

Installing Standalone Kerberos Server (no FreeIPA)

`sudo dnf install krb5-server` (client is `krb5-workstation`, `krb5-libs`, `krb5-user`)

`/etc/krb5.conf`: Main configuration file; defines Kerberos realm, KDC locations, encryption types, etc.

`/etc/krb5/kdc.conf`: Configuration for the KDC (server-side) if you're setting up a Kerberos server.

`/etc/krb5/login.conf`: Defines how Kerberos is used for authentication (login).

`/var/lib/krb5/krb5.keytab`: Stores the master Kerberos key for the KDC.

Client-side commands:

`kinit <principal>` - For client machine users to get a ticket to access a Kerberos-protected service.

`klist -f` - Lists all available Kerberos tickets held by the user, for verifying and seeing lifetime, `-f` gives more info

`kdestroy` - Destroys a specific Kerberos ticket. For logging out of a service or freeing up resources.

Server-side commands:

`kdb5_util` - Manages the Kerberos database, keytabs, and principals

`kadmin.local` - Manages Kerberos principals and credentials: creating, modifying user accounts, resetting passwords, and managing keytabs used by the KDC.

Mentionable related commands/ items:

`keyutils` - general-purpose tool for managing keyrings and keys, manage Kerberos keytabs alongside other key management tasks. (it itself doesn't interact directly with the Kerberos database)

`sshd_krb5_module`: This isn't a standalone command, but rather a module used by the SSH daemon to enable Kerberos authentication for SSH connections. You can configure it through SSH configuration files.

Systemd Services:

`krb5-kdc.service` (server-side): Manages the KDC daemon.

`krb5-kadmind.service` (server-side): Manages the Kerberos administration daemon.

TCP/88 (default): messages between clients and KDC. TCP is more secure but Windows clients may need UDP

Important Configurations:

Realm: Unique identifier for your Kerberos domain (e.g., `EXAMPLE.COM`).

KDC Locations: Specify the hostname or IP address of your KDC servers.

Default Encryption Type: Choose an appropriate encryption type (e.g., `aes256-cts`).

Ticket Lifetime: Set the expiration time for Kerberos tickets.

Client Principal: Define the principal name for your client machine (e.g., `host/hostname``).

Managing the Kerberos database, keytabs, and principals with `kdb5_util`

Create and initialize database and set master password	<code>kdb5_util create -r <realm> -s <keytab_file> -P <passwd></code>
Create new principal in <realm> with new <password>	<code>kdb5_util addprinc -r <realm> -p <password> <principal></code>
Modify existing principal's attributes (e.g., password, flags)	<code>kdb5_util modifyprinc -r <realm> <principal></code>
Removes a principal from DB	<code>kdb5_util deleteprinc -r <realm> <principal></code>
Lists all principals in <realm> with key versions (-kv)	<code>kdb5_util listprinc -r <realm> -kv</code>
Create Keytab	<code>kdb5_util create -r <realm> -s <keytab_file></code>
Add Entries to Keytab	<code>kdb5_util addprinc -r <realm> -p <passwd> -t <keytab_file> <principal></code>
Merge Keytabs	<code>kdb5_util merge -s <target_ktab> <source_ktab1> <source_ktab2> ...</code>
Dump Database (can expose sensitive information)	<code>kdb5_util dump -r <realm> -f <output_file></code>
Verify integrity of the Kerberos database	<code>kdb5_util verify -r <realm></code>

Manage Kerberos with `kadmin.local`

Running the command `kadmin.local` alone will drop you into it's own CLI

Create a new principal for KDC administration:

`addprinc -randkey kdc_admin@EXAMPLE.COM`

The `-randkey` option is to generate a random password; `kdc_admin@EXAMPLE.COM` to name the principal and `EXAMPLE.COM` representing the Kerberos realm name.

Exit `kadmin.local` by entering `quit`.

Grant the `kdc_admin` principal the permissions to manage the KDC:

`kadmin.local -p krb5/admin@EXAMPLE.COM ktadd -k /etc/krb5.keytab kdc_admin@EXAMPLE.COM`

The first part "`-p krb5/admin@EXAMPLE.COM`" provides the password for the `krb5/admin` principal (usually the root principal) that has full administrative privileges in the Kerberos database.

The second part "`ktadd...`" adds the key for the `kdc_admin` principal to the specified keytab file (`/etc/krb5.keytab`)

Restrict access to kadmin.local using the /etc/sudoers file:

Run "nano /etc/sudoers" and add a block like this:

```
# Allow users in the 'kdc_admin' group to run kadmin.local as kdc_admin@EXAMPLE.COM
%kdc_admin ALL = NOPASSWD: /usr/sbin/kadmin.local -p kdc_admin@EXAMPLE.COM
```

"%kdc_admin" sets the rule applies to users in the kdc_admin group (create it using "groupadd kdc_admin")
"ALL = NOPASSWD" allows group members to run kadmin.local without a password, but only when using the kdc_admin@EXAMPLE.COM principal using the -p option.
"/usr/sbin/kadmin.local -p ..." simply specifies the command with sudo privileges.

Verification:

Create a user account that belongs to the kdc_admin group you created, log in as the newly created user.

Run "sudo kadmin.local -p kdc_admin@EXAMPLE.COM"

You should be prompted for the password of the kdc_admin principal (the one generated in step 2). If successful, you'll enter kadmin.local mode impersonating the kdc_admin principal.

Other Kadmin commands

addprinc <principal>	Adds a new principal (user or service account) to the database
delprinc <principal>	Deletes a principal from the Kerberos database
modprinc <principal>	Modifies attributes of an existing principal
rename_principal <old> <new>	Renames an existing principal in the Kerberos database
change_password <principal>	Changes the password of an existing principal
cpw <principal>	Alias for change_password
listprincs	Lists all principals in the Kerberos database
getprinc <principal>	Retrieves and displays information about a specified principal
ktadd -k <keytab_file> <principal>	Adds a principal's key to a keytab file (for passwordless authentication)
ktremove -k <keytab_file> <principal>	Removes a principal's key from a keytab file
ktdestroy -k <keytab_file>	Destroys a keytab file (use with caution)
getprivs	Shows administrative privileges of current user for kadmin.local CLI
listpols	Lists all policies in database (password rules, ticket lifetimes, etc.)
addpol <policy>	Adds a new policy to the Kerberos database.
modpol <policy>	Modifies attributes of an existing policy.
delpol <policy>	Deletes a policy from the Kerberos database.
getpol <policy>	Retrieves and displays information about a specified policy.
purgekeys <principal>	Removes all keys for a principal that are not the most recent.

SELinux Booleans

allow_httpd_pkey_init	Needed if using HTTP for key distribution.
allow_kadmind_port	Access on TCP 464 for administrative access to the KDC.
allow_kerberos_dce	Needed to support DCE clients using Kerberos.
allow_kerberos_kdc_tcp_port	Enables TCP traffic for the KDC
allow_kerberos_tgt_deleg	Enables delegation of Ticket-Granting Tickets (TGTs)
allow_mit_krb5_migrate	Needed if migrating existing Kerberos principals.
allow_smbd_krb5_right	Required if using Kerberos for Samba authentication.
allow_sshd_klogin	Enables Kerberos login for SSH connections.
allow_unreserved_ports	Allow applications to bind to privileged ports (ports 1-1024)

SELinux File Contexts

/etc/krb5.conf	etc_krb5_conf_t
/var/lib/krb5	var_lib_krb5_t
/var/log/krb5	var_log_krb5_t
Keytab - /etc/krb5.keytab)	krb5_keytab_t
/usr/sbin/kadmin, /usr/sbin/krb5kdc	usr_sbin_krb5_t
/run/krb5 (if used)	var_run_krb5_t

firewall-cmd --permanent --add-service=krb5 # Opens default Kerberos ports (TCP 88 and UDP 88)

firewall-cmd --permanent --add-service=kadmind # Opens KDC administration port (TCP 464)

iptables -A INPUT -p tcp --dport 88 -j ACCEPT

iptables -A INPUT -p udp --dport 88 -j ACCEPT

iptables -A INPUT -p tcp --dport 464 -j ACCEPT

systemctl restart krb5kdc kadmind

Client configuration - /etc/krb5.conf

```
[libdefaults]
    default_realm = EXAMPLE.COM
    ticket_lifetime = 24h
    renew_lifetime = 7d
[realms]
    EXAMPLE.COM = {
        kdc = kerberos.example.com
        # Optional: Specify additional KDC servers for redundancy
        # kdc = kerberos1.example.com
        # kdc = kerberos2.example.com
    }
[domain_realm]
    .example.com = EXAMPLE.COM
```

Server configuration example /etc/krb5/kdc.conf

```
[kdcdefaults]
    # Define encryption types supported by the KDC
    permitted_enctypes = aes256-cts-hmac-sha1-96 aes128-cts-hmac-sha1-96
    default_keytab = /etc/krb5/kdc.keytab
[realms]
    EXAMPLE.COM = {
        # Master key location (use kdb5_passwd to create)
        master_key_file = /var/lib/kerberos/krb5.keytab
        # Database for storing Kerberos principals (replace with your chosen database)
        database_module = kadm5
        # Database specific options
        database_name = EXAMPLE.COM # Database name for the realm
        # Comment out if database resides on another machine (NOT good to have exposed on the network- don't!)
        # database_server = 192.168.1.10 # Replace with server IP (Not smart! See above)
        # admin_server = kerberos.example.com
        # Restrict access to the KDC based on IP address (Administrative Access Controls are a better option)
        # access_control = {
        #     host = 192.168.1.0/24 # Allow access from this subnet only
        # }
    }
}
```