

systemd FAQ

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FAQ

For an up-to-date list of known issues, look at the upstream **TODO** (<https://github.com/systemd/systemd/blob/master/TODO>).

Why do I get log messages on my console?

You must set the kernel loglevel yourself. Historically, `/etc/rc.sysinit` did this for us and set `dmesg` loglevel to `3`, which was a reasonably quiet loglevel. Either add `loglevel=3` or `quiet` to your **kernel parameters**.

How do I change the default number of gettys?

Currently, only one `getty` is launched by default. If you switch to another `tty`, a `getty` will be launched there (socket-activation style). In other words, `[Ctl] [Alt] [F2]` will launch a new `getty` on `tty2`.

By default, the number of auto-activated `gettys` is capped at six. Thus `[F7]` through `[F12]` won't launch a `getty`.

If you want to change this behavior, then edit `/etc/systemd/logind.conf` and change the value of `NAutoVTs`. If you want all `[Fx]` keys to start a `getty`, increase the value of `NAutoVTs` to 12. If you are **forwarding journald to tty12**, increase the value of `NAutoVTs` to 11 (thus

leaving tty12 free).

You can also pre-activate gettys which will be running from boot.

To add another pre-activated getty, place another symlink for instantiating another getty in the `/etc/systemd/system/getty.target.wants/` directory:

```
# ln -sf /usr/lib/systemd/system/getty@.service /etc/systemd/system/getty.target.wants/getty@tty9.service
# systemctl start getty@tty9.service
```

To remove a getty, remove the getty symlinks you want to get rid of in the `/etc/systemd/system/getty.target.wants/` directory:

```
# rm /etc/systemd/system/getty.target.wants/getty@{tty5,tty6}.service
# systemctl stop getty@tty5.service getty@tty6.service
```

systemd does not use the `/etc/inittab` file.

How do I get more verbose output during boot?

If you see no output at all in console after the initram message, this means you have the `quiet` parameter in your kernel line. It's best to remove it, at least the first time you boot with systemd, to see if everything is ok. Then, you will see a list `[OK]` in green or `[FAILED]` in red.

Any messages are logged to the system log and if you want to find out about the status of your system run `systemctl` (no root privileges required) or look at the boot/system log with `journalctl`.

How do I avoid clearing the console after boot?

Create a directory called `/etc/systemd/system/getty@.service.d` and place `nodisallocate.conf` in there to **override** the `TTYVTDisallocate` option to `no`.

```
/etc/systemd/system/getty@.service.d/nodisallocate.conf
```

```
[Service]
TTYVTDisallocate=no
```

What kernel options are required for systemd?

Kernels prior to 3.0 are unsupported.

If you use a custom kernel, you will need to make sure that systemd's options are selected.

If you are compiling a new kernel for use with an installed version of systemd, the required and recommended options are listed in the systemd README file

`/usr/share/doc/systemd/README`.

If you are preparing to install a new version of systemd and are running a custom kernel, the most recent version of the file can be found in the [the systemd git \(http://cgит.freedesktop.org/systemd/systemd/tree/README\)](http://cgит.freedesktop.org/systemd/systemd/tree/README).

What other units does a unit depend on?

For example, if you want to figure out which services a target like `multi-user.target` pulls in, use something like this:

```
$ systemctl show -p "Wants" multi-user.target
```

```
Wants=rc-local.service avahi-daemon.service rpcbind.service NetworkManager.service acpid.service dbus.service atd.service crond.service auditd.service ntpd.service udisks.service bluetooth.service org.cups.cupsd.service wpa_supplicant.service getty.target modem-manager.service portreserve.service abrt.service yum-updatesd.service upowerd.service test-first.service pcscd.service rsyslog.service haldaemon.service remote-fs.target plymouth-quit.service systemd-update-utmp-runlevel.service sendmail.service lvm2-monitor.service cpuspeed.service udev-post.service mdmonitor.service iscsid.service livesys.service livesys-late.service irqbalance.service iscsi.service
```

Instead of `Wants` you might also try `WantedBy`, `Requires`, `RequiredBy`, `Conflicts`, `ConflictedBy`, `Before`, `After` for the respective types of dependencies and their inverse.

My computer shuts down, but the power stays on

Use `systemctl poweroff` instead of `systemctl halt`.

After migrating to systemd, why won't my fakeRAID mount?

Be sure you use:

```
# systemctl enable dmraid.service
```

How can I make a script start during the boot process?

Create a new file in `/etc/systemd/system` (e.g. *myscript.service*) and add the following contents:

```
[Unit]
Description=My script

[Service]
ExecStart=/usr/bin/my-script

[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target
```

Then:

```
# systemctl enable myscript.service
```

This example assumes you want your script to start up when the target multi-user is launched. Also do `chmod 755` to your script to enable execute permissions if you haven't done so already.

Note: In case you want to start a shell script, make sure you have `#!/bin/sh` in the first line of the script. Do **not** write something like `ExecStart=/bin/sh /path/to/script.sh` because that will not work.

Status of `.service` says "active (exited)" in green. (e.g. `iptables`)

This is perfectly normal. In the case with `iptables` it is because there is no daemon to run, it is controlled in the kernel. Therefore, it exits after the rules have been loaded.

To check if your `iptables` rules have been loaded properly:

```
# iptables --list
```

"Failed to issue method call: File exists" error

This happens when using `systemctl enable` and the symlink it tries to create in `/etc/systemd/system/` already exists. Typically this happens when switching from one display manager to another one (for instance GDM to KDM, which can be enabled with `gdm.service` and `kdm.service`, respectively) and the corresponding symlink `/etc/systemd/system/display-manager.service` already exists.

To solve this problem, either first disable the relevant display manager before enabling the new one, or use `systemctl -f enable` to overwrite an existing symlink.

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