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Configure and manage inetd, xinetd, and related services

Weight 4

Linux Professional Institute Certification — 102

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Description of Objective

Candidates should be able to configure which services are available through `inetd`, use `tcpwrappers` to allow or deny services on a host-by-host basis, manually start, stop, and restart internet services, configure basic network services including `telnet` and `ftp`. Set a service to run as another user instead of the default in `inetd.conf`.

Key files, terms, and utilities include:

```
/etc/inetd.conf
/etc/hosts.allow
/etc/hosts.deny
/etc/services
/etc/xinetd.conf
/etc/xinetd.log
```

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```
/etc/inetd.conf
/etc/hosts.allow
/etc/hosts.deny
/etc/services
/etc/xinetd.conf
/etc/xinetd.log
```

inetd/xinetd

The internet “super-server”

A daemon which listens on many ports and fires off the appropriate command to handle incoming requests

Controlled through `/etc/inetd.conf`

xinetd is an enhanced replacement

Fields are:

service_name sock_type proto flags user server_path args

```
# UW-IMAP server
imap2 stream tcp nowait root /usr/sbin/tcpd /usr/sbin/imapd
imap3 stream tcp nowait root /usr/sbin/tcpd /usr/sbin/imapd
imaps stream tcp nowait root /usr/sbin/tcpd /usr/sbin/imapd

# Exim mail server
smtp stream tcp nowait mail /usr/sbin/exim exim -bs
```

Built-in services (often disabled)

```
echo      stream tcp  nowait  root    internal
echo      dgram  udp   wait    root    internal
chargen   stream tcp  nowait  root    internal
chargen   dgram  udp   wait    root    internal
discard   stream tcp  nowait  root    internal
discard   dgram  udp   wait    root    internal
daytime   stream tcp  nowait  root    internal
daytime   dgram  udp   wait    root    internal
time      stream tcp  nowait  root    internal
time      dgram  udp   wait    root    internal
```

hosts.allow / hosts.deny

“TCP Wrappers” aka **tcpd**

Manpage is `hosts_access(5)`

```
# /etc/hosts.allow
sshd: ALL
imapd: 10.0.6.19
ALL: 10.0.128.96/255.255.255.224
```

```
# /etc/hosts.deny
#ALL: PARANOID
ALL: ALL
```

xinetd

Same idea—ludicrous number of options

```
service smtp
{
    socket_type      = stream
    protocol         = tcp
    wait            = no
    user            = mail
    server          = /usr/sbin/exim
    server_args     = -bs
}
```

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