Print files
Weight 1

Linux Professional Institute Certification — 102

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Outline

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Resources

lpr
lpq
a2ps
mpage

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1.107.2 Manage printers and print queues [1]
1.107.3 **Print files [1]**
1.107.4 Install and configure local and remote printers [1]
Candidates should be able to manage print queues and manipulate print jobs. This objective includes adding and removing jobs from configured printer queues and converting text files to postscript for printing.
Key files, terms, and utilities include:

1.107.3  Print files

lpq  Display Print queue
lpr  Job submission
mpage  Print multiple pages per sheet
Resources of interest

Printing-HOWTO
Printing-Usage-HOWTO
lpr — Submit job to Print Queue

- lpr is used to submit a job to the print queue
- lpr can be run from the command line
- lpr assumes text is to be printed by default
- lpr uses /etc/printcap for printer settings

Usage of lpr is:
```sh
lpr [-P⟨printer⟩] [-#⟨num⟩] ⟨filename⟩ ... 
```

Examples: Print /etc/hosts file to spool lp0:
```sh
$ lpr -Plp0 /etc/hosts
```

Print two copies of /etc/hosts file to default print spool:
```sh
$ lpr -#2 /etc/hosts
```
**lpq** — *See print jobs in queue*

- *lpq* displays the jobs in either the default printer queue, or a specified one
NAME
lpq - show printer queue status

SYNOPSIS
lpq [ -E ] [ -P dest ] [ -a ] [ -l ] [ +interval ]

DESCRIPTION
lpq shows the current print queue status on the named printer. Jobs queued on the default destination will be shown if no printer or class is specified on the command-line.

The interval option allows you to continuously report the jobs in the queue until the queue is empty; the list of jobs is show one every interval seconds.

The -E option forces encryption when connecting to the server.

The -a option reports jobs on all printers.

The -l option requests a more verbose (long) reporting format.

SEE ALSO
cancel(1), lp(1), lpr(1), lprm(1), lpstat(1)
a2ps — Convert ASCII to Postscript

- Most Unix sites use postscript printers
- You can not send an ASCII file directly to a postscript printer
- To convert from ASCII to ps, use `a2ps`

**Usage:** `a2ps [-o out-file] in-file`

**Example:**

```
$ a2ps -o myfile.ps myfile.txt ←
$ cat myfile.ps > /dev/lp0 ←
```
mpage — Print multiple pages per page

- mpage will print multiple pages per physical page
- Input can be either text or postscript
- 1, 2, 4 or 8 pages can be printed per page
- Output can be directed to printer or stdout

Usage:
mpage [-1248] [options] input-file ...

Example: Print 4 pages per page on A4
$ mpage -4 -b A4 bigfile.ps | lpr
Topics Covered

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