



[Translation\(s\)](#): English - [Italiano](#) - [Русский](#)

Rename a computer

This page explains how to change a system's hostname (i.e. rename a computer/server)

Executive summary: [DebianMan: hostname\(1\)](#) isn't enough.

Contents

1. [Rename a computer](#)

1. [Core networking](#)

1. [systemd](#)

2. [Application specific](#)

1. [avahi](#)

2. [CUPS](#)

3. [ejabberd](#)

4. [Exim](#)

5. [Mailname](#)

6. [Message Of The Day](#)

7. [OpenSSH server](#)

8. [Self-signed SSL certificate](#)

9. [ssmtp](#)

10. [syslogd](#)

11. [fail2ban](#)

12. [lvm](#)

3. [Idea of script to help you on](#)

1. [Intrusive script](#)

2. [Improved intrusive script](#)

3. [Not-so intrusive script](#)

4. [See also](#)

Core networking

- Update /etc/hostname
- Update /etc/hosts, so local address(es) resolves with the new system name.

- Reload the network configuration. You have two options:
 - Reload configuration files
 - 🚨 This will temporarily disconnect your system from the network (ssh usually resists short disconnection)
 - 🚨 This might definitively disconnect your system from the network because networking might not restore connections; please reboot, which is not lazy, but ensures that your setup is really correct

```
invoke-rc.d hostname.sh start
invoke-rc.d networking force-reload
invoke-rc.d network-manager force-reload
```

[ToDo](#): is it useful to reload network-manager?

- *or the lazy way*: Restart the system.

systemd

Versions of Debian with systemd installed can use "hostnamectl set-hostname mymachine". This tool depends on dbus so be sure to install that first.

Application specific

avahi

Avahi is used to publish (announce) local services. If you tweaked /etc/avahi/* you should run:

```
invoke-rc.d avahi-daemon force-reload
```

CUPS


CUPS is the Common Unix Printing System.

Adjust the /etc/printcap file.

You'll want to change the old hostname in any lines like this, hostname in bold:
Kyocera_TASKalfa_3050ci|Kyocera TASKalfa

3050ci:rm=**debian**:rp=Kyocera_TASKalfa_3050ci: You'll need to restart the service for changes to take effect.

ejabberd

Refer to the  [Change Computer Hostname](#) section of the ejabberd Installation and Operation Guide.

Exim

Reconfigure Exim (this adjusts /etc/exim4/update-exim4.conf.conf and /etc/mailname):

```
dpkg-reconfigure exim4-config
```

Or adjust manually /etc/exim4/update-exim4.conf.conf (hostname=). You need to restart the service.

Mailname

Reconfigure Exim (see above) or adjust manually /etc/mailname. You don't need to restart the service.

Message Of The Day

Adjust /etc/motd. You don't need to restart a service.

OpenSSH server

Adjust /etc/ssh/ssh_host_rsa_key.pub,
/etc/ssh/ssh_host_dsa_key.pub, /etc/ssh/ssh_host_ed25519_key.pub
and /etc/ssh/ssh_host_ecdsa_key.pub (root@hostname at the end).
You need to restart the service.

Self-signed SSL certificate

Recreate the self-signed certificate created by the [DebianPkg: ssl-cert](#) package using the hostname currently configured on your computer.

```
make-ssl-cert generate-default-snakeoil --force-overwrite
```

You need to restart the services using it, e.g. apache2.

ssmtp

Ssmtp is a light weight, send-only SMTP server.

Adjust `/etc/ssmtp/ssmtp.conf` (hostname=, etc.). You don't need to restart the service.

sysklogd

In order to make new hostname appear on syslog you should restart sysklogd service

fail2ban

fail2ban scan logs to detect connection failures and can ban IP on too many failures.

The hostname may be in the sender mail address in `/etc/fail2ban/jail.local`. You need to reload the service.

lvm

Logical Volume Manager (LVM) is a device mapper target that provides logical volume management.

Hostname appears in the backup configuration file `/etc/lvm/backup/<your Volume Group>`.

Idea of script to help you on

Intrusive script

Please understand that this script is **dangerous**. You should check if all the files listed by `grep -rl "$old" /etc` must really be modified **before** launching this script:

[Toggle line numbers](#)

```
__1 #!/bin/bash
__2 #
__3 usage() {
__4     echo "usage : $0 <new hostname>"
__5     exit 1
__6 }
__7
__8 [ "$1" ] || usage
__9
__10 old=$(hostname)
__11 new=$1
__12
__13 grep "$old" /etc/ -rl 2>/dev/null |
__14 while read file
__15 do
__16     sed "s:$old:$new:g" "$file" > "$file.tmp"
__17     mv -f "$file.tmp" "$file"
__18 done
```

Take care you'd better do a grep before...

Improved intrusive script

This script will do the same stuff like the one above but it will ask you with a shell dialog which files you want modify before editing them.

[Toggle line numbers](#)

```
__1 #!/bin/bash
__2 #
__3
__4 # Fetching new and old hostname
__5 OLD_HOSTNAME=$(hostname)
__6 NEW_HOSTNAME=$1
__7
```

```
__8 WHIPTAIL_TITLE="Changing hostname"
__9 WHIPTAIL_BACKTITLE="ShrimpDev <dev@csoellinger.at>"
__10 WHIPTAIL_TEXT="Below you will find a checklist with all files
__11
__12 not_root() {
__13     echo "ERROR: You have to be root to execute this script"
__14     exit 1
__15 }
__16
__17 usage() {
__18     echo "usage : $0 <new hostname> [Optional:--backup/Set ba
__19     exit 1
__20 }
__21
__22 # Check if user is root
__23 [ $EUID != 0 ] && not_root
__24
__25 # Check if we have at least one parameter
__26 [ "$1" ] || usage
__27
__28 [ "$1" == "--backup" ] && usage
__29 [ "$1" == "--debug" ] && usage
__30
__31 DEBUG="NO"
__32 BACKUP="NO"
__33
__34 if [ "$2" == "--debug" ] || [ "$3" == "--debug" ]; then
__35     DEBUG="YES"
__36 fi
__37
__38 if [ "$2" == "--backup" ] || [ "$3" == "--backup" ]; then
__39     BACKUP="YES"
__40 fi
__41
__42 [ "$DEBUG" == "YES" ] && echo "DEBUG (NO FILES WILL BE CHANGE
__43 [ "$BACKUP" == "YES" ] && echo "BACKUP MODE ON"
__44
```

```
45 # Grep all possible targets
46 TARGETS=$(grep "$OLD_HOSTNAME" /etc/ -rl)
47 let TARGETSLENGTH=${#TARGETS[@]}
48
49 CHECKLIST=()
50 for ((i=0; i<${#TARGETS[@]}; i++)); do
51     CHECKLIST+=("${TARGETS[$i]}" "" "ON")
52 done
53
54 CHECKLIST_RESULT=$(whiptail --clear --fb --title "$WHIPTAIL_T
55 CHECKLIST_RESULT=${CHECKLIST_RESULT//\"/}
56 CHECKLIST_RESULT_ARR=(`echo $CHECKLIST_RESULT | tr ' ' '\n'`)
57
58 clear
59
60 for CHECKLIST_ITEM in "${CHECKLIST_RESULT_ARR[@]}"; do
61     echo "sed \"s:${OLD_HOSTNAME}:${NEW_HOSTNAME}:g\" \"${CHE
62     [ "$DEBUG" == "NO" ] && sed "s:$OLD_HOSTNAME:$NEW_HOSTNAM
63
64     if [ "$2" == "--backup" ]; then
65         echo "cp \"${CHECKLIST_ITEM}\" \"${CHECKLIST_ITEM}.BC
66         [ "$DEBUG" == "NO" ] && cp "$CHECKLIST_ITEM" "$CHECKL
67     fi
68
69     echo "mv -f \"${CHECKLIST_ITEM}.tmp\" \"${CHECKLIST_ITEM}
70     [ "$DEBUG" == "NO" ] && mv -f "$CHECKLIST_ITEM.tmp" "$CHE
71
72     echo ""
73 done
74
75 exit 0
```

Not-so intrusive script

```
#!/bin/bash
#
usage() {
    echo "usage : $0 <new hostname>"
    exit 1
}

[ "$1" ] || usage

old=$(hostname)
new=$1

for file in \
    /etc/exim4/update-exim4.conf.conf \
    /etc/printcap \
    /etc/hostname \
    /etc/hosts \
    /etc/ssh/ssh_host_rsa_key.pub \
    /etc/ssh/ssh_host_dsa_key.pub \
    /etc/motd \
    /etc/ssmtp/ssmtp.conf
do
    [ -f $file ] && sed -i.old -e "s:$old:$new:g" $file
done
```

See also

- [DebianMan: hostname\(1\)](#), [DebianMan: hostname\(7\)](#)