

# Communicating with Users

LPIC-2: Linux Engineer (201-450)

## Objectives:

At the end of this episode, I will be able to:

1. Describe scenarios where user notifications may be required.
2. Utilize system banners, wall, and other system commands to communicate with active users on a system.

Additional resources used during the episode can be obtained using the download link on the overview episode.

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- Communicating with users
    - Useful when multiple people may be using a system
    - Can communicate status changes
      - Service restart
      - Software updates
      - Mount/Unmount storage
      - Network reconfigurations
      - Scheduling a maintenance window
  - Login banners
    - `/etc/issue`
      - Displayed to local (console) users prior to login
    - `/etc/issue.net`
      - Displayed to remote (telnet) users prior to login
    - `/etc/motd`
      - Displayed to all users after login
  - Writing to a user's terminal
    - Useful if they are already logged in
    - Can be done with the `wall` command
    - Messaging must be enabled
      - It is usually on by default
      - `mesg` displays messaging status
      - `mesg y` or `mesg n` to toggle
    - Sending a message
      1. Find the user's terminal ID
        - `w` or `who`
      2. Open the connection
        - `wall dpezet pts/0`
      3. Type your messages
      4. `Ctrl-D` to end
  - System notifications with `wall`

- Some commands integrate with `wall` for notifications
- Example: `shutdown`
  - `sudo shutdown -r +10 "The system will shutdown in 10 minutes"`
  - `sudo shutdown -c`