase httpd. From this we can deduce that the *ps aux | grep httpd* command lists all processes, daemons or files on the server that contain the word/phrase httpd.

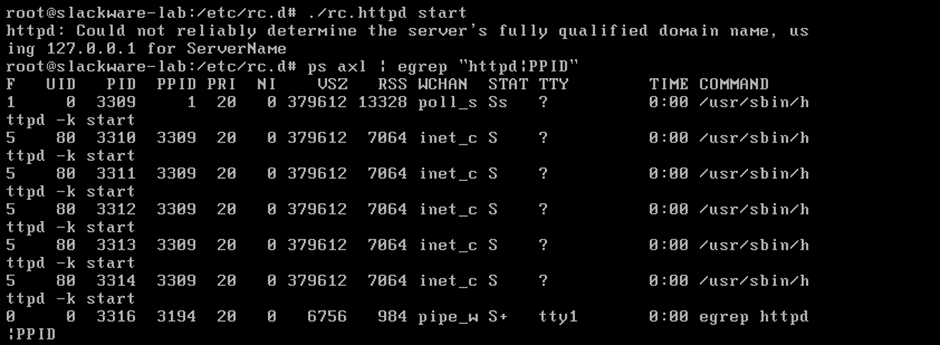
The expected result from the command ps aux | grep httpd is the return of the details of the daemon httpd as shown below.



If the daemon is not running the expected result will be file not running or no process found as shown below.

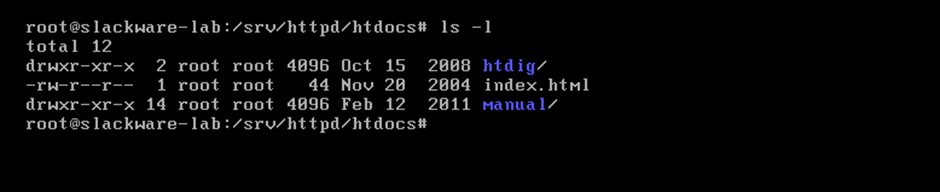


The command ps axl | egrep “httpd|PID” was executed and the following results were obtained. The image below shows that the PPID of the parent httpd process in 1.



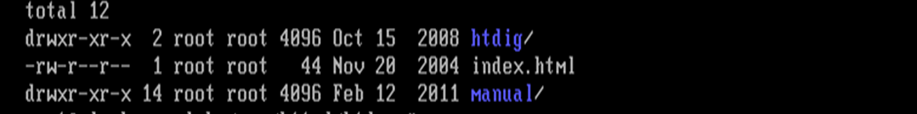
**5.3. Creating HTML Files**

The following image shows the results of executing the command ls -l inside the /srv/httpd/htdocs file. The file named index.html can be seen inside the file.

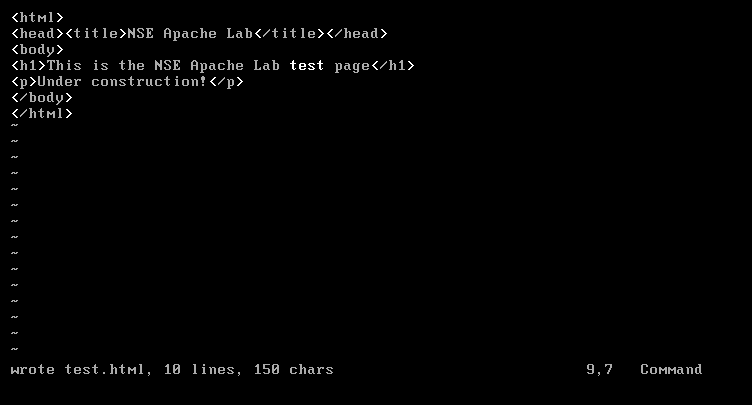


Index.html and index.htm files are special because they are local files or URLs that automatically load when a web browser starts. They are default ages shown on a website if no other page is specified when a visitor requests a site (Kyrnin, 2019).

As indicated in the image below the file permissions for the index.html file are read and write permissions for root and only read permissions for the group on the server and any other users. Root has the group ownership of this file.



The command *vi new\_file* was executed to create a new html file called test.html and the contents of this file are shown below:

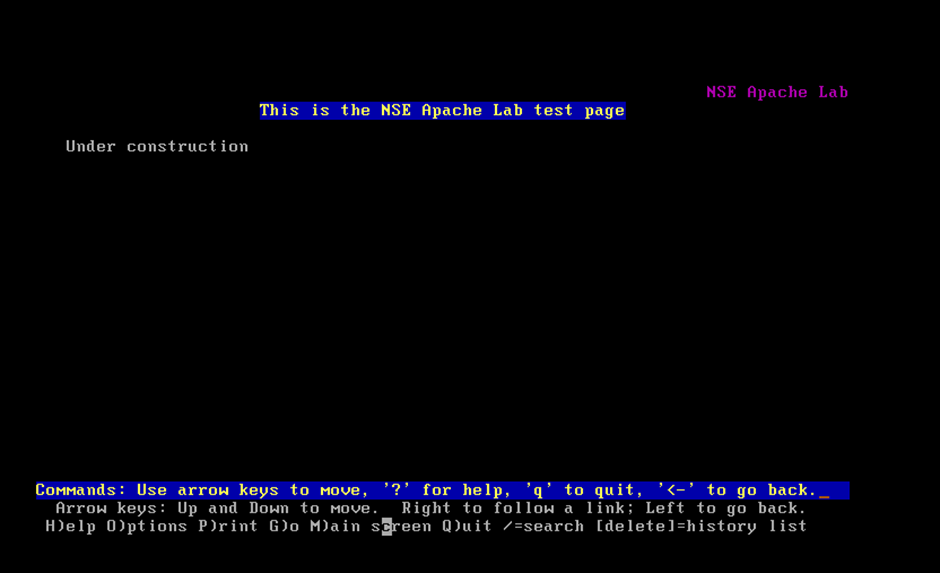


**5.4. Viewing HTML Files Using a Terminal Interface**

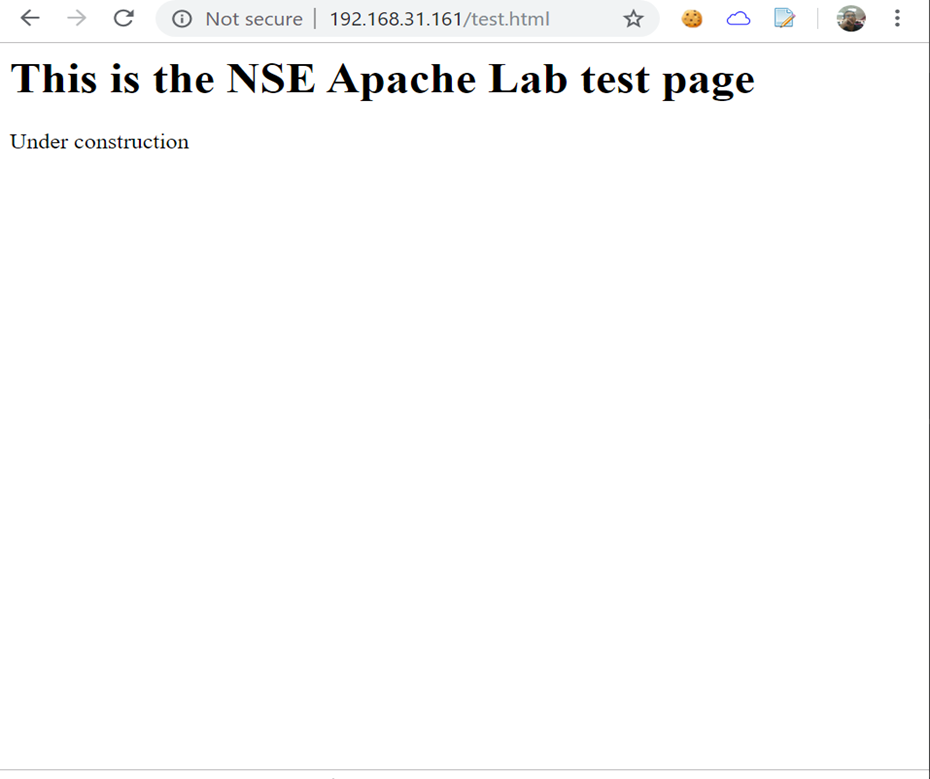
5.4.1. CLI is a command line interface while GUI is a graphical user interface. The main distinction between CLI and GUI is that GUI allows a user to interct with a system using graphical elements such as windows and icons while CLI alows a user to interact with a system using commands instead (Lithmee, 2018).

5.4.2. The IP address 127.0.0.1 is special because it is used by all computers as their own special-purpose IPv4 address but, however, does not allow the computers to communicate with devises using this address (Mitchell, 2019).

5.4.3. The image below shows the result of executing the command lynx 127.0.0.1/test.html to view the HTML file in lynx.



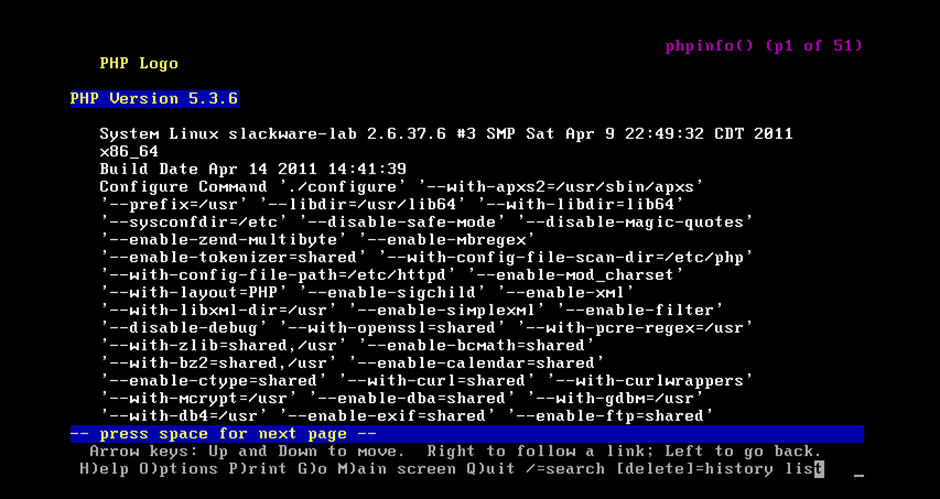
The image shows that the IP address for the virtual machine is 192.168.31.161. This is being shown in a browswe of the windows system.



**5.5. Creating and Viewing PHP Files Using the Terminal Interface**

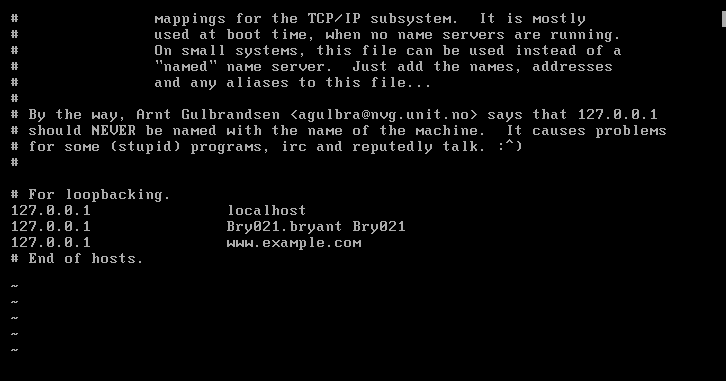
5.5.1. PHPinfo is a function of PHP which is responsible for returning compiled information concerning any PHP environment on your server. The information returned includes data on the PHP version, the PHP environment on the server, master and local values of configuration options, PHP compilation extentions and options as well as data on the PHP license and HTTP headers (xneelo, 2020).

5.5.2. The following image shows the results obtained from executing the command *lynx 127.0.0.1/nse.php* which allows the phpinfo() file to be loaded in lynx. The results show that the phpinfo() file was successfully loaded in lynx after executing the command.

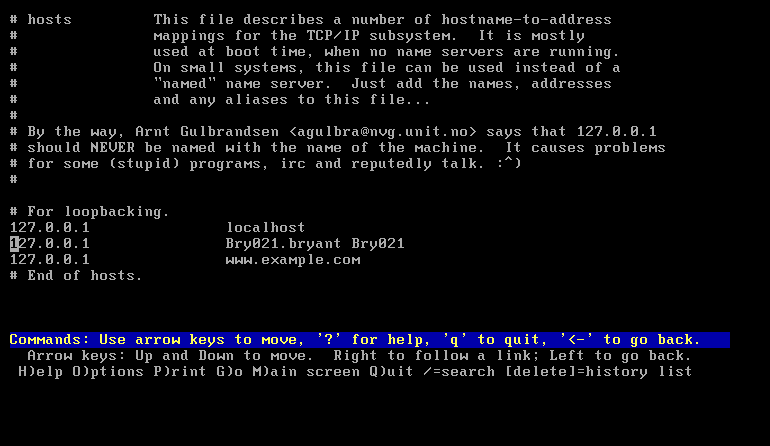


**5.6. Exploring and Adding An Entry to the Hosts File**

The file /etc/hosts was opened via the vi text editor by using the command *vi /etc/hosts.* In the text editor, the line 127.0.0.1 www.example .com was added as pointed out in the image below. The information was saved using the command *:wq* before exiting the text editor.



The command *lynx /etc/hosts* was then executed and the results obtained are shown in the image below.



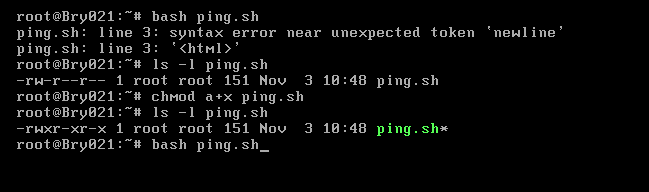
# 6. Network Traffic Analysis

**6.1. Creating a bash script called ping.sh**

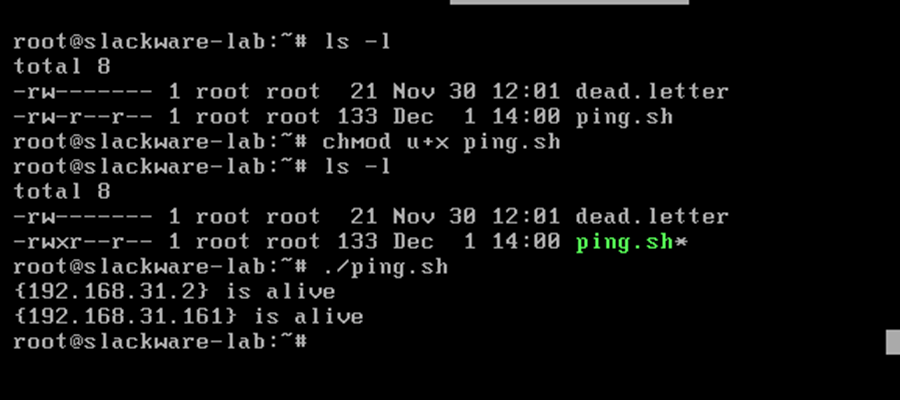
A bash script called ping.sh was created through the nano text editor by using the command *nano new\_file*. The following image displays the contents of the ping.sh bash script. To save the script as ping.sh *ctrl + O* was executed and to exit the script *ctrl + X* was executed (Gentoo Linux, 2019).



The command *ls -l ping.sh* was executed to check if the script ping.sh was executable and the results showed that there were no execute permissions for users on the system on this script. To add these permissions the command *chmod a+x ping.sh* was executed as demonstrated below.



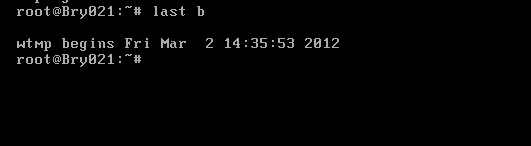
The script ping.sh was run by using the command *./ping.sh*. The network 192.168.31.0 was also used to test the script by connecting it to the virtual Slackware machine and the results obtained are shown in the image below.



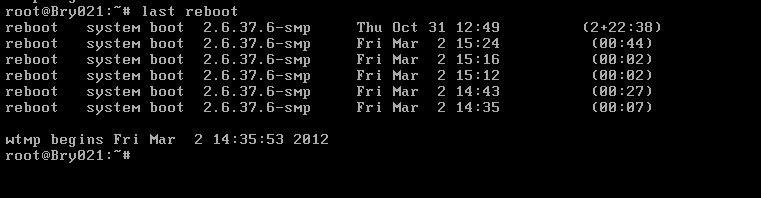
# 7. Further Unix Tools

**7.1. User and System Information**

7.1.1. The command *last b* was executed to find out the number failed, or unsuccessful login attempts, and the results show that there were none in the last 48 hours.

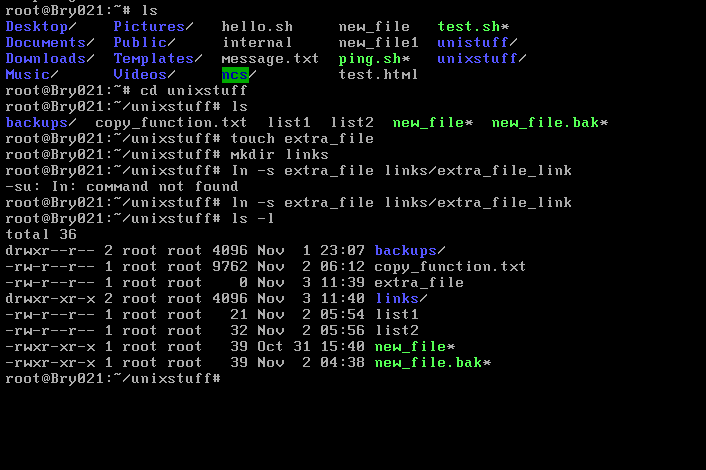


7.1.2. The image below shows the number of system reboots in the last 48 hours. The command *last reboot* was executed, and the results below show that six system reboots have occurred.

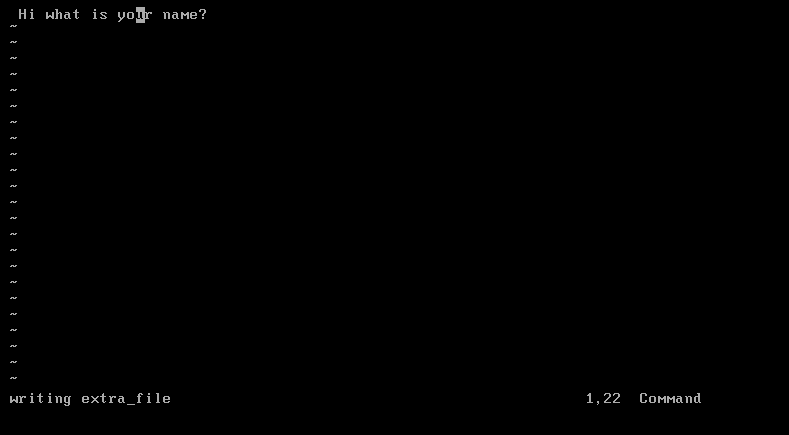


**7.2. Symbolic and Hard Links**

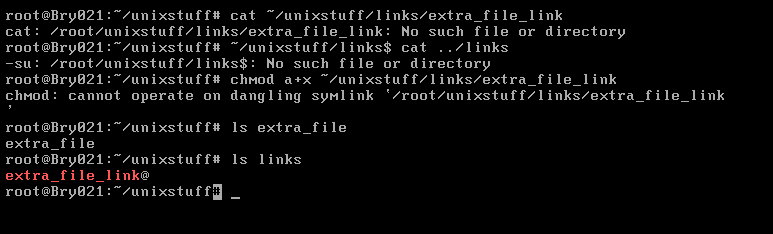
7.2.1. The command *cd unixstuff* was used to navigate into the unixstuff directory. A file ~/unixstuff/extra\_file was created by using the command *touch extra\_file* and a symlink ~/unixstuff/links/extra\_file\_link was created by using the command *mkdir links*. The two were linked by using the command *ln -s extra\_file links/extra\_file\_link* and to see whether the extra\_file file and links directory were successfully created the command *ls -l* was executed in the unixstuff directory.



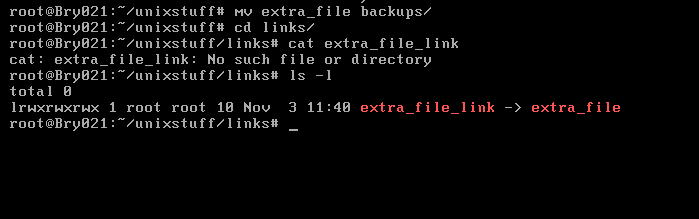
7.2.2. A file extra\_file was opened using the vi text editor and contents were added to this file as shown below.



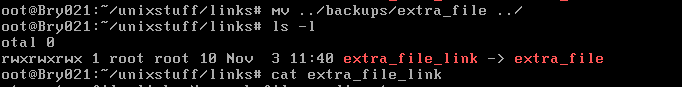
The *cat ~/unixstuff/links/extra\_file\_link* command was executed to try and view the added contents to the extra\_file\_link but this was unsuccessful. The command *ls extra\_file* was then used to see if the file exists and the results show that the file exists. Another command *ls links* was also executed to see if the extra\_file\_link and the results show that it exists. If the execution had been successful the added contents should have been printed on the console window.



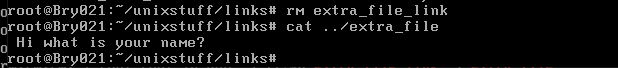
The extra\_file was successfully moved into the backups directory as shown in the image below using the *mv extra\_file backups* command. To check if the file had been successfully moved into the backups directory the command *cat extra\_file\_link* was executed, and the message returned showed that the file had been successfully moved.



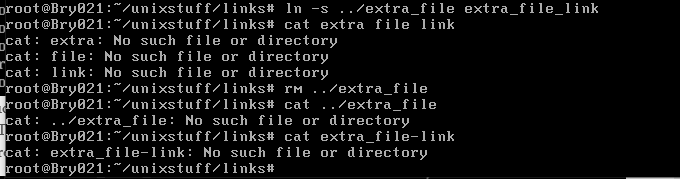
The file extra\_file was moved back into the links directory by executing the command *mv ../backups/extra\_file ../ as shown below*.



The command *rm extra\_file\_link* was executed to delete extra\_file\_link. The result obtained shows the message or text of the original file which has remained the same.



The file extra\_file\_link was recreated using the command *ls -s ../extra\_file extra\_file\_link* and the command *rm extra\_file* was used to delete the file again. The command *../extra\_file* was executed to view the file, but the results obtained show that the file no longer existed and did not have any content.



A hard link is a mirror copy of an original file while a symbolic or soft link is an actual link to an original file. The differences between a hard link and a symbolic link are stated in the table below.

Table Differences between hard link and symbolic link

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Hard Link** | **Symbolic Link** |
| Does not have the ability to cross file system boundaries | Has the ability to cross the file system. |
| Contains the same permissions and inode number of the original file. | Contains different file permissions and inode number compared to the original file. |
| Inhibits the linking between different directories. | Allows one to link between different directories. |
| If the permissions of a source file are changed, the permissions will be updated. | Does not update permissions |
| Consists of the actual contents of the original file, so that you still can view the contents, even if the original file moved or removed | Holds only one path of the original file and not the contents. |

SK, 2019.

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