1.107.2
Manage printers and print queues

Weight 1

Linux Professional Institute Certification — 102

Andrew Eager andrew.eager@aes-pl.com.au
Geoff Robertson <ge@ffrey.com>
Nick Urbanik <nicku@nicku.org>

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2 Objective

Description of Objective
Candidates should be able to manage print queues and user print jobs. This objective includes monitoring print server and user print queues and troubleshooting general printing problems.

Key files, terms, and utilities include:
lpc Printing control

lpq Display Print queue
lprm Job removal
lpr Job submission
/etc/printcap — Configuration file

3 Resources

Resources of interest
Printing-HOWTO
Printing-Usage-HOWTO

4 Printer control with lpc

lpc — Printer Control

lpc Is used to control a printer or print job
lpc Can be run interactively.
Usage is:
    lpc [command] [argument]

4.1 lpc examples

Example 1 — Non Interactive:
    $ lpc status
    Printer Printing Spooling Jobs Server Subserver
    lp@Node4 enabled enabled 0 none none

Example 2 — Interactive
    $ lpc
    lpc> status
    Printer Printing Spooling Jobs Server Subserver
    lp@Node4 enabled enabled 0 none none
    lpc> quit
4.2 lpc commands

LPC Commands
For a complete list of commands, use the command lpc help. Some of the more important commands to know are:

abort — Immediately terminate active spool & disable printing
disable — Stop spooling for this printer
enable — Start spooling for this printer
down — Disable spooling & printing
up — Enable spooling & printing
stop — Stop printing after current job is complete
start — Enable spooling & start printing
quit — Exit from interactive mode
help — Show all commands

With the CUPS printing system, lpc status is the only command implemented. Use lpadmin instead for controlling the queue.

5 Show printer queue: lpq

lpq — Display Printer Queue

- Every print job is assigned a job-id
- You need the job-id to remove or reorder a job in the queue
- lpq shows the job-id along with information about the job.

Usage is:

$ lpq [-P printer] [Job-id]

5.1 lpq example

Example — Show all jobs on default Queue

# lpq
Printer: lp@Node4 ’lp0’ (dest HPLjet@node10.aes)
Queue: 2 printable jobs
Server: pid 27354 active
Unspooler: pid 27356 active
Status: waiting for subserver to exit at 12:22:58.553

Rank Owner/ID Class Job Files ....
1 root@Node4+353 A 353 /etc/hosts ....
2 root@Node4+357 A 357 /etc/ntp.conf ....

Printer: HPLjet@Node10 ’lp0’ (printing disabled ...)

6 Removing printer jobs: lprm

lprm — Remove job(s) from Queue

- lprm is used to remove jobs from a queue
- jobs can be removed by:
  - by job-id (use lpq to nd out)
  - by user

Usage is:

# lprm [-P printer] [Job-id ...] [user ...]

6.1 lprm example

Example — Remove all jobs owned by root

# lprm root
Printer lp@Node4:
  checking perms ’root@Node4+353’
dequeued ’root@Node4+353’
  checking perms ’root@Node4+357’
dequeued ’root@Node4+357’
Printer HPLjet@Node10:
  # lpq
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