A Practical Guide to Fedora™ and Red Hat® Enterprise Linux®

COLLEGE EDITION

MARK G. SOBELL
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Preface

The book Whether you are an end user, a system administrator, or a little of each, this book explains with step-by-step examples how to get the most out of a Fedora or Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) system. In 28 chapters, this book takes you from installing a Fedora or Red Hat Enterprise Linux system through understanding its inner workings to setting up secure servers that run on the system.

The audience This book is designed for a wide range of readers. It does not require you to have programming experience, but having some experience using a general-purpose computer is helpful. This book is appropriate for

- **Students** who are taking a class in which they use Linux
- **Home users** who want to set up and/or run Linux
- **Professionals** who use Linux at work
- **System administrators** who need an understanding of Linux and the tools that are available to them
- **Computer science students** who are studying the Linux operating system
- **Programmers** who need to understand the Linux programming environment
- **Technical executives** who want to get a grounding in Linux

Benefits *A Practical Guide to Fedora™ and Red Hat® Enterprise Linux®, College Edition,* gives you a broad understanding of many facets of Linux, from installing Fedora/RHEL through using and customizing it. No matter what your background, this book gives you the knowledge you need to get on with your work. You will come away from this book understanding how to use Linux, and this book will remain a valuable reference for years to come.
Preface

Overlap

If you read *A Practical Guide to Linux® Commands, Editors, and Shell Programming*, you will notice some overlap between that book and the one you are reading now. The first chapter, and the chapters on the utilities, the filesystem, programming tools, and the appendix on regular expressions are very similar in the two books, as are the three chapters on the Bourne Again Shell (bash). Chapters that appear in this book but not in *A Practical Guide to Linux® Commands, Editors, and Shell Programming* include Chapters 2 and 3 (installation), Chapters 4 and 8 (Fedora/RHEL and the GUI), Chapter 10 (networking), all of the chapters in Part IV (system administration) and Part V (servers), and Appendix C (security).

This Book Includes Fedora 8 on a DVD

*A Practical Guide to Fedora™ and Red Hat® Enterprise Linux®, College Edition*, includes a DVD that you can use to install or upgrade to Fedora 8. Chapter 2 helps you get ready to install Fedora. Chapter 3 provides step-by-step instructions for installing Fedora from this DVD. This book guides you through learning about, using, and administrating Fedora or Red Hat Enterprise Linux.

What Is New in This Edition?

The college edition of *A Practical Guide to Fedora™ and Red Hat® Enterprise Linux®* covers Fedora 8 and Red Hat Enterprise Linux version 5. There is a new section on LDAP in Chapter 21. Chapters 2 and 3 cover booting into a live session and installing from live media. All the changes, large and small, that have been made to Fedora/RHEL since the previous edition of this book have been incorporated into the explanations and examples.

Features of This Book

This book is designed and organized so you can get the most out of it in the shortest amount of time. You do not have to read this book straight through in page order. Once you are comfortable using Linux, you can use this book as a reference: Look up a topic of interest in the table of contents or index and read about it. Or think of the book as a catalog of Linux topics: Flip through the pages until a topic catches your eye. The book includes many pointers to Web sites where you can get additional information: Consider the Internet an extension of this book.

*A Practical Guide to Fedora™ and Red Hat® Enterprise Linux®, College Edition*, is structured with the following features:

- In this book, the term Fedora/RHEL refers to both Fedora and Red Hat Enterprise Linux. Features that apply to only one operating system or the other are marked as such using these indicators: FEDORA or RHEL.
• Optional sections enable you to read the book at different levels, returning to more difficult material when you are ready to delve into it.
• Caution boxes highlight procedures that can easily go wrong, giving you guidance before you run into trouble.
• Tip boxes highlight ways that you can save time by doing something differently or situations when it may be useful or just interesting to have additional information.
• Security boxes point out places where you can make a system more secure. The security appendix presents a quick background in system security issues.
• Concepts are illustrated by practical examples throughout the book.
• Chapter summaries review the important points covered in each chapter.
• Review exercises are included at the end of each chapter for readers who want to further hone their skills. Answers to even-numbered exercises are at www.sobell.com.
• This book provides resources for finding software on the Internet. It also explains how to download and install software using yum, BitTorrent, and, for Red Hat Enterprise Linux, Red Hat Network (RHN).
• The glossary defines more than 500 common terms.
• The book describes in detail many important GNU tools, including the gcc C compiler, the gdb debugger, the GNU Configure and Build System, make, and gzip.
• Pointers throughout the text provide help in obtaining online documentation from many sources, including the local system, the Red Hat Web site, the Fedora Project Web site, and other locations on the Internet.
• Many useful URLs (Internet addresses) point to sites where you can obtain software, security programs and information, and more.
• The comprehensive index helps you locate topics quickly and easily.

Key Topics Covered in This Book

This book contains a lot of information. This section distills and summarizes its contents. You may want to review the table of contents for more detail. This book

Installation
• Describes how to download from the Internet and burn both Fedora Desktop Live Media CD/DVDs and Fedora Install Media DVDs.
• Helps you plan the layout of the system’s hard disk and assists you in using Disk Druid or the GNOME graphical partition editor (gparted) to partition the hard disk.
• Explains how to use the Logical Volume Manager (LVM2) to set up, grow, and migrate logical volumes, which are similar in function to traditional disk partitions.

• Discusses booting into a live Fedora session and installing Fedora from that session.

• Describes in detail how to install Fedora/RHEL from a DVD, CD, a hard disk, or over a network using FTP, NFS, or HTTP.

• Covers boot command line parameters (FEDORA), responses to the boot: prompt (RHEL), and explains how to work with Anaconda, Fedora/RHEL’s installation program.

• Covers the details of customizing the X.org version of the X Window System.

• Introduces the graphical desktop (GUI) and explains how to use desktop tools, including the panel, Panel menu, Main menu, Window Operations menu, Desktop menu, Desktop switcher, and terminal emulator.

• Presents the KDE desktop and covers using Konqueror to manage files, start programs, and browse the Web.

• Covers the GNOME desktop and the Nautilus file manager.

• Explains how to customize your desktop to please your senses and help you work more efficiently.

• Covers the Bourne Again Shell (bash) in three chapters, including an entire chapter on shell programming that includes many sample shell scripts.

• Explains the command line interface (CLI) and introduces more than 30 command line utilities.

• Presents a tutorial on the vim (vi work-alike) textual editor.

• Covers types of networks, network protocols, and network utilities.

• Explains hostnames, IP addresses, and subnets, and explores how to use host and dig to look up domain names and IP addresses on the Internet.

• Covers distributed computing and the client/server model.

• Explains how to use the Fedora/RHEL system-config-* tools to configure the display, DNS, Apache, a network interface, and more. You can also use these tools to add users and manage local and remote printers. (See page 429 for a list of these tools.)

• Describes how to use the following tools to download software and keep a system current:
  - yum—Downloads and installs software packages from the Internet, keeping a system up-to-date and resolving dependencies as it processes the packages. You can run yum manually or set it up to run automatically every night.
Key Topics Covered in This Book

- **BitTorrent**—Good for distributing large amounts of data such as the Fedora installation DVD and the live media CD/DVD. The more people who use BitTorrent to download a file, the faster it works.

- **up2date**—The Red Hat Enterprise Linux tool for keeping system software current.

- Covers graphical system administration tools, including the Main menu, GNOME and KDE menu systems, KDE Control Center, and KDE Control panel.

- Explains system operation, including the boot process, init scripts, emergency mode, rescue mode, single-user and multiuser modes, and steps to take if the system crashes.

- Describes files, directories, and filesystems, including types of files and filesystems, `fstab` (the filesystem table), automatically mounted filesystems, filesystem integrity checks, filesystem utilities, and fine-tuning of filesystems.

- Covers backup utilities, including `tar`, `cpio`, `dump`, and `restore`.

- Explains how to customize and build a Linux kernel.

- **Security**
  - Helps you manage basic system security issues using `ssh` (secure shell), `vsftpd` (secure FTP server), Apache (the `httpd` Web server), `iptables` (firewall), and more.
  - Presents a complete section on SELinux (Security Enhanced Linux), including instructions for using `system-config-selinux` to configure SELinux.
  - Covers using `system-config-firewall` to set up a basic firewall to protect the system.
  - Provides instructions on using `iptables` to share an Internet connection over a LAN and to build advanced firewalls.
  - Describes how to set up a `chroot` jail to protect a server system.
  - Explains how to use TCP wrappers to control who can access a server.
  - Covers controlling servers using the `xinetd` superserver.

- **Clients and servers**
  - Explains how to set up and use the most popular Linux servers, providing a chapter on each: Apache, Samba, OpenSSH, `sendmail`, DNS, NFS, FTP, NIS and LDAP, `iptables` (all of which are included with Fedora/RHEL).
  - Describes how to set up a CUPS printer server.
  - Describes how to set up and use a DHCP server.

- **Programming**
  - Covers programming tools, including the GNU `gcc` compiler, the `gdb` debugger, `make`, and CVS for managing source code.
  - Explains how to debug a C program.
Preface

- Describes how to work with shared libraries.
- Provides a complete chapter on shell programming using bash, including many examples.

Details

Chapter 1 Chapter 1 presents a brief history of Linux and explains some of the features that make it a cutting-edge operating system. The “Conventions Used in This Book” (page 16) section details the typfaces and terminology this book uses.

Part I Part I, “Installing Fedora and Red Hat Enterprise Linux,” discusses how to install both Fedora and RHEL. Chapter 2 presents an overview of the process of installing Fedora and RHEL, including hardware requirements, downloading and burning a CD or DVD, and planning the layout of the hard disk. Chapter 3 is a step-by-step guide to installing either Fedora or Red Hat Enterprise Linux and covers installing from a CD/DVD, a live session, a local hard disk, and installing over the network using FTP, NFS, or HTTP. It also shows how to set up the X Window System and customize your graphical user interface (GUI).

Part II Part II, “Getting Started with Fedora and Red Hat Enterprise Linux,” familiarizes you with Fedora/RHEL, covering logging in, the GUI, utilities, the filesystem, and the shell. Chapter 4 introduces desktop features, including the panel and the Main menu; explains how to use Konqueror to manage files, run programs, and browse the Web; and covers finding documentation, dealing with login problems, and using the window manager. Chapter 5 introduces the shell command line interface, describes more than 30 useful utilities, and presents a tutorial on the vim text editor. Chapter 6 discusses the Linux hierarchical filesystem, covering files, filenames, pathnames, working with directories, access permissions, and hard and symbolic links. Chapter 7 introduces the Bourne Again Shell (bash) and discusses command line arguments and options, redirecting input to and output from commands, running programs in the background, and using the shell to generate and expand filenames.

Experienced users may want to skim Part II

Tip If you have used a UNIX or Linux system before, you may want to skim over or skip some or all of the chapters in Part II. All readers should take a look at “Conventions Used in This Book” (page 16), which explains the typographic and layout conventions that this book uses, and “Getting the Facts: Where to Find Documentation” (page 114), which points out both local and remote sources of Linux/Fedora/RHEL documentation.

Part III Part III, “Digging into Fedora and Red Hat Enterprise Linux,” goes into more detail about working with the system. Chapter 8 discusses the GUI and includes a section on how to run a graphical program on a remote system and have the display appear locally. The section on GNOME describes GNOME utilities and explains how to use the Nautilus file manager, including its spatial view, while the section on KDE explains more about Konqueror and KDE utilities. Chapter 9 extends the bash coverage from Chapter 7, explaining how to redirect error output, avoid overwriting files, and work with job control, processes, startup files, important shell built-in commands,
parameters, shell variables, and aliases. **Chapter 10** explains networks, network security, and the Internet and discusses types of networks, subnets, protocols, addresses, hostnames, and various network utilities. The section on distributed computing describes the client/server model and some of the servers you can use on a network. Details of setting up and using clients and servers are reserved until Part V.

**Part IV**

Part IV covers system administration. **Chapter 11** discusses core concepts such as Superuser, SELinux (Security Enhanced Linux), system operation, general information about how to set up a server, DHCP, and PAM. **Chapter 12** explains the Linux filesystem, going into detail about types of files, including special and device files, the use of `fsck` to verify the integrity of and repair filesystems, and the use of `tune2fs` to change filesystem parameters. **Chapter 13** explains how to keep a system up-to-date by downloading software from the Internet and installing it, including examples of using `yum`, BitTorrent, and RHEL’s `up2date` utility. **Chapter 14** explains how to set up the CUPS printing system so you can print on the local system as well as on remote systems. **Chapter 15** details customizing and building a Linux kernel. **Chapter 16** covers additional administration tasks, including setting up user accounts, backing up files, scheduling automated tasks, tracking disk usage, and solving general problems. **Chapter 17** explains how to set up a local area network (LAN), including both hardware (including wireless) and software setup.

**Part V**

Part V goes into detail about setting up and running servers and connecting to them with clients. The chapters in this part of the book cover the following clients/servers:

- **OpenSSH**—Set up an OpenSSH server and use `ssh`, `scp`, and `sftp` to communicate securely over the Internet.
- **FTP**—Set up a vsftpd secure FTP server and use any of several FTP clients to exchange files with the server.
- **Mail**—Configure `sendmail` and use Webmail, POP3, or IMAP to retrieve email; use SpamAssassin to combat spam.
- **NIS and LDAP**—Set up NIS to facilitate system administration of a LAN and LDAP to distribute information and authenticate users over a network.
- **NFS**—Share filesystems between systems on a network.
- **Samba**—Share filesystems and printers between Windows and Linux systems.
- **DNS/ BIND**—Set up a domain nameserver to let other systems on the Internet know the names and IP addresses of local systems they may need to contact.
- **iptables**—Share a single Internet connection between systems on a LAN and set up a firewall to protect local systems.
- **Apache**—Set up an HTTP server that serves Web pages that browsers can display.
Part VI covers programming. Chapter 27 discusses programming tools and environments available under Fedora/RHEL, including the C programming language and debugger, make, shared libraries, and source code management using CVS. Chapter 28 goes into greater depth about shell programming using bash, with the discussion being enhanced by extensive examples.

Part VII includes appendixes on regular expressions, helpful Web sites, system security, and free software. This part also includes an extensive glossary with more than 500 entries and a comprehensive index.

SUPPLEMENTS

The author’s home page (www.sobell.com) contains downloadable listings of the longer programs from this book as well as pointers to many interesting and useful Linux sites on the World Wide Web, a list of corrections to the book, answers to even-numbered exercises, and a solicitation for corrections, comments, and suggestions.

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I take responsibility for any errors and omissions in this book. If you find one or
just have a comment, let me know (mgs@sobell.com) and I will fix it in the next
printing. My home page (www.sobell.com) contains a list of errors and credits those
who found them. It also offers copies of the longer scripts from the book and point-
ers to many interesting Linux pages.

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Step-by-Step Installation

Chapter 2 covered planning the installation of Fedora/RHEL: determining the requirements; performing an upgrade versus a clean installation; planning the layout of the hard disk; obtaining the files you need for the installation, including how to download and burn CD/DVD ISO images; and collecting information about the system. This chapter focuses on installing Fedora/RHEL. Frequently the installation is quite simple, especially if you have done a good job of planning. Sometimes you may run into a problem or have a special circumstance; this chapter gives you tools to use in these cases. Read as much of this chapter as you need to; once you have installed Fedora/RHEL, continue with Chapter 4, which covers getting started using the Fedora/RHEL desktop. If you install a textual (command line) system, continue with Chapter 5.
As discussed in Chapter 2, a live session is a Linux session that you run on a computer without installing Linux on the computer. When you reboot after a live session, the computer is untouched. If you are running Windows, after a live session Windows boots the way it did before the live session. If you choose, you can install Fedora from a live session. Red Hat Enterprise Linux does yet not offer live sessions.

A live session gives you a chance to preview Fedora without installing it. Boot from the KDE Live CD to begin a live session and work with Fedora as explained in Chapter 4. When you are finished, remove the CD and reboot the system. The system will then boot as it did before the live session took place.

Because a live session does not write to the hard disk (other than using a swap partition if one is available), none of the work you save will be available once you reboot. You can use a USB flash drive, Webmail, or another method to transfer files you want to preserve to another system.

**Booting the System**

Before Fedora can display the desktop of a live session or install itself on a hard disk, the Linux operating system must be read into memory (booted). This
Running a Fedora Live Session

process can take a few minutes on older, slower systems or systems with minimal RAM (memory).

In most cases, you can boot Fedora to run a live session that displays a desktop without doing anything after you boot from a Live CD. To begin, insert the Live CD (either the standard GNOME Fedora Desktop Live Media or the Fedora KDE Live Media) into the CD drive and turn on or reset the system. Refer to “BIOS setup” on page 26 if the system does not boot from the CD. Refer to “Modifying Boot Parameters (Options)” on page 63 if Fedora does not boot or displays an error message.

A few moments after you start the system, Fedora displays a screen that says **Automatic boot in 10 seconds** and counts down from 10 to 1 (Figure 3-1). Text then scrolls by as the system boots. After a few moments, the system displays a graphical screen showing the word **Fedora**, the Fedora logo, and a progress bar.

Checking the disk

The first time you use a CD, it is a good idea to check it for defects. To do so, interrupt the automatic boot by pressing a key such as the **SPACE BAR** while Fedora is counting down. Fedora displays the Welcome menu (Figure 3-2). Use the **DOWN ARROW** key to highlight the line that starts with **Verify and boot Fedora...** and press **RETURN** (the mouse will not work yet). Fedora verifies the contents of the CD, keeping you apprised as it does so. If the CD is good, the system continues to boot.

**GNOME**

If you are installing from Fedora Desktop Live Media, you are installing the GNOME desktop manager. When you boot from this disk, Fedora displays a login screen for 60 seconds, automatically logs in as the user named **fedora**, and displays

![Figure 3-2 The Fedora Live Welcome menu](image)

000.book Page 49 Friday, April 4, 2008 9:22 AM
the GNOME desktop (Figure 3-3). To speed up this process, you can log in as `fedora` (no password) when Fedora displays the login screen.

If you are installing from Fedora KDE Live Media, you are installing the KDE desktop manager. When you boot from this disk, Fedora next displays a KDE startup screen and then the KDE desktop—there is no need to log in. If the system can connect to the Internet, KDE displays the message **Connection Established**.

**optional** SEEING WHAT IS GOING ON

If you are curious and want to see what Fedora is doing as it boots, remove `quiet` from the boot parameters (Figure 3-16 on page 64; the list of parameters will be different from those shown in the figure). With the Fedora Live Welcome menu displayed (Figure 3-2), press `TAB` to display the boot command line parameters. Use the `BACK ARROW` key to back up over—but not remove—the words to the right of `quiet`. Press `BACKSPACE` or `DEL` to back up over and erase `quiet` from the boot command line. Press `RETURN`. As Fedora boots, it displays information about what it is doing. Text scrolls on the screen, although sometimes too rapidly to read.

### INSTALLING FEDORA/RHEL LINUX

You can install Fedora/RHEL from a live session (preceding section, **FEDORA** only) or from the Install DVD (**RHEL**+**FEDORA**). Installing from a live session is simpler, but does not give you the flexibility that installing from the Install DVD does. For example,
you cannot select the language the installer uses nor can you choose which software packages you want to install when you install from a live session.

Check to see what is on the hard disk before installing Fedora/RHEL

caution Unless you are certain the hard disk you are installing Fedora/RHEL on has nothing on it (it is a new disk) or you are sure the disk holds no information of value, it is a good idea to examine the contents of the disk before you start the installation. You can use gparted (page 69) for this purpose.

The Install DVD holds many of the software packages that Fedora/RHEL supports. You can install whichever packages you like from this disk without connecting to the Internet. However, without an Internet connection, you will not be able to update the software on the system.

The Live CD holds a limited set of software packages. Once you install from this CD, you must connect to the Internet to update the software on the system and download and install additional packages.

To begin most installations, insert the Live CD or the Install DVD into the CD/DVD drive and turn on or reset the system. For hard disk and network-based installations, you can use the rescue CD (page 42) or a USB flash drive instead.

Installing from a Live Session

Bring up a live GNOME or KDE session as explained on page 48. Double-click (left-click) the object labeled Install to Hard Drive (Figure 3-3) to begin installing Linux. Continue reading at “The Anaconda Installer” on page 53.

Installing/Upgrading from the Install DVD

FEDORA To install Fedora from the Install DVD, insert the Install DVD into the DVD drive and turn on or reset the system. After a few moments, Fedora displays the Install DVD Welcome menu (Figure 3-4, next page) and a message that says Automatic boot in 60 seconds.

Press a key, such as the SPACE BAR, within 60 seconds to stop the countdown and display the message Press [TAB] to edit options as shown in Figure 3-4. If you do not press a key, after 60 seconds Fedora begins a graphical install/upgrade. Refer to “BIOS setup” on page 26 if the system does not boot from the DVD. Refer to “Modifying Boot Parameters (Options)” on page 63 if Fedora/RHEL does not boot or displays an error message.

The Welcome menu has the following selections:

- Install or upgrade a system
- Install or upgrade a system (text mode)
- Rescue installed system

Installs a graphical Fedora/RHEL system using the graphical installer.

Installs a graphical Fedora/RHEL system using the textual installer.

Brings up Fedora/RHEL but does not install it. After detecting the system’s disks and partitions, the system enters rescue mode and allows you to mount an existing Linux filesystem. For more information refer to “Rescue Mode” on page 411.
Chapter 3  Step-by-Step Installation

52

Boot from local drive
Boots the system from the hard disk. This selection frequently has the same effect as booting the system without the CD/DVD (depending on how the BIOS [page 26] is set up).

Memory test
Runs memtest86+, a GPL-licensed, stand-alone memory test utility for x86-based computers. Press C to configure the test; press ESCAPE to exit and reboot. See www.memtest.org for more information.

RHEL
The process of installing Red Hat Enterprise Linux is similar to that of installing Fedora. The biggest difference is in the initial screen the two systems display. While FEDORA displays a menu, RHEL displays a boot: prompt. Follow the instructions on the screen for installing RHEL in graphical or textual mode. To bring the system up in Rescue mode (page 411), enter linux rescue and press RETURN. Most parameters you enter at the boot: prompt begin with the word linux. You can use all of the parameters discussed in “Modifying Boot Parameters (Options)” on page 63, but they must be preceded by the word linux. Press the function keys listed at the bottom of the screen for more information.

The Disc Found Screen
The first screen that the Install DVD installation process displays is the pseudo-graphical Disc Found screen. Because it is not a true graphical screen, the mouse does not work. Instead, you must use the TAB or ARROW keys to highlight different choices and press RETURN to select the highlighted choice. This screen allows you to test as many installation CD/DVDs as you like. Choose OK to test the media or Skip to bypass the test. See the caution box on the next page.

A DVD may fail the media test if the software that was used to burn the disk did not include padding. If a DVD fails the media test, try booting with the nodma parameter. See page 63 for information on adding parameters to the boot command line.
Test Install DVDs

caution Many people download ISO images from the Web and burn disks using these images. It is possible for data to become corrupted while fetching an ISO image; it is also possible for a transient error to occur while writing an image to recordable media. When you boot Fedora/RHEL from an Install DVD, Anaconda displays the CD Found screen before starting the installation. From this screen, you can verify that the installation DVD does not contain any errors. Testing the DVD takes a few minutes and can save you hours of aggravation if the installation fails due to bad media.

If the DVD passes the media test when you boot the system with the nodma parameter, the DVD is good; reboot the system without this parameter before installing Fedora/RHEL. If you install Linux after having booted with this parameter, the kernel will be set up to always use this parameter. As a consequence, the installation and operation of the system may be very slow.

THE ANACONDA INSTALLER

Anaconda, which is written in Python and C, identifies the hardware, builds the filesystems, and installs or upgrades the Fedora/RHEL operating system. Anaconda can run in textual or graphical (default) interactive mode or in batch mode (see “Using the Kickstart Configurator” on page 78).

Exactly which screens Anaconda displays depends on whether you are installing Fedora from a live session or from the Install DVD, or whether you are installing Red Hat Enterprise Linux, and which parameters you specified on the boot command line. With some exceptions—most notably if you are running a textual installation—Anaconda probes the video card and monitor, and starts a native X server with a log in /tmp/X.log. (This log is not preserved unless you complete the installation.)

While it is running, Anaconda opens the virtual consoles (page 125) shown in Table 3-1. You can display a virtual console by pressing CONTROL-ALT-<x>, where x is the virtual console number and <x> is the function key that corresponds to the virtual console number.

Table 3-1 Virtual console assignments during installation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Virtual console</th>
<th>Information displayed during installation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Installation dialog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Shell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>System messages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Nothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>GUI interactive installation screen*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>GUI interactive installation screen*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>GUI interactive installation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\* The GUI appears on virtual console 6 or 7.
At any time during the installation, you can switch to virtual console 2 (CONTROL-ALT-F2) and give commands to see what is going on. Do not give any commands that change any part of the installation process. To switch back to the graphical installation screen, press CONTROL-ALT-F6 or CONTROL-ALT-F7.

**Using Anaconda**

Anaconda provides a button labeled Next at the lower-right corner of each installation screen and a button labeled Back next to it on most screens. When you have completed the entries on an installation screen, click Next or F12; from a textual installation, press the TAB key until the Next button is highlighted and then press RETURN. Select Back to return to the previous screen. Click Release Notes at the lower-left corner of the screen to display the release notes for the version of Fedora/RHEL you are installing.

**Anaconda Screens**

Anaconda displays different screens depending on which commands you give and which choices you make. During a graphical installation, Anaconda starts, loads drivers, and probes for the devices it will use during installation. After probing, it starts the X server. This section describes the screens that Anaconda displays during a default installation and explains the choices you can make on each of them.

- **Logo**
  Anaconda displays the Logo screen (Figure 3-5) after it obtains enough information to start the X Window System. There is nothing for you to do on this screen except display the release notes. Click Next.

- **Language**
  Select the language you want to use for the installation. This language is not necessarily the same language that the installed system will display.

- **Keyboard**
  Select the type of keyboard attached to the system.

- **Initialize warning**
  Anaconda displays this warning if the hard disk has not been used before. The dialog box says that the partition table on the device was unreadable and asks if you want to initialize the drive. When you initialize a drive, all data on the drive is lost.
Click Yes if it is a new drive or if you do not need the data on the drive. Anaconda initializes the hard disk immediately.

Anaconda displays the Install or Upgrade screen (Figure 3-6) only if it detects a version of Fedora/RHEL on the hard disk that it can upgrade. Anaconda gives you the choice of upgrading the existing installation or overwriting the existing installation with a new one. Refer to “Upgrading an Existing Fedora/RHEL System Versus Installing a Fresh Copy” on page 28 for help in making this selection.

The Disk Partitioning screen (Figure 3-7) allows you to specify partition information and to select which drives you want to install Fedora/RHEL on (assuming the system has more than one drive). Specify which drives you want to install Linux on in the frame labeled Select the drive(s) to use for this installation. Anaconda presents the following options in the drop-down list near the top of the screen; click the box and then click the choice you want:

Figure 3-6  The Install or Upgrade screen

Figure 3-7  The Disk Partitioning screen
Chapter 3  Step-by-Step Installation

- **Remove all partitions on selected drives and create default layout**—Deletes all data on the hard disk and creates a default layout on the entire hard disk, as though you were working with a new hard disk.

- **Remove Linux partitions on selected drives and create default layout**—Removes all Linux partitions, deleting the data on those partitions and creating a default layout in place of one or more of the removed partitions. If there is only a Linux system on the hard disk, this choice is the same as the previous one.

- **Use free space on selected drives and create default layout**—Installs Fedora/RHEL in the free space (page 29) on the disk. This choice does not work if there is not enough free space.

- **Create custom layout**—Does not alter hard disk partitions. This choice causes Anaconda to run Disk Druid (page 66) so you can preserve the partitions you want to keep and overwrite other partitions. It is a good choice for installing Fedora/RHEL over an existing system where you want to keep /home, for example, but want a clean install and not an upgrade.

**Default layout**

The default layout that the first three choices create includes two logical volumes (swap and root [/]) and one standard partition (/boot). With this setup, most of the space on the disk is assigned to the root partition. For information on the Logical Volume Manager, see page 35.

**The disk is not partitioned until later**

**tip** Anaconda does not write to the hard disk when you specify partitions. Instead, it creates a table that specifies how you want the hard disk to be partitioned. The disk is actually partitioned and formatted when you click Next from the Begin Installation screen (Figure 3-13, page 61). However, if Anaconda displays the Initialize Warning dialog box (page 54), when you click Yes, it writes to the disk immediately.

**Disk Druid**

Anaconda runs Disk Druid only if you put a check mark in the box labeled Review and modify partitioning layout or if you select Create custom layout from the drop-down list as described earlier. You can use Disk Druid to verify and modify the layout before it is written to the hard disk. For more information refer to “Using Disk Druid to Partition the Disk” on page 66.

**Warning**

Anaconda displays a warning if you are removing or formatting partitions. Click Yes or Format to proceed.

**Boot Loader Configuration**

Anaconda displays the Boot Loader Configuration screen (Figure 3-8) only when you put a check mark in the box labeled Review and modify partitioning layout or select Create custom layout from the drop-down list in the Partition the Disk screen. By default, Anaconda installs the grub boot loader (page 545). If you do not want to install a boot loader, click the radio button next to No boot loader will be installed. When you install Fedora/RHEL on a machine that already runs another operating system, Anaconda frequently recognizes the other operating system and sets up grub so you can boot from either operating system. Refer to “Setting Up a
Installing Fedora/RHEL Linux 57

Dual-Boot System” on page 79. To manually add other operating systems to grub’s list of bootable systems, click Add and specify a label and device to boot from. For a more secure system, specify a boot loader password.

The Network Configuration screen, which allows you to specify network configuration information, has three parts: Network Devices, Hostname, and Miscellaneous Settings (Figure 3-9). If you are using DHCP to set up the network interface, you do not need to change anything on this screen.

The Network Devices frame lists the network devices that the installer finds. Normally you want network devices to become active when the system boots. Remove the check mark from the box at the left of a device if you do not want that device to become active when the system boots.
To configure a network device manually (not using DHCP), highlight the device and click **Edit** to the right of the list of devices. Anaconda displays the Edit Interface window (Figure 3-10). To set up IPv4 networking manually, click the radio button labeled **Manual configuration** under **Enable IPv4 support** and enter the IP address and netmask of the system in the appropriate boxes. You can also set up or disable IPv6 networking on this screen. Click **OK**.

If you are not using DHCP, click the radio button labeled **manually** under **Set the hostname** in the network configuration screen and enter the name of the system. When you turn off DHCP configuration in Network Devices, Anaconda allows you to specify a gateway address and one or more DNS (nameserver) addresses. You do not have to specify more than one DNS address, although it can be useful to have two in case the first nameserver stops working. Click **Next**.

**Root Password**
Specify the **root** password twice to make sure you did not make a mistake typing it.

**Install KDE to follow the examples in Chapter 4**

**tip** Chapter 4 uses examples from KDE to introduce the graphical desktop. Install KDE if you want to follow these examples. You can remove KDE later if you like. To install KDE, click the radio button next to **Customize now** on the Software Selection screen and follow the instructions in the text. You can install both KDE and GNOME or just one of them.

**Software selection**
As the Software Selection screen explains, by default Anaconda installs a basic Fedora system, including software that allows you to use the Internet. See Figure 3-11. Near the top of the screen are three boxes that you can put check marks in to select categories of software to install: **Office and Productivity** (selected by default), **Software Development**, and **Web server**.
Fedora/RHEL software is kept in repositories (see Chapter 13). In the middle of the screen is a box you can put a check mark in to select a repository that holds **Additional Fedora Software** (FEDORA). Below that box is a button labeled **Add additional software repositories**. See Chapter 13 for more information on software repositories.

Toward the bottom of the screen are two radio buttons:

- **Customize later**—Installs the default packages plus those required to perform the tasks selected from the list at the top of this screen.
- **Customize now**—Calls `pirut` (next section) after you click **Next** on this screen so you can select specific categories of software and package groups you want to install. If you want to set up servers as described in Part V of this book, select **Customize now** and install them in the next step.

In most cases it is a good idea to customize the software selection before installation. The examples in Chapter 4 are based on KDE. If you want to follow these examples, click the radio button labeled **Customize now** and follow the instructions in the next step.

Regardless of which software groups and packages you select now, you can use `pirut` to change which software groups and packages are installed on a system any time after the system is up and running (as long as the system can connect to the Internet).
pirut utility

The pirut utility (page 497) displays two adjacent frames toward the top of the screen (Figure 3-12). Select a software category from the frame on the left and package groups from the frame on the right.

For example, to install KDE, which is not installed by default, click Desktop Environments on the left. The pirut utility highlights your selection and displays a list of desktop environments you can install on the right. Click the box next to KDE (K Desktop Environment) so there is a check mark in it; pirut highlights KDE, displays information about KDE in the text frame toward the bottom of the window, displays the number of optional packages that are selected, and activates the Optional packages button. To get started, accept the default optional packages. See page 498 for information about installing other optional packages. If you will be running servers on the system, click Servers on the left and select the servers you want to install from the list on the right. Select other package categories in the same manner. When you are done, click Next.

Begin Installation

Clicking Next on the Begin Installation screen (Figure 3-13) begins the process of writing to the hard disk. First Anaconda partitions and formats the disk as necessary; next it installs Fedora/RHEL based on what you have specified in the preceding screens, placing a log of the installation in /root/install.log and a Kickstart file (page 78) in /root/anaconda-ks.cfg. Clicking Back allows you to step back through the installation screens and make changes. To completely change the way you set up Fedora/RHEL, you can press CONTROL-ALT-DEL to reboot the system and start over. If you reboot the system, you will lose all the work you did up to this point. Click Next to install Fedora/RHEL.

This is when Anaconda writes to the hard disk

caution

You can abort the installation by pressing CONTROL-ALT-DEL at any point up to and including the Begin Installation screen (Figure 3-13) without making any changes to the system. Once you click Next in this screen, Anaconda writes to the hard disk. As mentioned earlier, if Anaconda displayed the Initialize Warning dialog box (page 54), it wrote to the hard disk when you clicked Yes.
Installing Fedora/RHEL can take a while. The amount of time depends on the hardware you are installing the operating system on and the number of software packages you are installing.

When Anaconda is finished, it tells you that the installation is complete. Remove the CD/DVD (if that is the medium you installed from) and click Reboot.

**FIRSTBOOT: WHEN YOU REBOOT**

When the system reboots, it is running Fedora/RHEL. The first time it boots, Fedora/RHEL runs Firstboot, which asks a few questions before allowing you to log in.

There is nothing for you to do on the Welcome screen (Figure 3-14). Click Forward. After the Welcome screen, Firstboot displays the License Information screen. If you understand the license information, click Forward.
Next you are given the opportunity to set up a very basic firewall (page 1058). First select Enabled or Disabled from the drop-down list labeled Firewall (Figure 3-15). If you enable the firewall, select which services the firewall will to pass through to the system. These services are the ones that the system is providing by means of servers you set up. For example, you do not need to enable WWW to browse the Web using Firefox; you need to enable WWW only if you want to set up an Apache (HTTP) Web server. Select Secure WWW (HTTPS), which is used for secure browser connections, to allow secure HTTP to pass through the firewall. Click the triangle to the left of Other ports to open a frame in which you can add and remove additional protocols and ports that the firewall will pass. Use the buttons labeled Add and Remove to manipulate this list.

For more information on setting up a firewall, refer to “JumpStart: Building a Firewall Using system-config-firewall” on page 794. Chapter 25 on iptables has information on how to build a more complete and functional firewall. Click Forward.

SELinux (Security Enhanced Linux) enforces security policies that limit what a user or program can do. On this screen you can choose one of two policies, Enforcing or Permissive, or you can disable SELinux. If you enable SELinux, you can modify its policy. The policy defaults to Enforcing, which prevents any user or program from doing anything that is not permitted by the policy. If you will never want to use SELinux, disable it. If you do not want to use it now but may want to do so in the future, establish a Permissive policy—it issues warnings but does not enforce the policy. It can take a lot of time to turn on SELinux on a system where it has been disabled. For more information refer to “SELinux” on page 414. Click Forward.

The next screen allows you to set the system date and time. Running the Network Time Protocol (NTP) causes the system clock to reset itself periodically from a clock on the Internet. If the system is connected to the Internet, you may want to enable NTP by clicking the Network Time Protocol tab and putting a check mark in the box next to Enable Network Time Protocol. Click Forward.
Hardware Profile  When you select the radio button labeled Send Profile, the smolt hardware profiler sends a monthly update of the system’s hardware profile to smolts.org. Select the radio button labeled Do not send profile if you do not want smolt to send the system’s profile to the Fedora Project. Click Forward.

Create User  The next screen allows you to set up a user account. You can set up a user account now or after the system is fully operational. For more information refer to “Configuring User and Group Accounts” on page 550.

When the Create User screen closes, you are done with the installation. You can now use the system and set it up as you desire. You may want to customize the desktop as explained in Chapters 4 and 8 or set up servers as discussed in Part V of this book.

INITIALIZING DATABASES AND UPDATING THE SYSTEM

Update the whatis database so that whatis (page 158) and apropos (page 157) work properly. Next update the locate database so that locate works properly. (The locate utility indexes and allows you to search for files on the system quickly and securely.) Instead of updating these databases when you install the system, you can wait for cron (page 559) to run them overnight, but be aware that whatis, apropos, and locate will not work until the next day. The best way to update these databases is via the cron scripts that run daily. Working as root, give the following commands:

# /etc/cron.daily/makewhatis.cron
# /etc/cron.daily/mllocate.cron

These utilities run for several minutes and may complain about not being able to find a file or two. When the system displays a prompt, the whatis and locate databases are up-to-date.

INSTALLATION TASKS

This section details some common tasks you may need to perform during or after installation. It covers modifying the boot parameters, using Disk Druid to partition the disk during installation, using gparted to modify partitions, using logical volumes (LVs) to facilitate disk partitioning, using Kickstart to automate installation, and setting up a system that will boot either Windows or Linux (a dual-boot system).

MODIFYING BOOT PARAMETERS (OPTIONS)

FEDORA  To modify boot parameters, you must interrupt the automatic boot process by pressing a key such as the SPACE BAR while Fedora is counting down when you first boot from a the Live CD (page 48) or Install DVD (page 51). When you press a key, Fedora displays the Welcome menu (Figure 3-2 on page 49 or Figure 3-4 on page 52). Use the ARROW keys to highlight the selection you want before proceeding (page 51). With the desired selection highlighted, press the TAB key to display the boot command line parameters (Figure 3-16, next page).

RHEL  RHEL presents a boot: prompt in place of the boot parameters line that FEDORA displays when you press TAB. You can enter any of the parameters described in this section in
response to the boot: prompt; however, you must precede these parameters with the word linux. (See the examples in the next paragraphs.) Type a SPACE before you enter any parameters. You can specify multiple parameters separated by SPACES. Press RETURN to boot the system. For more information on boot parameters, refer to www.kernel.org/doc/Documentation/kernel-parameters.txt and www.kernel.org/pub/linux/kernel/people/gregkh/lkn/lkn_pdf/ch09.pdf.

What to do if the installation does not work

On some hardware, the installation may pause for up to ten minutes. Before experimenting with other fixes, try waiting for a while. If the installation hangs, try booting with one or more of the boot parameters described in this section. Try running the installer in pseudographical (textual) mode. If these techniques fail, force the bootloader (syslinux) to run in textual mode by holding down the SHIFT key while the system boots from the DVD. (Do not depress the SHIFT key until after the BIOS finishes displaying information about the system.) Doing so does not affect the rest of the installation.

Following are some of the parameters you can add to the boot command line. If you encounter problems with the display during installation, supply the nofb parameter, which turns off video memory. If you are installing from a medium other than a DVD—that is, if you are installing from files on the local hard disk or from files on another system using FTP, NFS, or HTTP—supply the askmethod or method parameter.

Many of these parameters can be combined. For example, to install Linux in text mode using a terminal running at 115,200 baud, no parity, 8 bits, connected to the first serial device, supply the following parameters (the 115200n8 is optional). The first line shows the parameters you enter while booting FEDORA. The second line shows the parameters, including linux, you enter in response to the boot: prompt while booting RHEL.
The next set of parameters installs Fedora/RHEL on a monitor with a resolution of 1024 × 768, without probing for any devices. The installation program asks you to specify the source of the installation data (CD, DVD, FTP site, or other) and requests a video driver.

```
resolution=1024x768 noprobe askmethod FEDORA
boot: 1inux resolution=1024x768 noprobe askmethod RHEL
```

- **noacpi** Disables ACPI (Advanced Configuration and Power Interface). Useful for systems that do not support ACPI or that have problems with their ACPI implementation. The default is to enable ACPI. Also `acpi=off`.
- **noapic** Disables APIC (Advanced Programmable Interrupt Controller). The default is to enable APIC.
- **noapm** Disables APM (Advanced Power Management). The default is to enable APM. Also `apm=off`.
- **askmethod** Presents a choice of installation sources: local CD/DVD or hard disk, or over a network using NFS, FTP, or HTTP. (Install DVD only.)
  - **Local CDROM**—Displays the CD Found screen, which allows you to test the installation media (the same as if you had not entered any boot parameters).
  - **Hard drive**—Prompts for the partition and directory that contains the installation tree or the ISO image of the Install DVD. Do not include the name of the mount point when you specify the name of the directory. For example, if the ISO images are in the `/home/sam/FC8` directory and `/dev/hda6` holds the partition that is normally mounted on `/home`, you would specify the partition as `/dev/hda6` and the directory as `sam/FC8` (no leading slash).
  - **NFS, FTP, or HTTP**—Displays the Configure TCP/IP screen from which you can select DHCP or enter the system’s IP address and netmask, and the IP addresses of the default gateway and primary nameserver.

When using NFS, the remote (server) system must export (page 709) the directory hierarchy that holds the installation tree or the ISO image of the Install DVD. The NFS Setup screen requires you to enter the NFS server name and name of the Fedora/RHEL directory. Enter the server’s IP address and the name of the exported directory, not its device name.

- **nodma** Turns off direct memory access (DMA) for all disk controllers, which may make buggy controllers (or controllers with buggy drivers) more reliable, but also causes them to perform very slowly because the connected devices have to run in PIO mode instead of DMA mode. This parameter may facilitate testing CD/DVDs that were not written correctly. For more information refer to “The Disc Found Screen” on page 52.
- **nofb** no framebuffer Turns off the framebuffer (video memory). This option is useful when problems arise when the graphical phase of the installation starts. It is particularly useful for systems with LCD displays.
Chapter 3  Step-by-Step Installation

irqpoll  Changes the way the kernel handles interrupts.
ks=URI  Specifies the location of a Kickstart (page 78) file to use to control installation. The URI is the pathname or network location of the Kickstart file.
nolapic  Disables local APIC. The default is to enable local APIC.
lowres  Runs the installation program at a resolution of 640 × 480 pixels. See also resolution.
mem=xxxM  Overrides the detected memory size. Replace xxx with the number of megabytes of RAM in the computer.
method=URI  Specifies an installation method and location without prompting as askmethod does. For example, you can use the following parameter to start installing from the specified server:
method=ftp://download.fedora.redhat.com/pub/fedora/linux/releases/8/Fedora/x86_64/os
noprobe  Disables hardware probing for all devices, including network interface cards (NICs), graphics cards, and the monitor. This option forces you to select devices from a list. You must know exactly which cards or chips the system uses when you use this parameter. Use noprobe when probing causes the installation to hang or otherwise fail. This parameter allows you to supply arguments for each device driver you specify.
rescue  Puts the system in rescue mode; see page 411 for details.
resolution=WxH  Specifies the resolution of the monitor you are using for a graphical installation. For example, resolution=1024x768 specifies a monitor with a resolution of 1024 × 768 pixels.
text  Installs Linux in pseudographical (page 26) mode. Although the images on the screen appear to be graphical, they are composed entirely of text characters.
vnc  Installs over a VNC (virtual network computing) remote desktop session. After providing an IP address, you can control the installation remotely using a VNC client from a remote computer. You can download the VNC client, which runs on several platforms, from www.realvnc.com. Use yum (page 492) to install the vnc software package to run a VNC client on a Fedora/RHEL system.

Partitioning the Disk

See page 29 for a discussion of partitions and set up of the hard disk.

Using Disk Druid to Partition the Disk

Disk Druid, a graphical disk-partitioning program that can add, delete, and modify partitions on a hard disk, is part of the Fedora/RHEL installation system. You can use Disk Druid only while you are installing a system; it cannot be run on its own. You can use gparted (page 69), parted (page 72), or fdisk to manipulate partitions and system-config-lvm to work with LVs after you install Fedora/RHEL. As explained earlier, if you want a basic set of partitions, you can allow Anaconda to partition the hard disk automatically.

Anaconda runs Disk Druid when you put a check mark in the box labeled Review and modify partitioning layout or when you select Create custom layout in the Disk Partitioning screen (Figure 3-7, page 55).
Clone and RAID

Disk Druid includes Clone, a tool that copies the partitioning scheme from a single drive to other drives. Clone is useful for making multiple copies of a RAID partition/drive when you are creating a large RAID array of identical partitions or identically partitioned drives. Click the RAID button to access the Clone tool, which is active only when at least one unallocated RAID partition exists. For more information on RAID, see page 33.

Default layout

Figure 3-17 shows the Disk Druid main screen as it appears when you have chosen the default layout for the hard disk (see “Disk Partitioning” on page 55). This screen has three sections (going from top to bottom): a graphical representation of the disk drives showing how each is partitioned, a row of buttons, and a table listing one partition or LV per line.

The following buttons appear near the top of the screen:

- **New**—Adds a new partition to the disk (page 68)
- **Edit**—Edits the highlighted partition or LV (both on page 75)
- **Delete**—Deletes the highlighted partition or LV
- **Reset**—Cancels the changes you have made and causes the Disk Druid table to revert so it matches the layout of the disk
- **RAID**—Enables you to create software RAID partitions and to join two or more RAID partitions into a RAID device (page 33)
- **LVM**—Enables you to create physical volumes (PVs), which you can then use to create LVs (page 35)
The Disk Druid table contains the following columns:

- **Device**—The name of the device in the /dev directory (for example, /dev/sda1 or the name of the LV).
- **Label**—The device label.
- **Mount Point/RAID/Volume**—Specifies where the partition will be mounted when the system is brought up (for example, /usr). It is also used to specify the RAID device or LVM volume the partition is part of.
- **Type**—The type of partition, such as ext3, swap, or LVM PV.
- **Format**—A check mark in this column indicates the partition will be formatted as part of the installation procedure. All data on the partition will be lost.
- **Size (MB)**—The size of the partition or LV in megabytes.
- **Start**—The number of the block the partition starts on.
- **End**—The number of the block the partition ends on.

At the bottom of the screen is a box that allows you to hide RAID device and LVM volume group members. Do not put a check mark in this box if you want to see all information about the disk drives.

---

**Add a new partition**

To add a new partition to a hard disk, the hard disk must have enough free space to accommodate the partition. Click the **New** button to add a partition; Disk Druid displays the Add Partition window (Figure 3-18). Specify the mount point (the name of the directory that the partition will be mounted over; page 30) and the filesystem type; use the arrow buttons at the right ends of these boxes to display drop-down lists.

If there is more than one drive, put a check mark in the box next to the drive you want the partition to be created on in the Allowable Drives frame. Specify the size of the partition and, in the Additional Size Options frame, mark **Fixed size** to create the partition close to the size you specify. Because of block-size constraints, partitions are not usually exactly the size you specify. Mark **Fill all space up to (MB)** and fill in the maximum size you want the partition to be to create a partition that takes up the existing free space, up to the maximum size you specify. In other words, Disk Druid will not complain if it cannot create the partition as large as you would like. Mark the third choice, **Fill to maximum allowable size**, to cause the partition to occupy all the remaining free space on the disk, regardless of size. (If you create another partition after creating a Fill to maximum allowable size partition, the new partition will pull blocks from the existing maximum size partition.)

Put a check mark in the box labeled **Force to be a primary partition** to create a primary partition (page 30). Click **OK**, and Disk Druid adds the partition to its table (but does not write to the hard disk).

---

**Edit an existing partition**

To modify an existing partition, highlight the partition in the Disk Druid table or the graphical representation of the hard disk and click the **Edit** button; Disk Druid
displays the Edit Partition window. From this window, you can change the mount point of a partition or format the partition as another type (ext3, vfat, swap, and so on). You cannot change the size of a partition from this window. To do so you must delete the partition and create a new partition of the desired size.

**gparted: THE GNOME PARTITION EDITOR**

Unless you are certain the hard disk you are installing Fedora/RHEL on has nothing on it (it is a new disk) or you are sure the disk holds no information of value, it is a good idea to examine the contents of the disk before you start the installation. The GNOME Partition Editor (**gparted**), which is available from a live session, is a good tool for this job. (You can also examine the partition by mounting it from a live session using Konqueror [page 106] or Nautilus [page 255].)

Open the Partition Editor window under GNOME by selecting **Applications: System Tools** ➔ **GParted** as shown in Figure 3-19 on the next page. Under KDE, use **Main menu: System** ➔ **GParted** (open the Main menu by clicking the K at the lower-left corner of the screen).

The Partition Editor displays the layout of a hard disk and can resize partitions, such as when you are setting up a dual-boot system by adding Fedora/RHEL to a Windows system (page 79). Although you can create partitions using the Partition Editor, you cannot specify the mount point (page 30) for a partition—this step must wait until you are installing Fedora/RHEL and using the Disk Druid partitioner. You can save time if you use the Partition Manager to examine a hard disk and Disk Druid to set up the partitions you install Fedora/RHEL on.
An Empty Hard Disk

The Partition Editor shows one large unallocated space for a new hard disk (empty, with no partition table). If you have more than one hard disk, use the list box in the upper-right corner of the screen to select the disk for which the Partition Editor displays information. Figure 3-20 shows an empty 200-gigabyte hard disk on the device named /dev/sda.

Deleting a Partition

Before deleting a partition, make sure it does not contain any data you need. To use the Partition Editor to delete a partition, highlight the partition you want to delete, click Delete, and then click Apply on the toolbar.

Figure 3-19  Selecting the GNOME Partition Editor from the Main menu

Figure 3-20  The GNOME Partition Editor displaying an empty disk drive
Resizing a Partition

Figure 3-21 shows the Partition Editor displaying information about a hard disk with a single partition that occupies the entire disk. It shows a single 200-gigabyte NTFS filesystem. The process of resizing a partition is the same regardless of the type of partition: You can use the following technique to resize Windows, Linux, or other types of partitions.

Always back up the data on a hard disk

If you are installing Fedora/RHEL on a disk that holds data that is important to you, always back up the data before you start the installation. Things can and do go wrong. The power might go out in the middle of an installation, corrupting the data on the hard disk. A bug in the partitioning software might destroy a filesystem. Although it is unlikely, you might make a mistake and format a partition holding data you want to keep.

To install Fedora/RHEL on this system, you must resize (shrink) the partition to make room for Fedora/RHEL. Before you resize a Windows partition, you must boot Windows and defragment the partition using the Windows defragmenter; see the tip on page 80. To resize the partition, right-click to highlight the line that describes the partition and select Resize/Move on the toolbar. The Partition Editor opens a small Resize/Move window, as shown in Figure 3-21.

At the top of the Resize/Move window is a graphical representation of the partition. Initially the partition occupies the whole disk. The spin box labeled New Size (MiB)
shows the number of megabytes occupied by the partition—in this case the whole disk. The two spin boxes labeled Free Space show no free space.

Back up the partition before you begin resizing. You can specify how you want to resize the partition by (right-clicking and) dragging one of the triangles at the ends of the graphical representation of the partition or by entering the number of megabytes you want to shrink the Windows partition to in the spin box labeled New Size. In response, the value in one of the spin boxes labeled Free Space increases. Click Resize/Move to add the resize partition to the list of pending operations at the bottom of the window. Click Apply on the toolbar to resize the partition.

Although you can use the Partition Editor to create partitions to install Fedora/RHEL on, it may be easier to create partitions using Disk Druid while you are installing Fedora/RHEL. Disk Druid allows you to specify mount points for the partitions; the Partition Editor does not.

parted: Reports on and Partitions a Hard Disk

The parted (partition editor) utility reports on and manipulates hard disk partitions. The following example shows how to use parted from the command line (see “Running Commands from the Terminal Emulator/Shell” on page 105). It uses the print command to display information about the partitions on the /dev/hda drive:

```
# parted /dev/hda print
Disk geometry for /dev/hda: 0kB - 165GB
Disk label type: msdos
Number  Start    End     Size    Type      File system  Flags
1       32kB     1045MB  1045MB  primary   ext3         boot
2       1045MB   12GB    10GB    primary   ext3
3       12GB     22GB    10GB    primary   ext3
4       22GB     165GB   143GB   extended
5       22GB     23GB    1045MB  logical   linux-swap
6       23GB     41GB    18GB    logical   ext3
7       41GB     82GB    41GB    logical   ext3
Information: Don't forget to update /etc/fstab, if necessary.
```
Figure 3-22 graphically depicts the partitions shown in this example. The first line that parted displays specifies the device being reported on (/dev/hda) and its size (165 gigabytes). The print command displays the following columns:

- **Number**—The minor device number (page 477) of the device holding the partition. This number is the same as the last number in the device name. In the example, 5 corresponds to /dev/hda5.

- **Start**—The location on the disk where the partition starts. The parted utility specifies a location on the disk as the distance (in bytes) from the beginning of the disk. Thus partition 3 starts 12 gigabytes from the beginning of the disk.

- **End**—The location on the disk where the partition stops. Although partition 2 ends 12 gigabytes from the beginning of the disk and partition 3 starts at the same location, parted takes care that the partitions do not overlap at this single byte.

- **Size**—The size of the partition in kilobytes (kB), megabytes (MB), or gigabytes (GB).

- **Type**—The partition type: primary, extended, or logical. See Figure 3-22 and page 30 for information on partition types.

- **File system**—The filesystem type: ext2, ext3, fat32, linux-swap, and so on. See Table 12-1 on page 478 for a list of filesystem types.

- **Flags**—The flags that are turned on for the partition, including boot, raid, and lvm. In the example, partition 1 is bootable.

In the preceding example, partition 4 defines an extended partition that includes 143 gigabytes of the 165-gigabyte disk (Figure 3-22). You cannot make changes to an extended partition without affecting all logical partitions within it.

In addition to reporting on the layout and size of a hard disk, you can use parted interactively to modify the disk layout. Be extremely careful when using parted in this manner, and always back up the system before you work with this utility. Changing the partition information (the partition table) on a disk can destroy the information on the disk. Read the parted info page before you attempt to modify a partition table.

**parted can destroy everything**

**caution** Be as careful with parted as you would be with a utility that formats a hard disk. Changes you make with parted can easily result in the loss of large amounts of data. If you are using parted and have any question about what you are doing, quit with a q command before making any changes. Once you give parted a command, it immediately makes the change you requested.
To partition a disk, give the command `parted` followed by the name of the device you want to work with. In the following example, after starting `parted`, the user gives a `help` (or just `h`) command, which displays a list of `parted` commands:

```
# parted /dev/hdb
GNU Parted 1.8.6
Using /dev/hdb
Welcome to GNU Parted! Type 'help' to view a list of commands.
(parted) help
  check NUMBER                  do a simple check on the file system
  cp [FROM-DEVICE] FROM-NUMBER TO-NUMBER   copy file system to another partition
  help [COMMAND]                prints general help, or help on COMMAND
  mklabel LABEL-TYPE            create a new disklabel (partition table)
  mkfs NUMBER FS-TYPE           make a FS-TYPE file system on partition NUMBER
  mkpart PART-TYPE [FS-TYPE] START END     make a partition
  mkpartfs PART-TYPE FS-TYPE START END make a partition with a file system
  move NUMBER START END         move partition NUMBER
  name NUMBER NAME              name partition NUMBER as NAME
  print [NUMBER]                display the partition table, or a partition
  quit                          exit program
  rescue START END              rescue a lost partition near START and END
  resize NUMBER START END       resize partition NUMBER and its file system
  rm NUMBER                     delete partition NUMBER
  select DEVICE                 choose the device to edit
  set NUMBER FLAG STATE         change a flag on partition NUMBER
  toggle [NUMBER [FLAG]]        toggle the state of FLAG on partition NUMBER
  unit UNIT                     set the default unit to UNIT
  version                       displays the version of GNU Parted and copyright info
(parted)
```

In response to the `(parted)` prompt, you can give the command `help` followed by the name of the command you want more information about. When you give a `print` (or just `p`) command, `parted` displays current partition information, just as a `print` command on the command line does.

The `parted` utility will not allow you to set up overlapping partitions (except for logical partitions that overlap the extended partition that contains them). Similarly it will not allow you to create a partition that starts at the very beginning of the disk (cylinder 0). Both of these situations can cause loss of data.

Following are guidelines to remember when defining a partition table for a disk. For more information refer to “Partitioning a Disk” on page 31.

- Do not delete or modify the partition that defines the extended partition unless you are willing to lose all data on all logical partitions within the extended partition.
- If you put `/boot` on a separate partition, it is a good idea to put it at the beginning of the drive (partition 1) so there is no issue of Linux having to boot from a partition located too far into the drive. When you can afford the disk space, it is desirable to put each major filesystem on a separate partition. Many people choose to combine `/ (root)`, `/var`, and `/usr` into a single partition, which generally results in less wasted space but can, on rare occasions, cause problems.
Although `parted` can create some types of filesystems, it is typically easiest to use this utility to create partitions and then use `mkfs` and `mkswap` to create filesystems on the partitions.

The following sequence of commands defines a 300-megabyte, bootable, Linux partition as partition 1 on a clean disk:

```bash
# parted /dev/hdb
...
Using /dev/hdb
(parted) mkpart
Partition type? primary/extended? primary (select primary partition)
File system type? [ext2]? (default to an ext2 filesystem)
Start? 1 (start at the beginning of the disk)
End? 300m (specify a 300-megabyte partition)
(parted) help set
set NUMBER FLAG STATE change a flag on partition NUMBER

Number is the partition number used by Linux. On msdos disk labels, the primary partitions number from 1 to 4, logical partitions from 5 onwards.
FLAG is one of: boot, root, swap, hidden, raid, lvm, lba, hp-service, palo, prep, mstres
STATE is one of: on, off

(parted) set 1 boot on (turn on the boot flag on partition 1)
(parted) print (verify that the partition is correct)
Disk geometry for /dev/hdb: 0kB - 250GB
Disk label type: msdos
Number Start End Size Type File system Flags
1 1kB 300MB 300MB primary ext2 boot
(parted) quit
Information: Don't forget to update /etc/fstab, if necessary.
```

When you specify a size within `parted`, you can use a suffix of k (kilobytes), m (megabytes), or g (gigabytes). After creating a partition, give a `print` command to see where the partition ends. Perform this task before you define the next contiguous partition to make sure you do not waste space. After setting up all the partitions, exit from `parted` with a `quit` command.

Next make a filesystem (`mkfs`; page 432) on each partition that is to hold a filesystem (not swap). Make all partitions, except swap and `/boot`, of type `ext3`, unless you have a reason to do otherwise. Make the `/boot` partition of type `ext2`. Use `mkswap` (page 472) to set up a swap area on a partition. You can use `e2label` (page 432) to label partitions.

**LVs: Logical Volumes**

When you ask Anaconda to partition the hard disk with a default layout (see “Disk Partitioning” on page 55), it uses LVM (page 35) to set up most of the hard disk, creating LVs instead of partitions. It places `/boot` on the first partition on the drive, not under the control of LVM. LVM creates a volume group (VG) named `VolGroup00`. Within this VG it creates two LVs: root `/`, `LogVol00` and swap (`LogVol01`). The swap LV occupies up to a few gigabytes; the root LV takes up the rest of the drive. This section explains how to make the root LV smaller so you can add additional LVs to `VolGroup00`.
If you click the Disk Druid LVM button with the default setup (with the root LV occupying all of the disk that is not occupied by the swap LV and the /boot partition), Disk Druid displays a dialog box that advises you that there are not enough physical volumes and suggests that you create a new partition. Because the existing partitions occupy the whole disk, you cannot create a new partition.

To make the root LV smaller and make room for additional partitions, first highlight the root partition (LogVol00) and then click Edit. Disk Druid displays the Edit LVM Volume Group window (Figure 3-23). The figure shows that VolGroup00 has no free space (see the line in the middle of the window). It shows two LVs: swap, which does not have a mount point, and root, with a mount point of /.

Highlight root (LogVol00) in the frame labeled Logical Volumes and click Edit. Disk Druid displays the Edit Logical Volume window (Figure 3-24), which allows you to change the size of the root LV. Replace the numbers in the text box labeled Size (MB) with the number of megabytes you want to assign to the root LV. Figure 3-24 shows the size of the root partition being changed to 100 gigabytes (100,000 megabytes). Click OK.

Once you decrease the size of the root partition, the Edit LVM Volume Group window shows that the VG has free space. You can now add another LV to the VG. Click Add in the Edit LVM Volume Group window to display the Make Logical Volume window (Figure 3-25). Select a mount point, filesystem type, and size for the LV. You can change the LV name if you like, although Disk Druid assigns logical, sequential names that are easy to use. Figure 3-25 shows a /home LV being created with a size of 80 gigabytes. Click OK when the LV is set up the way you want.
Figure 3-24  Disk Druid: Edit Logical Volume window

Figure 3-25  Disk Druid: Make Logical Volume window
Using the Kickstart Configurator

Kickstart is a Fedora/RHEL program that completely or partially automates the same installation and postinstallation configuration on one or more machines. To use Kickstart, you create a single file that answers all the questions that are normally asked during an installation. Anaconda then refers to this file instead of asking you questions during installation. See the `ks` boot parameter on page 66.

Using Kickstart, you can automate language selection, network configuration, keyboard selection, boot loader installation, disk partitioning, X Window System configuration, and more.

The `system-config-kickstart` utility (part of the `system-config-kickstart` package that you can install using `yum`; page 492) displays the Kickstart Configurator window (Figure 3-27), which creates a Kickstart installation script.

Figure 3-27 shows the first window the Kickstart Configurator displays. To generate a Kickstart file (`ks.cfg` by default), go through each section of this window (the items along the left side) and fill in the answers and put check marks in the appropriate boxes. It may be helpful to start with the Kickstart installation script that Anaconda generated when you installed the system (`/root/anaconda.cfg`). Click Help on the menubar for instructions on completing these tasks. When you are finished, click File→Save. The Kickstart Configurator gives you a chance to review the generated script before it saves the file.
Setting Up a Dual-Boot System

A dual-boot system is one that can boot one of two (or more) operating systems. This section describes how to add Fedora/RHEL to a system that can boot Windows, thereby creating a system that can boot Windows or Linux. You can use the same technique for adding Fedora/RHEL to a system that runs a different version or distribution of Linux.

One issue that arises when you are setting up a dual-boot system is the need to find disk space for the new Fedora/RHEL system. The next section discusses several ways to create the needed space.

Creating Free Space on a Windows System

Typically you install Fedora/RHEL in free space on a hard disk. To add Fedora/RHEL to a Windows system, you must have enough free space on a hard disk that already holds Windows. There are several ways to provide or create this free space. The following paragraphs discuss these options in order from easiest to most difficult.

- Add a new hard disk
- Use existing free space
- Resize Windows partitions

Add another hard disk to the system and install Linux on the new disk, which contains only free space. This technique is very easy and clean but requires a new hard disk.

If there is sufficient free space on the Windows disk, you can install Linux there. This technique is the optimal choice, but there is rarely enough free space on an installed hard disk.

Windows partitions often occupy the entire disk, making resizing a Windows partition the most commonly used technique to free up space. Windows systems typically use NTFS, FAT32, and/or FAT16 filesystems. You can use the GNOME Partition Editor to examine and resize an existing Windows partition to open up free space in which to install Linux (page 71).
 Always defragment before resizing

**caution** You must boot Windows and defragment a Windows partition before you resize it. Sometimes you may need to run the Windows defragmenter several times to consolidate most file fragments. Not only will defragmenting give you more space for a Linux partition, but it may also keep the process of setting up a dual-boot system from failing.

Remove a Windows partition
If you can delete a big enough Windows partition, you can install Linux in its place. To delete a Windows partition, you must have multiple partitions under Windows and be willing to lose the data in the partition you delete. In many cases, you can save this data by moving it from the partition you will delete to another Windows partition.

Once you are sure a partition contains no useful information, you can use the GNOME Partition Editor to delete it (page 70). After deleting the partition, you can install Fedora/RHEL in the free space formerly occupied by the partition you removed.

**INSTALLING FEDORA/RHEL AS THE SECOND OPERATING SYSTEM**
After you have created enough free space on a Windows system (see the previous section), you can begin installing Fedora/RHEL. When you get to the Disk Partitioning screen (Figure 3-7, page 55), choose *Use free space on selected drives and create default layout* to have Anaconda partition the free space on the hard disk automatically. If you need to delete a Windows partition, you must choose *Create custom layout*; this selection calls Disk Druid (page 66) so you can delete the appropriate Windows partition and create Linux partitions in the free space. When you boot the system, you will be able to choose which operating system you want to run.

**THE X WINDOW SYSTEM**
If you specified a graphical desktop environment such as GNOME or KDE, you installed the X.org (x.org) implementation of the X Window System when you installed Linux. The X Window System release X11R7.2 comprises almost 50 software packages. The X configuration files are kept in `/etc/X11`; the configuration file that guides the initial setup is `/etc/X11/xorg.conf`.

**Make a copy of xorg.conf**
Make a copy of the `/etc/X11/xorg.conf` file when you install or upgrade a system and each time the file is modified, such as when you install a new monitor or graphics card. The copy makes it a simple job to restore a system with a nonfunctional `xorg.conf` file.

**system-config-display: CONFIGURES THE DISPLAY**
The `system-config-display` utility displays the Display settings window (Figure 3-28), which allows you to configure X.org, including the monitor type and video card. Most users never need to run this utility; in almost all cases, Fedora/RHEL autoconfiguration sets up X.org to work properly. To run this utility, enter `system-config-display` on
a command line. From KDE, select **Main menu: System ➤ Display**; from GNOME, select **System: Administration ➤ Display**.

Figure 3-28 shows the Settings tab of the Display settings window, which allows you to specify the resolution and color depth for the monitor. Normally the system probes the monitor and fills in these values. If these values are missing, check the specifications for the monitor and select the appropriate values from the drop-down lists. No harm is done if you specify a lower resolution than the monitor is capable of displaying, but you can damage an older monitor by specifying a resolution that is higher than the monitor is capable of displaying. A color depth of 8 bits equates to 256 colors, 16 bits to thousands of colors, and 24 or 32 bits to millions of colors.

Next click the **Hardware** tab. The system normally probes for the monitor type and brand as well as the model of video card; these values appear next to the words **Monitor Type** and **Video Card**. You can manually select a monitor or video card. Figure 3-29 shows the Monitor window on top of the Hardware tab of the Display settings window.
Specifying a monitor
To specify a monitor, click **Configure** across from the words **Monitor Type**; **system-config-display** displays the Monitor window. If necessary, put a mark in the check box labeled **Show all available monitors**. Scroll down until you see the name of the manufacturer of the monitor you are using and click the triangle to the left of that name; **system-config-display** opens a list of models made by that manufacturer. Scroll through the list of models. Click to highlight the model you are using and then click **OK**. If an appropriate model is not listed, scroll to the top of the list and click the triangle next to **Generic CRT Display** or **Generic LCD Display**, depending on the type of monitor you are setting up. From one of these lists, select the maximum resolution the monitor is capable of displaying. Click **OK**.

Specifying a video card
To specify a video card, click **Configure** adjacent to the words **Video Card**; **system-config-display** displays the Video Card window. Scroll down and click to highlight the manufacturer and model of the video card in the system. Click **OK**.

Specifying two monitors
The Dual head tab allows you to specify a second video card that can drive a second monitor. On this tab, specify the monitor type, video card, resolution, and color depth as you did earlier. You can choose to have each monitor display a desktop or to have the two monitors display a single desktop (spanning desktops). Click **OK** to close the Display Settings window.

The **system-config-display** utility generates an **xorg.conf** file (discussed in the next section) with the information you entered.

The **xorg.conf** File
If you choose to edit **/etc/X11/xorg.conf** manually, read the notes at the top of the file. You may also want to refer to the **xorg.conf** man page. The **xorg.conf** file comprises sections that can appear in any order. Each section is formatted as follows:

```
Section "name"
  entry
  ...
EndSection
```

where **name** is the name of the section. A typical **entry** occupies multiple physical lines but is a single logical line, consisting of a keyword followed by zero or more integer, real, or string arguments. Keywords in these files are not case sensitive; underscores (\_) within keywords are ignored. Most strings are not case sensitive, and **SPACES** and underscores in most strings are ignored. All strings must appear within double quotation marks.

The Option keyword provides free-form data to server components and is followed by the name of the option and optionally by a value. All Option values must be enclosed within double quotation marks.

Boolean Options take a value of **TRUE** (1, **on**, **true**, yes) or **FALSE** (0, **off**, **false**, **no**); no value is the same as **TRUE**. You can prepend **No** to the name of a Boolean Option to reverse the sense of the Option.

The following sections can appear in an **xorg.conf** file:
This chapter covers the sections you are most likely to need to work with: ServerLayout, InputDevice, Monitor, Device, and Screen.

ServerLayout Section
The ServerLayout section appears first in some xorg.conf files because it summarizes the other sections that are used to specify the server. The following ServerLayout section names the server single head configuration and specifies that the server comprises the sections named Screen0, Mouse0, Keyboard0, and DevInputMice.

The term core in this file means primary; there must be exactly one CoreKeyboard and one CorePointer. The AlwaysCore argument indicates that the device reports core events and is used here to allow a non-USB mouse and a USB mouse to work at the same time. The result is that you can use either type of mouse interchangeably without modifying the xorg.conf file:

```
Section "ServerLayout"
  Identifier  "single head configuration"
  Screen   0  "Screen0" 0 0
  InputDevice "Mouse0" "CorePointer"
  InputDevice "Keyboard0" "CoreKeyboard"
  InputDevice "DevInputMice" "AlwaysCore"
EndSection
```

Refer to the following sections for explanations of the sections specified in ServerLayout.

InputDevice Section
There must be at least two InputDevice sections: one specifying the keyboard and one specifying the pointer (usually a mouse). An InputDevice section has the following format:

```
Section "InputDevice"
  Identifier "id_name"
  Driver "drv_name"
  options
...
EndSection
```
where \textit{id\_name} is a unique name for the device and \textit{drv\_name} is the driver to use for the device, typically \texttt{keyboard} or \texttt{mouse}. The \texttt{system-config-display} utility typically creates three InputDevice sections.

The following section defines a keyboard device named Keyboard0 that uses the \texttt{keyboard} driver. The keyboard model is a 105-key PC keyboard. You can change \texttt{pc105} to \texttt{microsoft} if you are using a U.S. Microsoft Natural keyboard, although the differences are minimal. The \texttt{us+inet} layout works similarly to the \texttt{us} layout and enables many multimedia keys on laptops and fancy keyboards.

\begin{verbatim}
Section "InputDevice"
  Identifier  "Keyboard0"
  Driver      "keyboard"
  Option      "XkbModel" "pc105"
  Option      "XkbLayout" "us+inet"
EndSection
\end{verbatim}

To change the language the keyboard supports, change the argument to the \texttt{XkbLayout} Option to, for example, \texttt{fr} for French.

The next InputDevice section defines a mouse named Mouse0 that uses the \texttt{mouse} driver. The Device Option specifies a PS2 device. The ZAxisMapping Option maps the Z axis (the mouse wheel) to virtual mouse buttons 4 and 5, which are used to scroll a window. For more information refer to “Remapping Mouse Buttons” on page 252. When set to \texttt{YES}, the Emulate3Buttons Option enables the user of a two-button mouse to emulate a three-button mouse by pressing the two buttons simultaneously.

\begin{verbatim}
Section "InputDevice"
  Identifier  "Mouse0"
  Driver      "mouse"
  Option      "Protocol" "IMPS/2"
  Option      "Device" "/dev/psaux"
  Option      "ZAxisMapping" "4 5"
  Option      "Emulate3Buttons" "no"
EndSection
\end{verbatim}

The next InputDevice section is similar to the previous one except that the Device Option specifies a USB mouse. See “ServerLayout Section” on page 83 for a discussion of this option.

\begin{verbatim}
Section "InputDevice"
  # If the normal CorePointer mouse is not a USB mouse then
  # this input device can be used in AlwaysCore mode to let you
  # also use USB mice at the same time.
  Identifier  "DevInputMice"
  Driver      "mouse"
  Option      "Protocol" "IMPS/2"
  Option      "Device" "/dev/input/mice"
  Option      "ZAxisMapping" "4 5"
  Option      "Emulate3Buttons" "no"
EndSection
\end{verbatim}
Monitor Section

The `xorg.conf` file frequently does not include a Monitor section because this section is required only for older and nonstandard displays. Typically Fedora/RHEL determines the characteristics of a monitor using the DDC (Display Data Channel) and EDID (Extended Display Identification Data).

The easiest way to set up this section is to use the `system-config-display` utility, which either determines the type of monitor automatically by probing or allows you to select from a list of monitors.

Do not guess at values for HorizSync or VertRefresh

If you configure the Monitor section manually, do not guess at the scan rates (HorizSync and VertRefresh); on older monitors, you can destroy the hardware by choosing scan rates that are too high.

The following section defines a monitor named Monitor0. The VendorName and ModelName are for reference only and do not affect the way the system works. The optional DisplaySize specifies the height and width of the screen in millimeters, allowing X to calculate the DPI of the monitor. HorizSync and VertRefresh specify ranges of horizontal sync frequencies and vertical refresh frequencies for the monitor; these values are available from the manufacturer. The dpms Option specifies that the monitor complies with DPMS (i.e., has energy-saving features; page 1056).

```
Section "Monitor"
    Identifier   "Monitor0"
    VendorName   "Monitor Vendor"
    ModelName    "Dell D1028L"
    DisplaySize  360 290
    HorizSync    31.0 - 70.0
    VertRefresh  50.0 - 120.0
    Option       "dpms"
EndSection
```

A Monitor section may mention DDC; a monitor can use DDC to inform a video card about its properties. If you omit or comment out the HorizSync and VertRefresh lines, X uses DDC probing to determine the proper values.

Device Section

The `xorg.conf` file must have at least one Device section to specify the type of video card in the system. The VendorName and BoardName are for reference only and do not affect the way the system works. The easiest way to set up this section is to use the `system-config-display` utility, which usually determines the type of video card by probing.
The following Device section specifies that Videocard0 uses the nv driver and locates it on the PCI bus (it may be either a PCI or AGP card):

```
Section "Device"
    Identifier "Videocard0"
    Driver "nv"
    VendorName "Videocard vendor"
    BoardName "NVIDIA GeForce4 (generic)"
    BusID "PCI:3:0:0"
EndSection
```

**Screen Section**

The xorg.conf file must contain at least one Screen section. This section binds a video card specified in the Device section to a display specified in the Monitor section.

The following Screen section specifies that Screen0 comprises Videocard0 and Monitor0, both defined elsewhere in the file. The DefaultDepth entry specifies the default color depth (page 1051), which the Display subsection can override.

Each Screen section must have at least one Display subsection. The subsection in the following example specifies a color Depth and three Modes. The Modes specify the screen resolutions in units of dots per inch (dpi). The first Mode is the default; you can switch between Modes while X is running by pressing `CONTROL-ALT-KEYPAD+` or `CONTROL-ALT-KEYPAD-`. You must use the plus or minus on the numeric keypad when giving these commands. X ignores invalid Modes.

```
Section "Screen"
    Identifier "Screen0"
    Device "Videocard0"
    Monitor "Monitor0"
    DefaultDepth 24
    SubSection "Display"
        Depth 24
        Modes "1024x768" "800x600" "640x480"
    EndSubSection
EndSection
```

If you omit or comment out the Depth and Modes lines, X uses DDC probing to determine the optimal values.

**Multiple Monitors**

X has supported multiple screens for a long time. X.org supports multimonitor configurations using either two graphics cards or a dual-head card. Both setups are usually configured the same way because the drivers for dual-head cards provide a secondary virtual device.

Traditionally each screen in X is treated as a single entity. That is, each window must be on one screen or another. More recently the Xinerama extension allows windows to be split across two or more monitors. This extension is supported by
The X Window System 87

X.org and works with most video drivers. When using Xinerama, you must set all screens to the same color depth.

For each screen, you must define Device, Monitor, and Screen sections in the xorg.conf file. These sections are exactly the same as for a single-screen configuration, but each screen must have a unique identifier. If you are using a dual-head card, the Device section for the second head is likely to require a BusID value to enable the driver to determine that you are not referring to the primary display.

The following section identifies the two heads on an ATI Radeon 8500 card. For other dual-head cards, consult the documentation provided with the driver (for example, give the command man mga to display information on the mga driver):

```
Section "Device"
Identifier "Videocard0"
Driver "radeon"
VendorName "ATI"
BoardName "Radeon 8500"
EndSection

Section "Device"
Identifier "Videocard1"
Driver "radeon"
VendorName "ATI"
BoardName "Radeon 8500"
BusID "PCI:1:5:0"
EndSection
```

Once you have defined the screens, use the ServerLayout section to tell X where they are in relation to each other. Each screen is defined in the following form:

```
Screen [ScreenNumber] "Identifier" Position
```

The ScreenNumber is optional. If it is omitted, X numbers screens in the order they are specified, starting with 0. The Identifier is the same Identifier used in the Screen sections. The Position can be either absolute or relative. The easiest way to define screen positions is to give one screen an absolute position, usually with the coordinates of the origin, and then to use the LeftOf, RightOf, Above, and Below keywords to indicate the positions of the other screens.

```
Section "ServerLayout"
Identifier "Multihead layout"
Screen 0 "Screen0" LeftOf "Screen1"
Screen 1 "Screen1" 0 0
InputDevice "Mouse0" "CorePointer"
InputDevice "Keyboard0" "CoreKeyboard"
InputDevice "DevInputMice" "AlwaysCore"
Option "Xinerama" "on"
Option "Clone" "off"
EndSection
```

By default, Xinerama causes multiple screens to act as though they were a single screen. Clone causes each of the screens to display the same image.
gdm: **Displays a Graphical Login**

Traditionally users logged in on a textual terminal and then started the X server. Today most systems provide a graphical login. Fedora/RHEL uses the GNOME display manager (gdm) to provide this functionality, even if you are bringing up a KDE desktop.

**Configuring gdm**

The gdmsetup utility configures the login presented by gdm by editing the heavily commented /etc/gdm/custom.conf file. By default, root can log in both locally and remotely. It is a good idea to disable remote root logins because, when a user logs in remotely using gdm, the password is sent in cleartext across the network. From GNOME, you can select **System: Administration**» Login Window to configure gdm.

**Using kdm**

The kdm utility is the KDE equivalent of gdm. There is no benefit in using kdm in place of gdm: Both perform the same function. Using gdm does not force you to use GNOME.

The configuration file for kdm, /etc/kde3/kdm/kdmrc, is heavily commented. You can edit the kdm configuration using the KDE control panel, but doing so removes the comments from the file.

**More Information**

- Web X.org: X.org, freedesktop.org
- X.org documentation: ftp.x.org/pub

**Chapter Summary**

Most installations of Fedora/RHEL begin by booting from the Live CD or the Install DVD. When the system boots from the CD/DVD, it displays a message saying when it will boot automatically. During the time it displays this message, you can give various commands and then have the system continue booting.

The program that installs Fedora/RHEL is named Anaconda. Anaconda identifies the hardware, builds the filesystems, and installs or upgrades the Fedora/RHEL operating system. It can run in textual or graphical (default) interactive mode or in batch mode using Kickstart. Anaconda does not write to the hard disk until it displays the Begin Installation screen. Until it displays this screen, you can press CONTROL-ALT-DEL to abort the installation without making any changes to the hard disk.

The Disk Druid graphical disk-partitioning program can add and delete partitions and logical volumes (LVs) on a hard disk during installation. The gparted and parted utilities report on and manipulate hard disk partitions before or after installation. The system-config-lvm utility works with logical volumes after installation.
A dual-boot system can boot one of two operating systems, frequently Windows and Linux. The biggest task in setting up a dual-boot system, assuming you want to add Linux to a Windows system, is finding enough disk space to hold Linux.

Fedora/RHEL uses the X.org X Window System version X11R7.2. The file named /etc/X11/xorg.conf configures the X server, setting up the monitor, mouse, and graphics card. The system-config-display utility is a graphical editor for this file.

Fedora/RHEL uses the GNOME display manager (gdm) to provide a graphical login, even if you are using a KDE desktop. The gdmsetup utility configures the login presented by gdm by editing the /etc/gdm/custom.conf file.

**Exercises**

1. What is the difference between Xinerama and traditional multimonitor X11?
2. Which boot parameter would you use to begin an FTP installation?
3. Describe the Anaconda installer.
4. Where on the disk should you put your /boot partition or the root (/) partition if you do not use a /boot partition?
5. If the graphical installer does not work, what three things should you try?
6. When should you specify an ext2 filesystem instead of ext3?
7. Describe Disk Druid.

**Advanced Exercises**

8. When does a Fedora/RHEL system start X by default?
9. If you do not install grub on the master boot record of the hard disk, how can you boot Linux?
10. Why would you place /var at the beginning of the disk?
11. Assume you have configured four screens, screen0 through screen3. How would you instruct X.org that your screen layout was a T shape, with the first screen at the bottom and the other three screens in a row above it?
INDEX

Note: Only variables that must always appear with a leading dollar sign are indexed with a leading dollar sign. Other variables are indexed without a leading dollar sign.

SYMBOLS

! Boolean operator, 313, 970, 974
! variable, 321
!! to reexecute the previous event, 321
!$ last word of the previous event, 323
# comment, 289, 871
# prompt, 405
# variable, 947
#! to choose a script shell, 288
#define C preprocessor directive, 859, 860
#include C preprocessor directive, 859, 860
#include C preprocessor directive, 861
$ in regular expressions, 996
$ in variable name, 301
$! variable, 946
$@ variable, 919, 948
$[ ] expand variable, 951
$[ ] variable, 947
% job number, 232, 295
& background, 231, 292, 293, 294, 316, 946, 1046
& & bitwise operator, 970, 973
& & in replacement string, 999, 1002
& & & Boolean operator, 313, 506, 967, 971, 972, 974
((...)) See Arithmetic evaluation
() command grouping, 293
() in shell functions, 336
* in regular expressions, 996
* special character, 234
*/ C comment, 859
+ in full regular expressions, 1000
. (dot) builtin, 283, 337, 957, 965
. directory, 187, 234, 474
. in regular expressions, 995
./ to execute a file in the working directory, 287, 307
.. directory, 187, 234, 474
.. filename extension, 863, 866
.autofsck file, 485
.bash_history file, 316
.bash_login file, 281
.bash_logout file, 281
.bash_profile file, 281, 317, 462
.bashrc file, 184, 281, 462
.bmp filename extension, 181
.bz2 filename extension, 152, 181
.C filename extension, 871
.c filename extension, 181, 859, 865, 871
.c++ filename extension, 871
.cc filename extension, 871
.conf filename extension, 435
.config file, 541
.cpp filename extension, 871
.cshrc file, 1053
.cxx filename extension, 871
.db filename extension, 759, 761
.f filename extension, 871
.forward file, 646, 652
.gif filename extension, 181
.gz filename extension, 153, 181
.h filename extension, 861, 871

1091
.htaccess file, 820, 850
.html filename extension, 824
.htm filename extension, 824
.htpasswd file, 850
.inputrc file, 329
.jpeg filename extension, 181, 1065
.jpg filename extension, 181, 1065
.l filename extension, 871
.ldif filename extension, 683
.login file, 1067
.logout file, 1067
.m filename extension, 871
.netrc file, 619
.o filename extension, 181, 863, 865, 871
.pdf filename extension, 181
.pgppkey file, 161
.php filename extension, 824
.plan file, 160
.ppd filename extension, 526
.profile file, 281, 462, 1075
.project file, 161
.ps filename extension, 181
.repo filename extension, 491
.rhosts file, 377, 1023
.rpmnew filename extension, 28
.s filename extension, 865, 871
.sh filename extension, 871
.shtml filename extension, 824
.so filename extension, 863, 866
.ssh directory, 593
.tar.bz2 filename extension, 154
.tar.gz filename extension, 154
.tar.Z filename extension, 154, 181
.tbz filename extension, 154
.tgz filename extension, 181
.tif filename extension, 181, 1086
.tif filename extension, 181, 1086
.toprc file, 563
.txt filename extension, 181, 235
.tz filename extension, 154
.var filename extension, 824
.y filename extension, 871
.Z filename extension, 153, 181
/ (root) directory, 32
/ directory (root), 180, 188
/* C comment, 859
/bin, 188
false file, 469
/boot, 188
grub/grub.conf file, 537, 545
location, 74
partition, 32, 544
/dev, 189, 220, 1068
null file, 558
 pts file, 463
 random file, 463
 rmt/0 file, 557
 special files, 475
 st0 file, 558
 tty file, 958
 urandom file, 463
 zero file, 464
 /dev directory, 889

login.defs file, 468, 551
logrotate.conf file, 571
logrotate.d directory, 571
mail directory, 647, 650
motd file, 128, 425, 467, 469, 564
mtab file, 467
named.conf file, 756, 763, 764, 777, 782
netgroup file, 467
nologin.txt file, 456, 469
nsswitch.conf file, 387, 425, 449, 468, 668, 755
ntp.conf file, 389
opt directory, 189
pam.conf file, 457
pam.d directory, 452, 455, 457, 468
passwd file, 305, 424, 468, 565, 667, 919, 920, 1060, 1088
printcap file, 469
profile file, 281, 412, 425, 469
protocols file, 469, 799
rc.d
directory hierarchy, 422, 469
init.d
about, 419
independent services, 421
init scripts, 418
kudzu file, 432
rc file, 418
rc.local file, 420
rc.sss.ini file, 418, 485
rcv.d directory, 418
resolv.conf file, 469, 583, 757
rpc file, 392, 470
rsyslog.conf file, 390, 574
security file, 407
security/access.conf file, 407
setux.conf file, 415
services file, 388, 392, 470
shadow file, 424, 470
share/magic file, 473
shells file, 432
skel directory, 551
ssh directory, 593
sudoers file, 406
sysconfig, 471
/ httpd file, 814, 841
hwconf file, 432
iptables file, 793, 803, 808
iptables-config file, 793
named file, 756, 775
network file, 671, 676
rsyslog file, 575
selinux file, 415
yppasswd file, 682
sysctl.conf file, 537
termcap file, 1085
vtsipd
chroot_list file, 636
ftpusers file, 636
user_list file, 636
X11, 80
xorg.conf file, 80
xinetd.conf file, 421, 439
xinetd.d directory, 421, 439
yp.conf file, 672
ypserv.conf file, 676
yum.conf file, 490
yum.repos.d directory, 490, 491
/home directory, 189
/home partition, 32
/lib, 189
gcc and, 864
modules directory, 189, 544
security directory, 452, 455
/lost+found directory, 429
/mnt directory, 189
/opt directory, 33, 189, 504
/proc
contents, 189
filesystem, 471, 480
fs/nfs file, 708
mounts file, 467
sys file, 538
/root, 189
anaconda-ks.cfg file, 60
install.log file, 60
/sbin, 189
Superuser commands, 405
/sys directory, 189
/tmp directory, 189, 571, 933
/usr, 189
bin directory, 189
doc directory, 121, 190
games directory, 189
include, 189
C preprocessor, 861
info directory, 190
lib, 189
directory, 867
gcc, 864
shared libraries, 866
terminfo directory, 1085
local, 189, 504
local partition, 33
man directory, 190
partition, 33
pub/ascii file, 1045
sbin, 190
daemons, 388
Superuser commands, 405
share, 190
magic file, 1068
src directory, 190, 538
/var directory, 190, 538
/ftp directory, 625
lib/nfs/xtab file, 708, 713
disk usage, 571
lastlog file, 190
mailbox file, 569
messages file, 190, 453, 473, 566, 569, 570, 773, 1004
secure file, 453, 473, 1004
vtsipd.log file, 636
wtmp file, 190, 572
log directory, 1024
mail directory, 571
named directory, 764, 770
partition, 32
spool, 1004
disk usage, 571
mail directory, 307
mqueue file, 644
tmp directory, 571
www
Apache files, 819
html directory, 814, 816, 819
: (null) builtin, 952, 961, 965
:= assign default value, 951
:= substitute default value, 951
:= display error message, 952
; command separator, 290
< redirect standard input, 224, 284, 1044
<& duplicate input file descriptor, 938
<< Here document, 935, 1044
> redirect standard output, 222, 225, 284, 285, 1044
>&& duplicate output file descriptor, 285, 938
>> append standard output, 226, 1044
? in full regular expressions, 1000
? special character, 233
@ in a network address, 374, 375, 376
@ variable, 919
@ with email, 376
[] character class, 235, 995, 1050
[...[...] builtin, 968. See also
Conditional expression
\ escape character, 138, 291, 301
\ in regular expressions, 998
\ in regular expressions, 998
\ in replacement strings, 1002
^ bitwise operator, 970
^ in regular expressions, 996
^ quick substitution character, 324
[ expansion, 344
[ in a shell function, 336
[ bitwise operator, 970
[ Boolean operator, 1000
[ in full regular expressions, 1000
pipe, 228, 285, 292
|| Boolean operator, 313, 967, 971, 972, 973
] expansion, 344
] in a shell function, 336
~ (tilde) expansion, 183, 305, 345
~ home directory, 305. See also
Home directory
~ in pathnames, 183
` ...` . See Command,
substitution

**NUMERICS**

0< redirect standard input, 284
1> redirect standard output, 284
100BaseT cable, 361
10Base2 cable, 361
10BaseT cable, 361
2> redirect standard error, 284
3-DES encryption, 1017
802.11, 1044
A

~a Boolean operator, 911, 967
a filename extension, 863, 866
a.out file, 864
Abort execution, 130
Absolute pathname, 183, 218, 311, 1044
accept utility, 529
Access, 1044
Access Control List. See ACL
access file, 650
Access permission, 194, 288, 1044
change using chmod, 194
defined, 193
directory, 196
display using ls, 193
eexecute, 193, 287
group, 193
other, 193
owner, 193
read, 193
write, 193
access.conf file, 407
Accessibility, 111
Account, FTP, 468
accton utility, 1024
ACL, 197, 1019, 1041, 1044
access rules, 198
default rules, 201
effective rights mask, 200
acpi boot parameter, 65
acpid daemon, 388
Active View Indicator, Konqueror, 270
Active window, 131, 1044
Add
device, 432
software package, 489, 502
user, 550, 551
add command (evs), 893
addbanner shell script, 961
Address
IP, 1064
class, 368
representation, 367
MAC, 448, 1067
mask, 371, 1044
network, 374, 1071
space, private, 582, 1075
adduser utility, 551
adfs filesystem, 478
Administrator, system. See System, administrator
Advanced Encryption Standard. See AES encryption
AES encryption, 1017
affs filesystem, 478
AIDE utility, 413, 1023, 1028
AIM, 358
Algorithm, 975
Alias, 1044
bash, 332
double versus single quotation marks, 333
email, 645
quotation marks, 333
recursion, 332
recursive plunge, 335
single versus double quotation marks, 333
alias builtin, 332
aliases file, 464, 567, 645, 652
Alphanumeric character, 1044
amanda utility, 554
Ambiguous file reference, 233, 1044
American National Standards Institute, 9
Anaconda, 53
anacoda.cfg file, 78
anacoda-ks.cfg file, 60
anacon utility, 559
anacrontab file, 559
AND bitwise operator, 370, 371
AND Boolean operator, 911, 967
Andressen, Marc, 395
Angle bracket, 1044
ANI, 1026
Animate, 1045
Angles, 975
Apache, 811
 Antarpis, 811
htaccess context, 824
.htaccess file, 820, 850
.htpasswd file, 850
<Directory> container, 825, 842
<File> container, 825
<iFModule> container, 826, 841
<iLimit> container, 826
<iLimitExcept> container, 827
<iLocation> container, 827
<iLocationMatch> container, 828
<iVirtualHost> container, 828, 844
AddHandler directive, 832
Alias directive, 832
Allow directive, 838
AllowOverride directive, 839
authentication modules, 850
CGI, 847, 851
Common Gateway Interface. See Apache, CGI
configuration directives. See Apache, directives
containers, 825
color, 812, 814, 816
colors, 824
Deny directive, 839
directives, 820
control content, 832
color processes, 828
colors, 838
directory context, 824
directory listings, 844
DirectoryIndex directive, 823, 843
document root, 814
directoryRoot directive, 822, 842
dynamic shared objects, 812, 846
dynamic code, 852
ErrorDocument directive, 833
ErrorLog directive, 831
Fedora test page, 842
files, where to find, 818
filesystem layout, 818
group apache, 814
group directive, 836
HostnameLookups directive, 830
httpd daemon and, 814
httpd directory, 819
httpd.conf file, 815, 820, 840
HTTPS protocol, 847
Include directive, 836, 842
index.htm file, 824
index.html file, 824
index.php file, 824
index.shtml file, 824
indexing, 844
IndexOptions directive, 833
JumpStart
  Apache, getting up and running, 814
  Apache, setting up with system-config-httpd, 816
Listen directive, 821, 841
LoadModule directive, 837, 842
log, 819
LogLevel directive, 831
logresolve utility, 830
MaxClients directive, 828
MaxRequestsPerChild directive, 829
MaxSpareServers directive, 829
MinSpareServers directive, 829
mod_perl module, 851
mod_python module, 851
mod_ssl module, 847
modules, 812, 846
more information, 813
MRTG, 852
multiviews, 844
Options directive, 837
Order directive, 840
pathname, 820
Perl, 851
PHP, 851
prerequisites, 813
privileged port, 814
process, defined, 814
public_html directory, 823
Python, 851
redirect, 843
RHEL test page, 842
root permission, 814
ScriptAlias directive, 838
scripting modules, 851
self-signed certificate, 848
server config context, 824
server, defined, 814
ServerAdmin directive, 815, 821, 842
ServerName directive, 815, 822, 842
ServerRoot directive, 835, 841
ServerSignature directive, 836
ServerTokens directive, 835, 841
Software Foundation, 811
special directives. See Apache, containers
SSL, 847
StartServers directive, 830
system-config-httpd utility, 816
terminology, 814
test page, 842
testing, 815
timeout directive, 830
troubleshooting, 845
UseCanonicalName directive, 831, 843
User directive, 838
UserDir directive, 823
Users publishing content, 823
virtual host context, 824
virtual hosts, 844
webalizer utility, 851
www directory, 819
API, 1045
apic boot parameter, 65
apm boot parameter, 65
apm utility, 428
apmd daemon, 388
Append, 1045
Append standard output, 226
Applet, 97, 1045
AppleTalk, 371
Application programmer, 889
X Window System, 247
apropos utility, 63, 116, 157, 1005
Archive, 1045
library, using, 866
pack using tar, 153
shell, 936
unpack using tar, 153
Argument, 185, 214, 1045
command line, 948
display, 948
testing, 906
Arithmetic
  bash, 966
  expansion, 346
  expression, 1045
  Arithmetic evaluation, 966
example, 921, 944, 967
Array, 1045
ASCII, 1045
ascii file, 1045
ASCII terminal, 1045
ASP, 1045
aspell utility, 921, 923
Assembly language, 9, 863
Asterisk special character, 996
Asymmetric encryption. See
  Public key encryption
Asynchronous communication, 476
Asynchronous event, 1046
at utility, 388, 464, 559
AT&T Bell Laboratories, 5, 280
at.allow file, 464
at.deny file, 464
atd daemon, 388
Athena, Project, 246
ATM link, 360
Attachment, 1046
Attribute, LDAP, 683
authconfig utility, 430
Authenticated relaying, email, 662
Authentication, 1046
  Apache, 850
database, 1025
  OpenSSH, 592, 594, 596
user, 424
authorized_keys file, 593
auto_master file, 715
autofs filesystem, 478, 714
Automatic
  mounting, 388, 1046
  number identification, 1026
automount daemon, 388, 715, 716
automount utility, 714
Avoided, 1046
B
B language, 9
Back door, 1046
Back tick, 349, 1051
Background
  command grouping, 293
defined, 231
desktop, 104
foreground, versus, 231
job control, 13, 294
PID stored in $!, 946
process, 316, 1046
running a command in, 231
symbol (&), 292
INDEX

BACKSLASH escape character, 138, 291, 301
BACKSLASH in replacement strings, 999
BACKSPACE key, 129
Backup
active filesystem, 553
amanda, 554
cpio utility, 555
dump level, 557
failing to perform, 564
file, 552, 557
full, 553
incremental, 553
media, 553
offsite, 553
policy, 553
simple, 556
tar utility, 554
utilities, 554
badtabs.c program, 877
basename utility, 931, 932, 961
bash, 1048
<& duplicate input file descriptor, 938
>& duplicate output file descriptor, 938
alias, 332
arguments, 948
arithmetic evaluation, 966
example, 921, 944, 967
operators, 969
arithmetic expansion, 346
operators, 969
array variables, 940
attribute
array, 304
export, 304
function, 304
integer, 304, 305
readonly, 303, 304
background, 280
builtin
exec, 937
getopts, 962
typeset, 944
close file, 938
command
process, 342
substitution, 348
command line, order of expansion, 301
conditional expression, 967
example, 939, 963
control structure. See Control, structure
directory stack manipulation, 296
editing previous commands, 318, 319
emacs command line editor, 327
event number, 317
expand null variable, 951
expand unset variable, 951
expression, 969
features, 338
file descriptor, 937
globbing, 349
history mechanism, 316, 320
makepath shell script, 975
menu, 933
open file, 937
operator, 969
bitwise, 973
remainder, 972
short-circuiting, 972
ternary, 973
options. See bash, features
overlay, 290
pathname completion, 328
process substitution, 351
program structures, 974
programming, 974
prompt, 307
PS3 prompt, 934
quick substitution, 325
quiz shell script, 978
quotatation mark removal, 343
recursion, 975
redirection operators, 286
reexecuting events, 318, 319
REPLY keyword variable, 934
signal names, 959, 962
special characters, 138
standard error. See Standard, error
standard input. See Standard, input
standard output. See Standard, output
startup files, 281
string pattern matching, 968
substitution, quick, 323
symbolic link, 207
ternary operator, 971
tilde substitution, 345
variable
See also Variable
array, 940
assign default value, 951
BASH_ENV variable, 282
COLUMNS variable, 934
display error message, 952
expansion, 951
LINES variable, 934
modifier, 951
OPTARG variable, 963
OPTIND variable, 963
PS3 variable, 934
REPLY variable, 934, 954
substitute default value, 951
vi command line editor, 326
vim command line editor, 326
-x option, 916
BASH_ENV variable, 282
bashrc file, 425
Baud, 1047
Baud rate, 1047
BCPL language, 9
Bell Laboratories. See AT&T Bell Laboratories
Berkeley
DB, 682
Internet Name Domain. See DNS
UNIX, 6, 14, 1047
Berners-Lee, Tim, 395
bg builtin, 231, 295, 965
bin directory, 306
Binary file, 287
Binary files, fixing broken, 867
BIND, 1047. See also DNS
bind builtin, 330
Binding, key, 1065
BIOS, 1047
boot from CD, 26
security, 569
setup, 26
birthday shell script, 935
bison utility, 16
Bit, 1047
bucket, 227, 462
depth, 1047
Bit-mapped display, 1047
BitTorrent, 498
bittorrent-curses utility, 499
download from the command line, 499
manner, 499
obtaining Fedora using, 41
peer, 499
prerequisites, 499
seed, 499
torrent, 499
torrent information, displaying, 500
torrentinfo-console utility, 500
tracker, 499
bittorrent-curses utility, 499

Bitwise operator
&
^,
|,
AND, 370, 371

Blank character, 138, 301, 1047, 1082
Block, 1047
device, 477, 1047
number, 1047
special file, 1047
Blocking factor, 1048
Blowfish encryption, 1017

Bmp filename extension, 181
Bookmark
Konqueror, 266
toolbar, Konqueror, 268

Boolean
Boolean operator, 972
!, 313, 970, 974
&&, 313, 506, 971, 972, 974
l, 1000
ll, 313, 967, 971, 972, 973
~a, 911, 967
NOT, 974
~o, 967

Boot, 1048
bootstrap, 1048
Linux, 545
loader, 1048
loader, grub, 545
netboot, 1070
options, 63
options, kernel, 537
parameter
modifying, 63
quiet, 50
splash, 50
reconfigure, 432
system, the, 48, 417
boot partition, 32, 544
Bootstrap, 1048
Bottleneck, network, 381
Bourne, Steve, 280, 1048
Bourne Shell (original), 280. See also sb
Brace, 1048
around a variable, 302
expansion, 344
shell functions, 336
Bracket, 1048
class, 995
filename expansion, 235
Branch, 1048
break control structure, 926, 965
Bridge, network, 1048
Bringing the system down, 426
Broadcast, 1048
about, 370
address, 1048
network, 360, 1048
packet, 367
unicast, versus, 367
Browser, 395
Firefox, 100
Konqueror, 106
Lynx (text only), 396
Mosaic, 395
Mozilla, 393, 395, 396, 507, 1076
BSD. See Berkeley, UNIX
Buffer, 1049
disk, 427
primary, 102
selection, 102
Bug, 506, 1049
BugSplat, 507
Bugtraq, 1024
Bugzilla, 507
defect-tracking system, 507
system, 506
BuiltIn, 237, 906, 952, 1049
(dot), 283, 957, 963
: (null), 952, 961, 963
[[...]], 968
alias, 332
bash, list of, 965
bg, 231, 295, 965
bird, 330
cd, 186, 207, 293, 305, 311, 965
command, 1049
command, editing using fe, 320
declare, 303, 304
dirs, 296
echo, 149, 234, 301, 930, 945,
953, 961, 965
eval, 337, 965
exec, 286, 937, 956, 965
execution of, 316
exit, 125, 946, 961, 965
export, 304, 305, 469, 942, 965
fc, 318
fg, 232, 295, 965
getopts, 962, 965
history, 316, 317
jobs, 130, 232, 294, 296, 965
kill, 130, 232, 252, 408, 409,
410, 567, 933, 960, 962, 965
let, 347, 966
locale, 312
null, 961, 965
popd, 298
pushd, 297
pwd, 182, 186, 965
read, 923, 924, 929, 953, 954,
966
readonly, 303, 304, 305, 966
set, 304, 913, 915, 916, 950,
951, 966
shift, 949, 964, 966
source, 283
test, 905, 906, 907, 911, 915,
918, 920, 966
times, 966
tput, 925
trap, 925, 959, 966
type, 953, 966
typeset, 944
ulimit, 881
umask, 433, 469
unalias, 332, 335
unset, 303, 336, 966
utility, versus, 906
wait, 966
bundle shell script, 936
bunzip2 utility, 152, 156
Burning installation CD/DVD, 41
Byte, 1049
bz2 filename extension, 152, 181
bzcat utility, 153
bzip2 utility, 152, 156, 556
bzip2recover utility, 153
C

C. See C programming language
C filename extension, 871
C filename extension, 181, 859, 865, 871
C programming language, 1049
#include preprocessor directive, 861
a.out file, 864
about, 8, 9
archived library, 866
assembler, 862
badtabs.c program, 877
comments, 859
compiler
phase, 862
using, 862
warning options, 878
debugging, 876
function prototype, 861
functions, 858
getchar function, 861
header file, 861, 862
include file, 861, 862
library, 858
getpwnam() function, 669
getpwuid() function, 669
libc.so, 863
libm.so, 863
libwrap.a, 439, 441
link editor, 862
macro expansion, 860
main function, 862
object file, 863, 864
optimizer, 864
portability, 9
preprocessor, 859, 862
preprocessor directives, 859
programming, 858
putchar function, 861
sample program, 859
shared library, 866
statically linked library, 866
stdio.h header file, 861
symbolic debugger, 880
tabs.c program, 859
c++ filename extension, 871
C++ programming language, 9
C89 programming language, 9
Cable
10Base2, 361
10BaseT, 361
Category 5, 361
Category 5e, 361
Category 6, 359, 361
Category 7, 359
coaxial, 361
fiberoptic, 361
glass, 361
modem, 1049
thicknet, 361
thinner, 361
twisted pair, 361
unshielded twisted pair, 361
UTP, 361
Cache, 1049
Cache, DNS. See DNS, cache
Caching-only server. See DNS, cache
Call by value, 942
Caller ID, 1026
Calling environment, 1049
Calling program, name of, 947
cancel utility, 523
Care in regular expressions, 996
Cascading windows, 1049
case control structure, 927
Case-sensitive, 1049
domain name, not, 386
filename, 181
password, 128
cat utility, 139, 221, 223, 224, 284, 910
Category 5 cable, 361
Category 5e cable, 361
Category 6 cable, 359, 361
Category 7 cable, 359
Catenate, 139, 224, 1049
cc filename extension, 871
CD
download, burn, and install
Fedora, 37
Live, 24
rescue, 42
red builtin, 186, 207, 293, 305, 311, 965
CDPATH variable, 311
CERN, 395
CERT, 1024, 1028
CGI, 847
Chain loading, 1050
Change
access permission using chmod, 194
directories using cd, 186
filename using mv, 142
password using passwd, 126
Character
alphanumeric, 1044
class, 235, 1050
device, 477, 1050
escaping, 291
list. See Character, class
quoting, 291
special file, 1050
typeface, 17
Character-based, 1050
Character-based terminal, 1050
checkout command (evas), 892, 896
Checksum, 1050
Child
directory, 179, 180
process, 314, 316, 1050
chkargs shell script, 906, 908
chkconfig utility, 422
chkrootkit utility, 1028
echmod utility, 194, 288
echmod() system call, 889
echown() system call, 889
echroot jail
BIND, 774
DNS, 774
FTP, 628
named daemon, 774
running a service in, 444
security considerations, 444
setting up, 442
using, 442
evftpd, 628
echroot_list file (vsftpd), 636
echsh utility, 432
CIDR, 371, 1050
CIFS, 1050
CIPE, 1051
Cipher, 1051
Ciphertext, 1014, 1051
Clark, Jim, 395
Class
clear screen, 163
clear utility, 432
cleartext, 1051
CLI, 1051
Click explained, 96
Click-to-focus, 131
CLID, 1026
Client, 1051
Client, specifying, 435
Client/server model, 247, 384, 386, 395, 441, 613, 667, 697
Clipboard, KDE, 275
Clipboard, X Window System, 103
Close files, bash, 938
close() system call, 889
CMOS setup, 26
CN, LDAP, 683
Coaxial cable, 361
coda filesystem, 478
Code, reentrant, 1077
CODEC, 1051
Collating sequence, machine, 1067
Colon (:) builtin, 952
Color
  depth, 251, 1051
  quality, 1051
  window
  GNOME, 264
  KDE, 274
COLUMNS variable, 934
Combo box, 1051
Comer, Doug, 4
Command, 214, 1051
  ; separator, 290
  argument, 214
  builtin, 237, 316, 1049
  completion, 328
  control flow. See Control,
  structure
  control structure. See Control,
  structure
  editing previous, 319
  execution of, 316
  export, 462
  grouping, 290, 293
  interpreter, 105
  mode, vim, 166
  name, 214
  NEWLINE separator, 290
  option, 215
  process, 342
  reexecuting previous, 319
  repeating, 131
  run remotely, ssh, 598
  separation, 290
  separator, 291, 908
  substitution, 348, 915, 932, 1051
  summary, 965
  syntax, 214
  terminator, 291
  usage message, 214, 908, 914
Command line, 214, 1051
  argument, 214, 947
  editing, 326
  execution, 219
  expansion, 301, 343
  interface, 1051
  option, 215
  parse, 217, 342
  processing, 217, 301
  syntax, 214
  token, 214, 342
  whitespace, 291
  word, 214, 342
command_menu shell script, 929
Comments
  C programs, 859
  makefile, 871
  shell scripts, 289
commit command (eves), 893
Common Name, LDAP, 683
Common UNIX Printing System. See CUPS
Communication
  interprocess, 148, 476
  network, 374
  write, 162
comp.lang.c newsgroup, 393
comp.os.linux.announce
  newsgroup, 394
comp.os.linux.answers
  newsgroup, 413, 1007
comp.os.linux.misc
  newsgroup, 393, 394, 413, 1007
comp.os.linux.networking
  newsgroup, 394
comp.os.linux.security
  newsgroup, 394
comp.os.linux.setup
  newsgroup, 394
comp.security.firewalls
  newsgroup, 1023
Compare files using diff, 147
Compiling a C program, 862
Compiz Fusion, 133
Completion
  command, 328
  pathname, 328
Readline Library, 328
  variable, 329
Component architecture, 1051
Components, KDE, 254
Compress
  bunzip2, 156
  bzip2, 152, 156, 556
  bzip2recover, 153
  compress, 153, 181
  gzip, 153
  OpenSSH, 610
  uncompress, 181
  unzip, 153
  zip, 153
compress utility, 153, 181
Computer Systems Research
  Group, 6
Computer, diskless, 1055
Computing, distributed, 383, 1055
Concatenate. See Catenate
Concurrent Versions System. See cvs command
Condition code. See Exit status
Conditional expression, 967
Conditional expression, 939, 963
conf filename extension, 435
config file, 415, 601
corfs directory, 541
Configure
  and Build System, 504
  daemon, 422
  desktop window, 104
  monitor, 82
  Panel window, 113
  video card, 82
configure shell script, 505
Connectionless, protocol, 1052
Connection-oriented protocol, 366, 1052
Console
  single-user mode, 423
  system, 125
  terminal, 1052
  virtual, 125, 1088
consolehelper utility, 408, 427
Content, Apache, 812
Context menu, 102
continue control structure, 926, 965
INDEX

Control bar, Nautilus, 258 Center, KDE, 109 character, 1052 characters, printer, 930 flow. See Control, structure job, 231 structure, 904, 1052 break, 926, 965 case, 927 continue, 926, 965 do, 917, 918, 920, 924 done, 917, 918, 920, 924 elif, 911 else versus fi, 911 else, 908 esac, 927 fi, 904, 908, 911 fi versus elif, 911 for, 917, 918, 961 for...in, 917, 918 if, 904, 908, 911 if...then, 904 if...then...elif, 911 if...then...else, 908 in, 917 select, 933 shell scripts, 287 then, 904, 908, 911 two-way branch, 908 until, 924 while, 920, 956, 961 control key, 17 control-c key, 102, 130 control-d key, 125, 222, 296 control-h key, 129, 138, 169, 217 control-l key, 163, 171 control-m key, 138 control-q key, 128 control-r key, 163 control-u key, 129, 138, 169, 217 control-v key, 102, 138 control-w key, 129, 169, 217 control-x key, 102, 129 control-z key, 231, 295 Conventions book, used in this, 16 end line key, 17 file naming, 235 Convert file to/from Windows format, 151 Cookie, 1052 Coordinated Universal Time. See UTC Copy buffer, 102 directory recursively using mv, 474 directory, shell script, 293 file using cp, 141, 192 Copyleft, 5 Core dump, 881 memory, 881 core file, 570, 571, 881 Correct typing mistakes, 129 count shell script, 921 cp utility, 141, 192, 293 cp versus ln, 204 cpdir shell script, 293 cpio utility, 555, 556 cpp filename extension, 871 CPU, 1052 CPU intensive processes, report on, 562 crack utility, 568 Cracker, 1053 Crash, 428, 1053 Crash flag, 485 creat() system call, 889 Create directory using mkdir, 185 file using vim, 164 file, null, 462 Creation date, file, display using Is, 193 cron directory, 389 cron.* directories, 559 cron.allow file, 464 cron.d directory, 389 cron.deny file, 464 crond daemon, 389, 559 crontab file, 389 crontab utility, 464, 559 Cryptography, 1053. See also Encryption csh, 1049 CSRG, 6 CSS, 1049, 1053 CUPS, 512 adding a printer, 527 command line interface, 526 configuring a printer, 524 JumpStart, configuring a local printer, 513 JumpStart, configuring a remote printer, 518 KDE printing manager, 531 lpadmin utility, 527 lprinfo utility, 526 modifying a printer, 527 more information, 513 PPD files, 526 prerequisites, 512 print queue, 529 printing from Windows, 532 printing quotas, 529 printing to Windows, 534 sharing printers, 529 Web interface, 524 winprinter, 517 cups directory, 529 cupsd.conf file, 529 Current, 1053 Current directory. See Working directory Cursor, 1053 custom.conf file, 88, 89 Customize the desktop, 109 Cut and paste, 102 cut utility, 347 cvs command add, 893 checkout, 892, 896 commit, 893 export, 895 import, 895 log, 890 release, 895 remove, 894 rtag, 894 update, 893 cvs utility, 890 CVSROOT variable, 891 cxx filename extension, 871 Cycling, window, 102 Cypher, 1051

D Daemon, 1053 acpid, 388 apmd, 388 atd, 388 automount, 388, 715, 716 configure, 422 cron, 389, 559 dhcpd, 389
dhcpd, 389, 446, 447
tftp, 389
gated, 390
gateway, 390
gpm, 389
httpd, 389
imapd. See Daemon, imap-login
imap-login, 659
in.fingerd, 375, 389
inetd, 389
ipop3d. See Daemon, pop3-login
login
imap-login, 659
in.fingerd, 375, 389
inetd, 389
ipop3d. See Daemon, pop3-login
lockd, 389
lpd, 389, 512
messages, 473, 566, 570, 1024
mountd, 389, 703
name, 388
named, 389, 758, 764
network, 358, 388
nfds, 389, 713
nmbd, 390, 720, 738, 739
ntpd, 389
pop3-login, 659
portmap, 389, 392, 437
postfix, 1020
pppd, 389
prefix
in., 388
rpc., 388
printer, 389, 419
procmail, 640
protocol, 388
rexecd, 390
rhnsd, 508
rlogind, 1024
routed, 390
routing, 390
rquotad, 389
rshd, 1024
rsyslogd, 190, 390, 570, 574, 1024
sendmail, 390, 464, 639, 640, 644, 646, 1020
services, providing, 388
smbd, 390, 720, 738
spamd, 652, 653
sshd, 388, 390, 603
statd, 389
Superserver. See Daemon, xinetd
talkd, 390
telnetd, 390, 1024
tftp, 390
timed, 390
xinetd, 390, 421, 422, 439, 726
ypbind, 673
ypbind-mt, 673
ypasswdd, 681
ypxfrd, 680
yum-updated, 496
Data
Encryption Standard. See DES encryption
sink, 227
structure, 1054
Database
authentication, 1025
Berkeley, 682
dbm, 1054
DNS, 385
dbms, 1054
group, 1060
hardware, 432
hosts, 387
hwconf, 432
initializing, 63
Linux Software Map, 1009
locate, 63, 158
magic number, 473
ndbm, 1054
NIS, 373, 387, 667, 1071
passwd, 550, 1060, 1087, 1088
printcap, 469
RHN, 507
rpm, 503
search engine, 396
services, 1074
Sleepycat, 682
SQL, 1082
system services, 1062
termmenu, 165
whatis, 63, 158
Datagram, network, 359, 1054
Dataless system, 699, 1054
Date, display, 149
date utility, 149, 227
db filename extension, 759, 761
dbm database, 1054
DC, LDAP, 683
ddd utility, 880, 886
DDoS attack, 1054
Debug, 1054
Debugger, 876
ddd, 886
graphical symbolic, 885
option, 916
shell script, 916
symbolic, 880
ups, 886
xxgdb, 885
declare builtin, 303, 304
Decorations, window, 133
Decrement operator, 971
Default, 1054
defaultrouter file, 390
Defect-tracking system, 507
Delete
directory using rmdir, 190
file using rm, 140
key, 129
line, 129
link using rm, 208
word, 129
Delete key, 129
Delimiter, regular expression, 994
Delta, SCCS, 1054
Demand mounting, filesystem, 714
Denial of Service. See DOS and DDoS
Dependency line (make), 869
depmod utility, 544
Dereference, 1054
DES encryption, 1017
Descriptor, file, 284
Descriptor, file, duplicate, 938
Design, top-down, 980
Desktop, 1054
appearance, 111
background, 104
CD, 24
configure, window, 104
customize, 109
hovering, 98
Icon context menu, 103
icons, 103
KDE, defined, 266
launching applications, 99
Main menu, 99
manage, 1054
manager, choosing, 96
menu, 104
Icon context, 103
Main, 99
panel, 97
Desktop, continued
Panel Icon menu, 98
Panel menu, 112
Post-it notes, 99
theme, 96, 111
toolbar, 102, 109
tooltips, 98
window, defined, 100
Detached process. See Background, process
dev directory, 475, 889, 1068
devfs filesystem, 475
Device, 1054
  block, 477, 1047
caller, 477, 1050
driver, 475, 477, 888, 1055
file, 220, 1055
file, export, 708
filename, 1055
independence, 13
independent input and output, 13
name, 558
names, dynamic (udev), 475
nonrewinding, 558
null, 227
number
  major, 477, 1068
  minor, 477, 1069
physical, 1074
raw, 478
tape, 557
tape, nonrewinding, 558
devpts filesystem, 478
diff utility, 699
dhclient utility, 446
dhclient.conf file, 446
dhclient.leases file, 446
DHCP, 445, 1055
  client, 446
  how it works, 446
  MAC addresses, 448
  more information, 445
  prerequisites, client, 446
  prerequisites, server, 447
  protocol, 445
  resolv.conf file, and, 470
  server, 447
  static IP addresses, 448
dhcpcd daemon, 389
dhcpcd daemon, 389, 446, 447
dhcpcd.conf file, 447
Die, process, 316
diff utility, 147, 598
Diffie-Hellman encryption, 1016
dig utility, 382, 754, 758, 776
Digital
  signature, 1016
  Signature Algorithm. See DSA
  Directory, 11, 12, 139, 179, 475, 1055
  , 187, 474
  .., 187, 474
  .ssh, 593
  / (root), 32, 180, 188
  /bin, 188
  /boot, 32, 188
  /dev, 189, 220, 475, 889, 1068
  /etc, 189
cron.*, 559
cron.d, 389
  cups, 529
cupsd, 819
logrotate.d, 571
mail, 647, 650
opt, 189
pam.d, 452, 455, 457, 468
rc.d, 469
  about, 422
  init.d, 419, 421
  rcd.d, 418
skel, 551
ssh, 593
sysconfig, 471
X11, 80, 189
X11/xorg.conf, 82
xinetd.d, 421, 439
yum.repos.d, 490, 491
/home, 32, 189
/lib, 189
gcc, and, 864
  modules, 189, 544
  security, 452, 455
  /lost+found, 429
  /mnt, 189
  /opt, 33, 189, 504
  /proc, 189
  /root, 189
  /sbin, 189
  Superuser commands, 405
  /sbin,Superuser commands in, 405
/sys, 189
/tmp, 189, 571, 933
/usr, 33, 189
  bin, 189
doc, 121, 190
games, 189
include, 189
info, 190
lib, 189
gcc, and, 864
linking, and, 867
shared, 866
terminfo, 1085
local, 33
man, 190
sbin, 388, 405
share, 190
src, 190, 538
/var, 32, 190
ftp, 625
log, 190, 473, 571, 1004, 1024
mail, 571
named, 764, 770
spool
disk usage, 571
problem solving, 1004
tmp, 571
www
Apache files, 819
html, 814, 816, 819
~ (home). See Home directory
access permission, 196
bin, 189, 306
boot, 32, 544
change using cd, 186
child, 179, 180
compact, 572
config, 541
copy recursively using mv, 474
copy, shell script, 293
create using mkdir, 185
cron, 389
cron.*, 559
cron.d, 389
cups, 529
current. See Directory, working
delete using rm, 190
dev, 220, 475, 889, 1068
doc, 121, 190
empty, 179
erase using rm, 190
file, 179, 1055
ftp, 625
games, 189
hierarchy, 1055
home, 139, 182, 305, 714, 1062
home, 32, 468
home versus working
directory, 187
httpd, 819
important, 462
include, 189, 861
info, 190
init.d, 418
LDAP, 682
lib, 189, 864, 866, 867
link, 202
list using ls, 139
listing, 139
local, 33, 189
log, 190, 473, 571, 1004, 1024
logrotate.d, 571
mail, 571, 644, 647, 650
make using mkdir, 185
man, 190
modules, 189, 544
move using mv, 192
named, 764, 770
opt, 33, 189, 504
pam.d, 452, 455, 457, 468
parent, 179, 180
pathname, 179, 191
proc, 189
public_html, 823
rc.d, 469
　　init.d, 419, 421
　　maintain, 422
rcsd, 418
remove unused space, 572
remove using rmdir, 190
rename using mv, 192
root, 178, 180, 188, 1079
sbin, 189, 190, 388, 405
security, 452, 455
service, 1055
share, 190
skel, 551
spool
disk usage, 571
　　problem solving, 1004
src, 190, 538
ssh, 593
stack manipulation, 296
　　standard, 188
sysconfig, 471
terminfo, 1085
tmp, 571, 933
usr, 33
var, 32
working
derive using cd, 186
　　defined, 182
home, versus, 187
relative pathnames, 184
　　significance of, 184
　　with, 190
www, 819
X11, 80, 189
xinetd.d, 421, 439
yum.repos.d, 490, 491
dirs builtin, 296
Disk
　　buffer, 427
capacity planning, 31
Druid, 66
　　extended partition, 30
　　filesystem, 29
　　formatting, 29
　　fragmentation, 569
　　free space, 29, 570
　　logical partition, 30
　　partition, 29, 1073
　　partition table, 29, 73
　　primary partition, 30
　　quota system, 573
RAM, 36
　　usage, 569
Volume label, 432, 483
Diskette, floppy. See Floppy
　　diskette
Diskless, 1055
Diskless system, 698
Display
date using date, 149
　　end of a file using tail, 144
　　file using cat, 139
　　graphical, 1059
　　hidden filename, 234
　　machine name, 141
　　ordered file using sort, 145
　　resolution, changing, 132
　　sorted file using sort, 145
　　system load using w, 162
　　text using echo, 149
　　top of a file using head, 144
　　uptime using w, 162
　　user list
　　　using finger, 159
　　　using w, 161
　　　using who, 159
DISPLAY variable, 250
　　Distributed computing, 383, 714, 1055
Distribution, Linux, 4
dmesg utility, 418, 432, 547
DMZ, 1055
DN, LDAP, 683
DNS, 1055
SINCLUDE, 767
SORIGIN, 767
$TTL, 767
A (address) record, 750
AAAA (address) record, IPv6, 750
about, 373, 385
　　authority, 746
　　cache, 749, 752, 767
　　caching-only server. See DNS, cache
　　chroot jail, 774
　　CNAMES record, 750
database, 385, 749
deviation, 747
dig utility, 382, 754, 758, 776
domain
　　defined, 744
　　　qualification, 767
　　　root, 746
　　FQDN, 745
　　full-functioned nameserver, 777
　　glue, 772
　　hints zone, 770
host utility, 382, 755
　　how it works, 755
　　in-addr.arpa domain, 753
inverse mapping. See DNS,
　　　reverse name resolution
ip6.arpa domain, 753
iterative query, 747
JumpStart
　　setting up a DNS cache, 757
　　setting up a domain with
　　　system-config-bind, 759
log, 775, 778, 780
master server, 748
　　more information, 756
MX record, 651, 750
named daemon, 389, 758, 764
named directory, 764
named.ca file, 770
named.conf file, 764, 777, 782
DNS, continued
nameserver, full-functioned, 777
node. See DNS, domain
NS record, 750
nsswitch.conf file, 755
origin. See DNS, zone name
overview, 743
prerequisites, 755
primary master server, 748
PTR record, 751
query, 747, 752
recursive query, 747
resolver, 746
resource record, 749
response, 752
reverse mapping. See DNS,
reverse name resolution
reverse name resolution, 753
root domain, 745, 746
root zone, 770
secondary server, 748
security, 744
server
caching, 767
master, 748
primary master, 748
secondary, 748
slave, 748, 780
split horizon, 781
types of, 748
setting up, 763
slave server, 748, 780
SOA record, 751
split horizon server, 781
subdomain, 746
system-config-bind utility, 759
time format, 766
transactions signatures. See
DNS, TSIG
troubleshooting, 775
TSIG, 773, 776
TTL value, 751
TXT record, 752
zone, 746
file, 766, 770
hint, 770
name, 766, 767
root, 770
section, named.conf, 765
do control structure, 917, 918,
920, 924
doc directory, 121, 190
Document Object Model. See
DOM
Document root, Apache, 814
Documentation
finding, 1005
online, 383
system, 114, 116
Dollar sign
regular expression, in, 996
variables, use with, 301
DOM, 1055
Domain
See also DNS
DNS, defined, 744
in-addr.arpa, 753
ip6.arpa, 753
name, 385, 1056
Name Service. See DNS
name, not case-sensitive, 386
NIS, 668
root, 746
done control structure, 917, 918,
920, 924
Door, 1056
down control structure, 917, 918,
920, 924
dupdates file, 464, 557
duplicate lines, getting rid of
using uniq, 146
DVD, Install, 24
See also Installation
ISO image, 38
Dynamic
device names (udev), 475
Host Configuration Protocol.
See DHCP
IP address, 368
library. See Shared, library
shared objects, Apache, 812
E
e2label utility, 432
echo builtin, 149, 234, 301, 930,
945, 953, 961, 965
ed editor, 143
Editor, 1056
command line, 326
ed, 143
ex, 310
Readline Library, 326
vim, 164
equota utility, 573
Edwards, Dan, 1086
EEPROM, 1056
Effective user ID, 1056
egrep utility, 999
Electronic message, write, 162
Element, 1056
El-Gamal encryption, 1016
eclf utility, 164
Email. See Mail
Emblems, file, Nautilus, 260
Emoticon, 1056
Empty regular expression, 998
Emulator
operating system, 7
terminal, 105
Encryption, 1014
3-DES, 1017
AES, 1017
algorithm, 1014
asymmetric. See Encryption,
public key
Blowfish, 1017
DES, 1017
Diffie-Hellman, 1016
digital signature, 1016
DSA, 1017
El-Gamal, 1016
GnuPG, 1018
IDEA, 1017
implementation, 1017
key, 1014
man-in-the-middle, 1018, 1021
MD5, 470
OpenSSH, 594
PEM, 1019
PGP, 1018
public key, 1015
private key, 1015
RC5, 1016
RSA, 1016, 1079
ring of trust, 1018
session key, 1014
symmetric key, 1016
End line key, 17
End of file. See EOF
Enquire program, 395
Enter text using vim, 167
Enter-only focus, 131
Entry, LDAP, 683
ENV variable, 282
Environment, 1057
calling, 1049
establish, 469
exec, 957
export, 305, 316, 942
variable, 299
EOF, 163, 222, 1057
EPROM, 1057
Erase key, 129, 131, 217, 327, 462
Erase word key, 217
Errata, 507
Error
codes, Apache, 852
message
cannot execute, 219
conditional, 952
name of calling script, 932
NFS server xxx not responding, 699
not found, 219
redirecting to standard error, 286
standard error. See Standard, error
system, 473
usage, 214, 908, 914
shell script, 915
standard. See Standard, error
usage message, 214, 908, 914
esac control structure, 927
Escape a character, 138, 291
Escape an end of line, 291
etereal utility, 1028
Ethernet network, 357, 360, 361, 362, 1057
Evalation, terminal, 125
eval builtin, 337, 946
Event, 1057
asynchronous, 1046
history, 316
modifying previous, 324
number, 317, 321
reexecuting, 318
text, 321
words within, 322
X Window System, 247
Evolution utility, 164
Ex editor, 310
Exabyte, 1057
Exclamation point, 321
exec builtin, 286, 937, 956, 965
exec() system call, 289, 888
Execute
access, 193, 287, 288
command, 219, 316
permission, 288
shell script, 289
Exit
shell, from a, 296
status, 946, 1057
exit builtin, 125, 946, 961, 965
exit() system call, 888
Expansion
arithmetic, 346
brace, 302, 344
command line, 343
filename, 350
macro, 860
null variable, 951
order of, 301, 343
parameter, 346
pathname, 233, 302, 349, 350
quotation marks, double, 350
tilde, 183, 345
unset variable, 951
variable, 346
Explicit focus, 131
Exploit, 1057
Export
device file, 708
link, 708
variable, 957
export builtin, 304, 305, 469, 942, 965
export command (cvs), 895
exportfs utility, 428, 712
exports file, 707, 708, 709
Expression, 1057
arithmetic, 1045
logical, 1067
ext2 filesystem, 478, 485
ext3 filesystem, 478, 485
Extended multiuser mode, 424
Extended partition, 30
Extended regular expression, 1000
Extensible Markup Language. See XML
Extension, filename. See Filename, extension
Extra toolbar, Konqueror, 268
Extranet, 359, 1057
EXTRAVERSION number, kernel, 542
F
f filename extension, 871
Fahlman, Scott, 1081
Failsafe session, 1057
false file, 469
Family tree, 178
fc builtin, 318
FCEDIT variable, 320
FDDI network, 1057
fdformat utility, 482
Features, bash. See bash, features
Fedora
Anaconda, 53
booting, 48
desktop, initial, 96
Directory Server, 683
druid, 1056
erata, 507
Firstboot, 61
Fedora, continued
installing, 51
Anaconda, 53
BIOS setup, 26
boot commands, 64
burning CD/DVD, 37
CMOS setup, 26
default layout, 31
Disk Druid, 66
disk setup, 66
disk space, 26
display, configuring, 80
download, burn, and install CD/DVD, 37
dual monitors, 82
DVD, testing, 53
explained, 23
firewall, 62
Firstboot, 61
formatting, low-level, 29
free space, 29
how it works, 36
installation type, 58
installer interface, 27
Kickstart, 78
low-level formatting, 29
MDSSUM file, 42
network configuration, 57
network installation, 37
partition, 29
partition planning, 31
planning, 24
requirements, 25
rescue CD, 42
SHA1SUM file, 41
start, 51
upgrade, 55
upgrading versus installing, 28
virtual consoles, 53
X Window System, configuring, 80
Kickstart, 78
mirror sites, 39
Project, 27
rescue CD, 42
rescue mode, 51
RHEL, versus, 27
SELinux, 414
software, adding, 497
updates, 307, 1023
upgrade. See Fedora, installing versus RHEL, 27
X.org, 80
tg builtin, 232, 295, 965
FHS, 12, 117, 188
fi control structure, 904, 908, 911
Fiber Distributed Data Interface. See FDDI
Fiberoptic cable, 361
FIFO special file, 351, 474, 476
File, 1057
.autofsck, 485
.bash_history, 316
.bash_login, 281
.bash_logout, 281
.bash_profile, 281, 317, 462
.bashrc, 184, 281, 462
.config, 541
cshrc, 1053
.forward, 646, 652
.login, 1067
.logout, 1067
.mailrc, 619
.pgpkey, 161
.plan, 160
.profile, 281, 462, 1075
.project, 161
.rhosts, 377, 1023
toprc, 563
/bin/false, 469
/boot/grub/grub.conf, 537, 545
/dev
nst0, 558
null, 227, 462, 464, 570, 923, 962
pts, 463
random, 463
rmt/0, 557
s0, 558
tty, 958
urandom, 463
zero, 464
/etc
aliases, 464, 567, 645
anaconf, 539
at.allow, 464
at.deny, 464
dc_sudoer, 715
bashrc, 425
cron.allow, 464
cron.deny, 464
crontab, 389
defaultrouter, 390
dhclient.conf, 446
dhcpd.conf, 447
dovecot.conf, 659
dumpdates, 464, 557
exports, 707, 708, 709
fstab, 388, 465, 483, 701, 705
group, 425, 465, 552
grub.conf, 537, 545
hosts, 372, 387, 466, 583, 667
hosts.allow, 438, 439, 441
hosts.deny, 438, 439, 441
hosts.equiv, 376, 1023
initab, 248, 418, 426, 466, 566
issue, 128, 425
login.defs, 468, 551
logrotate.conf, 571
motd, 128, 425, 467, 469, 564
mtab, 467
named.conf, 756, 763, 764, 777, 782
netgroup, 467
nollogin.txt, 456, 469
nsswitch.conf, 387, 425, 449, 468, 668, 755
ntp.conf, 389
pam.conf, 457
pam.d, 452
passwd, 305, 424, 468, 565, 667, 919, 920, 1088
printcap, 469
profile, 281, 412, 425, 469
protocols, 469, 799
rc.d
init.d, 418
init.d/kudzu, 432
rc, 418
rc.local, 420
rc.sysinit, 418, 485
resolv.conf, 469, 583, 757
rpc, 392, 470
rsyslog.conf, 390, 574
securetty, 407
security/access.conf, 407
selinux/config, 413
services, 388, 392, 470
shadow, 424, 470
share/magic, 473

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>shells</th>
<th>432</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sudoers</td>
<td>406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sysconf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>httpd, 814, 841</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hwconf, 432</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iptables, 793, 803, 808</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iptables-config, 793</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>named, 756, 775</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>network, 671, 676</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rsyslog, 575</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>selinux, 415</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yppasswd, 682</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sysctl.conf, 537</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>termcap, 1085</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vsftpd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chroot_list, 636</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ftpusers, 636</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>user_list, 636</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X11/xorg, 80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xinetd.conf, 421, 439</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yp.conf, 672</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ypserv.conf, 676</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yum.conf, 490</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/proc</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fs/nfs, 708</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mounts, 467</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sys, 538</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/root</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anaconda-ks.cfg, 60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>install.log, 60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/usr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>include, 861</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>local, 189</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pub/ascii, 1045</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sbin, 190</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>share/magic, 1068</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/var</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lib/nfs/xstab, 708, 713</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>log</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lastlog, 190</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maillog, 569</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>messages, 190, 453, 473, 566, 569, 570, 775, 1004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>secure, 453, 473, 1004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vsftpd.log, 636</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wtmp, 190, 572</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spool/mqueue, 644</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a.out, 864</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>access, 630</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>access permission, 193, 194</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>access.conf, 407</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aliases, 464, 465, 645, 652</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ambiguous reference, 233</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anaconda.cfg, 78</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anaconda-ks.cfg, 60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anacrontab, 559</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>archive using tar, 153</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ascii, 1045</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at.allow, 464</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at.deny, 464</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>authorized_keys, 593</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>auto_master, 715</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>backup, 552, 557</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bashrc, 281, 425</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>binary, fixing broken, 867</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>block special, 1047</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>character special, 1050</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>close (bash), 938</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>config, 415, 601</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>configuration, rules, 435</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>copy using cp, 192</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>core, 570, 571, 881</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>create using cat, 223</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creation date, display using ls, 193</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cron.allow, 464</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cron.deny, 464</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crontab, 389</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cupsd.conf, 529</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>custom.conf, 88, 89</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>defaultrouter, 390</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>defined, 11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>descriptor, 284, 937</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>descriptor, duplicating, 938</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>device, 220, 475, 1055</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dhclient.conf, 446</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dhclient.leases, 446</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dhcpd.conf, 447</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>directory, 179, 1055</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>directory vs. ordinary, 474</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>display</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beginning of using head, 144</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>end of using tail, 144</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>using cat, 139</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dovecot.conf, 659</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dumpdates, 464, 557</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>empty, creating an, 191</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>execute permission, 288</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exports, 707, 708, 709</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>false, 469</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIFO special, 351, 474, 476</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>forcefsck, 483</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fstab, 388, 465, 483, 701, 705</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ftpusers (vsftpd), 636</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>group, 425, 465, 552</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>group assignment, 465</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>group, display using ls, 193</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>growing, 570</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grub.conf, 537, 545</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>header, 861, 862</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hierarchical structure, 178</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hosts, 372, 387, 466, 583, 667</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hosts.allow, 438, 439, 441</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hosts.deny, 438, 439, 441</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hosts.equiv, 376, 1023</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>html, 814, 816, 819</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>httpd, 814, 841</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>httpd.conf, 815, 820, 840</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hwconf, 432</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>identifying using file, 147</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>important, 462</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>include, 861</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>index.htm, 824</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>index.html, 824</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>index.php, 824</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>index.shtml, 824</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inittab, 248, 418, 426, 466, 566</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>install.log, 60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iptables, 793, 803, 808</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iptables-config, 793</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>issue, 128, 425</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kdmrc, 88</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>known_hosts, 594, 596, 597</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ks.cfg, 78</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>large, rotate, 571</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lastlog, 190</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>link, 202</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>linux-gate.so.1, 443</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>list, 139</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>log, 190, 569, 571</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>login.defs, 468, 551</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>logrotate.conf, 571</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>magic, 473, 1068</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mailertable, 630</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maillog, 569, 644</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makefile, 858, 869, 870</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>makefile, 869, 870</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>manager</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Konqueror, 106, 109</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nautilus, 235</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MD5SUM, 42</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>message of the day. See motd messages, 190, 453, 473, 566, 569, 570, 775, 1004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>motd, 128, 425, 467, 469, 564</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mounts, 467</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>move using mv, 191</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
File, continued
mqueue, 644
mtab, 467
name. See Filename
named, 756, 775
named pipe, 351, 474, 476
named.conf, 756, 763, 764, 777, 782
netgroup, 467
network, 671, 676
nfs, 708
nicknames, 670
nologin.txt, 456, 469
nsswitch.conf, 387, 425, 449, 468, 668, 755
nst0, 558
ntp.conf, 389
null, 227, 462, 464, 570, 923, 962
object, 863, 864
open using Nautilus, 259
open, bash, 937
open, finding, 567
order using sort, 145
ordinary, 179, 1072
ordinary vs. directory, 474
owner, 288
owner, display using ls, 193
pack archive using tar, 153
pam.conf, 457
pam.d, 452
passwd, 305, 424, 468, 565, 667, 919, 920, 1088
pathname, 179, 191
permission, 194, 288, 465
permissions, Nautilus, 260
pointer to, 202
PPD, 526
printcap, 469
profile, 281, 412, 425, 469
properties, Nautilus, 259
protocols, 469, 799
pts, 463
random, 463
rc, 418
rc.d/init.d/kudzu, 432
rc.local, 420
rc.sysinit, 418, 485
reference, ambiguous, 233, 1044
remove using rm, 140
rename using mv, 191
resolv.conf, 469, 583, 757
rmt/0, 557
rotate, 571, 1079
rpc, 392, 470
rsyslog, 575
rsyslog.conf, 390, 574
search for a, 261
secure, 453, 473, 1004
securenets, 678
securetty, 407
security, 1019
selinux, 415
sendmail.cf, 647
sendmail.mc, 642, 648
services, 388, 392, 470
SHA1SUM, 41
shadow, 424, 470
shells, 432
size, display using ls, 193
smb.conf, 729
smbpasswd, 722
smbusers, 722
sort using sort, 145
sparse, 1082
special, 474, 1055, 1082
ssh_config, 601
ssh_known_hosts, 593, 596, 597
sshd_config, 605
st0, 558
standard, 188
startup, 182, 281, 462, 565, 1083
stdio.h C header, 861
structure, 178
sudoers, 406
symbolic link, 475
sys, 538
sysconfig/hwconf, 432
sysctl.conf, 537
tar, 153
temporary, name of, 933
termcap, 1085
terminal, 220
text, 164
truncate, 462, 570
tty, 958
type of, discover using ls, 193
types, GNOME, 261
typescript, 150
UNIX domain socket, 475
urandom, 463
user_list (vsftpd), 636
virtusertable, 651, 652
vsftpd
chroot_list, 636
tputusers, 636
user_list, 636
vsftpd.conf, 626
vsftpd.log, 636
window, 220
wtmp, 190, 572
xinetd.conf, 421, 439
xorg, 80
xorg.conf, 82
xtab, 708, 713
yp.conf, 672
ypasswd, 682
ypserv.conf, 676
yum.conf, 490
yum-updated.conf, 496
zero, 464
file utility, 147, 473, 571
Filename, 164, 179, 1057
/, 180
absolute, 311
ambiguous reference. See File, ambiguous reference
basename, 183, 1047
case, 17
case-sensitive, 181
change using mv, 142
characters in, 180
choice of, 180
completion, 1057
conventions, 235
defined, 183
device, 1055
DOS, 180
extension, 181, 1057
a, 863, 866
bmp, 181
bz2, 152, 181
C, 871
c, 819, 859, 863, 871
c++, 871
cc, 871
conf, 435
cpp, 871
cxx, 871
db, 759, 761
DOS, 180
f, 871
gif, 181
gz, 153, 181
h, 861, 871
htm, 824
html, 181, 824
jpeg, 181, 1065
jpg, 181, 1065
l, 871
ldif, 683
list of, 871
m, 871
MIME and, 108, 259
o, 181, 863, 865, 871
pdf, 181
php, 824
ppd, 526
ps, 181
remove a, 325
repo, 491
rpmnew, 28
s, 865, 871
sh, 871
shared object, 866
shtml, 824
so, 863, 866
.tar.bz2, 154
tar.gz, 154
tar.Z, 154, 181
tbz, 154
tiff, 181, 1086
tiff, 181, 1086
torrent, 499
txt, 181, 235
tz, 154
var, 824
y, 871
Z, 153, 181
generation, 13, 233, 1057
hidden, 182, 234, 1061
length, 179, 180, 433, 933
period, leading, 234
quoting, 350
reference, ambiguous. See File, ambiguous reference
root directory, 180
simple, 183, 185, 218, 1081
temporary file, 933
typeface, 17
unique, 933, 945
Windows, 180
Filesver, 384, 697
Filesystem, 1058
/proc, 471, 480
active, 353
adfs, 478
affs, 478
autofs, 478, 714
check integrity of, 484
coda, 478
copy directory recursively using mv, 474
defined, 177
demand mounting, 714
devfs, 475
devpts, 478
disk, 29
ext2, 478, 485
ext3, 478, 485
filename length, 179, 433
free list, 474, 1059
GFS, 479
hfs, 479
Hierarchy Standard, 117
Hierarchy Standard, Linux, 12
hpfs, 479
independence, 30
iso9660, 479
journaling, 478, 479, 485, 1065
minix, 479

mount
automatically, 714
demand, 714
point, 30, 715
remote, 700
msdos, 479
ncpfs, 479
NFS, 419, 479, 702
ntfs, 479
organize, 178
proc, 471, 479, 480, 556
qx4, 479
RAID, 33, 479
reiserfs, 479
remote, 358, 1078
repair, 429
romfs, 479
root, 1079
smbfs, 479
Standard, Linux, 12, 188
structure, 11, 177
swap, 31, 472
sysv, 479
types, list of, 478
ufs, 479
umsdos, 479
use, 178
vfat, 479
virtual, 480
xf, 479
Filling, 1058
Filter, 14, 230, 1058
Find
command name using apropos, 157
inode using find utility, 913, 916
string using grep, 143
find utility, 413, 571
finger utility, 159, 374, 375, 389, 919
fingerd daemon. See in.fingerd
Firefox, starting, 100
Firewall, 363, 1058
See also iptables
building a, 794
OpenSSH, 609
toolkit, 1029
Firmware, 1058
Firstboot, 61
Flag, crash, 485
flex utility, 16
Floppy diskette, mount, 481, 482
Focus
desktop, 1058
follows-mouse, 131
strictly-under-mouse, 131
under-mouse, 131
window, 102, 131
Folder. See Directory
Font
antialiasing, 1045, 1084
preferences, GNOME, 263
window, GNOME, 264
Footer, 1058
for control structure, 917, 918, 961
for...in control structure, 917, 918
forcefsck file, 485
Foreground, 13, 231
background versus, 231
process, 1058
Fork, 1058
child, 888
process, 314
fork() system call, 289, 314, 316, 888
Formatting a hard disk, low-level, 29
FQDN, 373, 386, 745, 1058
Fragmentation, disk, 569
Frame, network, 359, 1059


Free
  list, filesystem, 474, 1059
  software, definition, 1033
  space, disk, 29, 570, 1059
  Standards Group, 188
freedesktop.org group, 254
Freefire, security solutions, 1028
fsck utility, 429, 478, 484, 569
FSG, 188
FSSTND, 12, 188
fstab file, 388, 465, 483, 701, 705
FTP
  about, 614
  account, 468
  active, 614
  anonymous, 619
  ASCII transfer mode, 620
  automatic login, 619
  basic commands, 616
  binary transfer mode, 620
  chroot jail, 628
  ftp utility, 614, 620
  JumpStart
downloading files using ftp, 616
  starting a vsftpd server, 625
  more information, 615
  passive, 614, 1073
  PASV connection, 614
  PORT connection, 614
  prerequisites, 615
  pub directory, 619
  security, 614, 620, 625
  server, 624
  tutorial, 616
  vsftpd server, 624
  vsftpd.conf file, 626
  ftp directory, 625
  ftp utility, 358, 614, 620
  ftplib daemon, 389
  ftpusers file, 636
Full
  backup, 553
duplex, 1059
functioned nameserver, DNS, 777
  regular expressions, 999
  pipe, 1000
  plus sign, 1000
  question mark, 1000
  summary, 1001
Fully qualified domain name. See FQDN
Function, 1059
  C language, 858, 862
  prototype, 861
  shell, 335, 1081
  fuser utility, 483
  fwtk utility, 1029
G
  gaim. See pidgin
games directory, 189
gated daemon, 390
  Gateway, 1059
daemon, 390
  network, 362
  proxy, 391
  router, and, 581
gawk, 919, 920
  gcc
See also C programming language
  history, 9
  home page, 858
  using, 862
  warning options, 878
  gdb utility, 880, 881
gdbm database, 1054
gdm utility, 88, 426
gdmsetup utility, 88
GECOS, 1059
GECOS and NIS, 682
Generate filenames, 233
Generic operating system, 8
getchar C macro, 861
gethostbyname() system call, 755
getopts builtin, 962, 965
getpid() system call, 888
getppid() system call, 888
Getting started using Konqueror, 107
gettext utility, 314
GFS filesystem, 479
GIAC, security certification and training, 1029
gif filename extension, 181
Giga-, 1059
Global Filesystem, 479
Global variable, 299, 957
Globbing, 233, 349
Glue, DNS, 772
Glyph, 1059
GMT, 1059
GNOME, 94, 254
color window, 264
control center, 110
custom.conf file, 88, 89
desktop, about, 15
display manager. See GNOME, gdm utility
  file types, 261
  focus, window, 132
  font preferences, 263
  font window, 264
gdm utility, 88, 426
gdmsetup utility, 88
gnome-appearance-properties utility, 263
gparted utility, 69
  GTK, 254
Help window, 115
KDE, compared, 105, 254
logging in on, 96
Main menu, 99
  manager, session, 106
  menu
    Main, 99
  Panel Icon, 98
  MIME types, 261
Nautilus
  control bars, 258
  emblems, file, 260
  file
    manager, 255
    permissions, 260
    properties, 259
  location bar, 258
  menubar, 258
  open file, 259
  Open Location dialog box, 258
  Side pane, 257
  spatial view, 255
  toolbar, 258
  traditional view, 257
  View pane, 257
  Panel Icon menu, 98
  partition editor, 69
  run program window, 265
  session manager, 106
terminal emulator, 265
titlebar, 101
toolbar, 102
  window focus, 132
  Window List, 99
  Workspace Switcher, 99
gnome-control-center utility, 110
gnome-font-properties utility, 263
gnome-search-tool utility, 261
gnome-terminal utility, 265
GNU Configure and Build System, 504
gcc compiler, 862, 878
home page, 858
gdb utility, 880
GNU General Public License, 4
GnuPG encryption, 1018
gparted utility, 69
GPG. See GnuPG encryption
GPL. See GNU, General Public License
gpm daemon, 389
gprof utility, 16
gq utility, 692
Grand Unified Boot Loader. See grub utility
Graphical display, 1059
Grave accent, 1051
grep utility, 143, 229, 919, 920, 923, 935, 1049, 1058
Group about, 465
access, 193
add, 552
apache, 814
commands, 290, 293
file assigned to, 465
ID, 465, 468, 1060
name of, display using ls, 193
password, 465
user private, 465
users, 1059
wheel, 456
windows, 1060
group database, 1060
group file, 423, 465, 552
gруппd utility, 552
gруппd utility, 552
gруппд utility, 552
groups utility, 465
grub utility, 545
grub.conf file, 537, 545
GTK, 254
GUL, 27, 1060
combo box, 1051
radio button, 1077
scrollbar, 1080
spinner, 1082
text box, 1085
thumb, 1085
WYSIWYG, 1090
X Window System, 15, 80
Guided partitioning, 31
gunzip utility, 153
gz filename extension, 153, 181
gzip utility, 153
H
h filename extension, 861, 871
Hacker, 1060
Half duplex, 1060
halt utility, 426, 427, 428
Halt, program, 130
Hard disk. See Disk
Hard link, 1060, 1066
create using ln, 474
remove using rm, 208
symbolic link, versus, 474
Hardcoded filename in shell scripts, 932
Hardware database, 432
device, 432
help, 122
Hash, 1060
one-way, 1072
SHA1 algorithm, 1080
table, 1060
head utility, 144
Header
document, 1060
file, 861, 862
Help
See also More information
answers, finding, 394
apropos utility, 116
Center (KDE), 114
documentation, 114
error messages, 121
getting, 1005
GNU, 115
GNU manuals, 123
hardware, 122
HOWTOs, 121
info pages, 118
Internet, from the, 121
KDE Help Center, 114
Linux Documentation Project, 121, 123
local, 121
man pages, 116
netnews, 394
Red Hat Web site, 122
support forums, 122
window (GNOME), 115
Here document, 935, 936, 1061
Hesiod, 1061
Heterogeneous, 1061
Heterogeneous network, 667
Hexadecimal number, 1061
hfs filesystem, 479
Hidden filename, 1061
defined, 182
display, 234
not displayed with ?, 234
Hierarchical file structure, 178
Hierarchy, 1061
HISTFILESIZE variable, 316
History, 1061
C Shell mechanism, classic, 320
event
inging, 319
number, 321
previous
!$, last word of, 323
modifying, 324
reexecuting, 319
text, 321
words within, 322
mechanism, 316
viewing, 318
word designator, 322
history builtin, 316, 317
HISTSIZE variable, 316
Home directory, 139, 182, 305, 1062
.bash_history file, 316
.bash_login file, 281
.bash_logout file, 281
.bash_profile file, 281, 317
.bashrc file, 184, 281
.forward file, 646, 652
.inputrc file, 329
.netrc, 619
.profile file, 281
.rhosts, 1023
Home directory, continued
~, shorthand for, 183, 305
automount, 714
hidden file, 182
passwd and, 468
startup file, 182
working directory, versus, 187
home partition, 32
HOME variable, 300, 305, 425, 961
Host
address, 367
key, OpenSSH, 594
security, 1023
specifying, 435
trusted, 376
host utility, 382, 755
Hostname about, 746
resolution, 466
setting the system, 584
symbolic, 387
hostname utility, 141, 374
hosts database, 387
hosts file, 372, 387, 466, 583, 667
hosts.allow file, 438, 439, 441
hosts.deny file, 438, 439, 441
hosts.equiv file, 376, 1023
Hover, 98, 1062
HOWTO documents, finding, 121
hpfs filesystem, 479
ping utility, 1029
ht file, 814, 816, 819
html filename extension, 181, 824
HTTP, 396, 1062
httpd daemon, 389. See also Apache
httpd directory, 819
httpd file, 814, 841
httpd.conf file, 815, 820, 840
HTTP protocol, 396, 847
Hub, 361, 580, 1062
Humor, 5, 1022, 1081
hunk (diff), 147
HUP signal, 567
hwconf database, 432
hwconf file, 432
Hypermedia, 396
Hypertext, 395, 1062
link, 395
Markup Language. See HTML
Transfer Protocol. See HTTP
World Wide Web, 395
I/O device. See Device
I/O slave, KDE, 254
IANA, 388, 1062
ICMP packet, 380, 1062
icmp_seq, 380
Icon, 1062
context menu, 103
desktop, 103
moving, 113
Iconify, 1062
ICQ, 358
id utility, 408
IDEA encryption, 1017
IDS
about, 1023
AIDE, 1023
DragonSquire, 1023
samhain, 1023
tripwire, 1023
if control structure, 904, 908, 911
if...then control structure, 904
if...then...elsif control structure, 911
if...then...else control structure, 908
IFS variable, 309
Ignored window, 1062
IM, 100
IMAP, email, 659
imaps daemon. See imap-login daemon
imapd daemon. See imap-login daemon
Implied dependency, make, 871
import command, cvs, 895
in control structure, 917
in.finger daemon, 375, 389
in-addr.arpa domain, 753
Include directive, 861
include directory, 189, 861
Include file, 861
Incorrect login, 124
Increment operator, 971
Incremental backup, 553
Indentation. See Indention
Indention, 1063
index.htm file, 824
index.html file, 824
index.php file, 824
Indirect pointer, 206
inetd daemon, 389
Infinite recursion, alias, 332
info directory, 190
info utility, 237
KDE Help Center, from the, 114
manual, 1005
using, 118
Information. See More information
Init script, 418, 469
init utility, 314, 417, 423, 424, 425, 427, 466
init.d directory, 418
inittab file, 248, 418, 426, 466, 566
Inode, 205, 474, 1063
altering using mv, 474
create another reference using ln, 474
file, 474
filesystem, 206
links shell script, 912
number, 474
Input, 1063
focus, changing, 102, 131
mode, vim, 166
standard. See Standard, input
Input/Output device. See Device
INPUTRC variable, 329
insmod utility, 544
Install DVD
about, 24
rescue mode, 51
install.log file, 60
Installation
See also Live CD; Install DVD
boot parameters, 63
computer, 1063
dual-boot system, 79
Installing Fedora or RHEL. See Fedora, installing
Installing software, 489
Integrated Services Digital Network. See ISDN
Integrity, filesystem, 484
Interactive, 1063
Interface, 1063
pseudographical, 26
user, 1063, 1088
Internal Field Separator. See IFS
International Organization for Standardization. See ISO
Internet, 16, 1063
Assigned Numbers Authority. See IANA
browser, 395
connection sharing, 805
Control Message Protocol. See ICMP
look up a user, 382
Messenger, 100
mirror site, 1006
multiple clients on a single connection, 806
multiple servers on a single connection, 808
netiquette, 1070
netnews. See Netnews
network, 358
Printing Protocol. See IPP
Protocol Security. See IPSec
Relay Chat, 358
search engine, 396
service provider. See ISP
services, 392
sharing a connection, 805
speed, 359
URI, 1087
URL, 396, 1087
Usenet, 396
internet (small i), 1063
Internetwork, 358
InterNIC, 382
Interprocess communication, 14, 148, 476
Interrupt key, 130, 959
Intranet, 358, 1064
Intrusion detection system. See IDS
Invisible file. See Hidden filename
IP, 1064
address, 367, 386, 1064
class, address, 368
IPng, 373
IPv6, 373, 1021, 1040
masquerading, 791, 802, 806
multicast. See Multicast
Next Generation, 373
spoofing, 377, 1064
version 6. See IP, IPv6
ip6.arpa domain, 753
IPC, 1064
ipchains utility, 790
ipop3d daemon. See pop3-login
IPP protocol, 512
IPSec, 1021, 1038
iptables, 789
ACCEPT target, 801
building a set of rules, 796
chain policy, 797
chain, about, 790
classifiers. See iptables, match
command line, 795
commands, 797
connection tracking, 792, 800
conntrack module, 792
display criteria, 798
DNAT, 791
dnat target, 801
DROP target, 801
Filter table, 790
how it works, 790
Internet connection sharing, 805
IP masquerading, 806
iptables-restore utility, 802
iptables-save utility, 802
jump, 796
JumpStart, building a firewall with system-config-securitylevel
LOG target, 801
Mangle table, 791
MASQUERADE, 791, 802
masquerade, 1068
match, 790
criteria, 795
extension, 799
explicit, 800
implicit, 799
more information, 792
NAT table, 790
netfilter, 790
network packet, 791
non-terminating target, 796
packet match criteria, 796, 798
patch-o-matic, 789
policy, 797
prerequisites, 793
protocols file, 799
REJECT target, 802
resetting rules, 793
RETURN target, 802
RH-Firewall-1-INPUT chain, 803
router, 805
rule, 790
match criteria, 796
number, 796
saving, 802
specification, 796
sharing an Internet connection, 805
SNAT, 791, 802, 806
state machine, 792, 800
system-config-firewall utility, 794
system-config-securitylevel utility, 794, 803
target, 790, 796, 801
iptables file, 793, 803, 808
iptables-config file, 793
iptables-restore utility, 802
iptables-save utility, 802
IPv6, 373, 1064
address record, DNS, 750
in 2.6 kernel, 1040
ping6, 380
traceroute6, 381
IRC, 358
is_regfile shell script, 907
ISC2 security certification, 1029
ISDN, 360, 1064
ISO, 1064
image, 38
ISO9660 filesystem, 479, 1064
protocol model, 365
ISP, 1064
issue file, 128, 425
iwconfig utility, 584
J
Job, 231
control, 13, 294, 1065
bg builtin, 295
fg builtin, 295
how to use, 231
jobs builtin, 294
INDEX

Job, continued
number, 231, 232
stop foreground, 231
jobs builtin, 130, 232, 294, 296, 965
John the Ripper utility, 1029
Journaling filesystem, 478, 479, 485, 1065
Joy, Bill, 1049
JPEG, 1065
jpeg filename extension, 181, 1065
jpg filename extension, 181, 1065
JumpStart
Apache, getting up and running, 814
Apache, setting up with system-config-httpd, 816
building a firewall with system-config-securitylevel, 794
configuring a Samba server with system-config-samba, 723
configuring sendmail on a client, 642
configuring sendmail on a server, 643
DNS, setting up a cache, 757
DNS, setting up a domain with system-config-bind, 759
downloading files using ftp, 616
NFS server, configuring with system-config-nfs, 707
NFS, mounting a remote directory, 700
OpenSSH, starting the sshd daemon, 603
OpenSSH, using ssh and scp, 595
printer, configuring a local, 513
printer, configuring a remote, 518
starting a vsftpd server, 625
Justify, 1065
jwhois utility, 382

K
K&R, 9
KAddressBook, 690
kcolorchooser utility, 274
konq utility, 560
kdbg utility, 880
KDE, 94, 253
active view indicator, Konqueror, 270
Bookmark toolbar, Konqueror, 268
bookmark, Konqueror, 266
desktop, Konqueror, 109
focus, Konqueror, 132
growing, Konqueror, 107
GNOME, compared, 105, 254
Help Center, 114
I/O slaves, 254
kAddressBook, 690
kcolorchooser utility, 274
kdbg utility, 880
kdm utility, 88
kfind utility, 268
kiper utility, 275
KNotes utility, 99
konsole utility, 273
Kparts, 254
link indicator, Konqueror, 271
Location toolbar, Konqueror, 268
lock to current location, Konqueror, 271
Logging in on, 96
Main menu, 99
Main panel, 97
manager, session, 106
menu
Main, 99
Panel, 112
Panel Icon, 98
menu bar, 267
Navigation panel, Konqueror, 272
pager, 98
Panel Icon menu, 98
Panel menu, 112
portability, 254
print utility, 531
Qt, 253
Run Command window, 275
Search bar, Konqueror, 268
search using kfind, 268
Select Color window, 274
shortcut, Konqueror, 271
taskbar, 99
terminal emulator, 273
titlebar, 101
toolbar
defined, 102
Konqueror, 109, 268
User’s Manual, 114
view, Konqueror, 109, 270, 271
Web Shortcuts (Konqueror), 266
window focus, 132
workspace (Konqueror), 270
kdm KDE utility, 88
kdmrc file, 88
Kerberos, 1025, 1029, 1065
Kernel, 6, 1065
/proc filesystem, 471
2.4, 1037
2.6 features
2TB filesystem, 1042
4GB-4GB memory split, 1041
ACL, 1041
AIO, 1038
asynchronous I/O, 1038
BIO, 1041
block I/O, 1041
hugeTLBFS, 1040
HyperThreaded CPUs, 1041
I/O elevators, 1042
IGMPv3, 1040
interactive scheduler
response tuning, 1042
Internet Protocol virtual server, 1040
IPSec, 1038
IPv6, 1040
IPVS, 1040
kksymoops, 1039
native Posix thread library, 1038
network stack features, 1040
NPTL, 1038
O(1) scheduler, 1039
OOPS, 1039
OPProfile, 1039
PAE, 1041
physical address extension, 1041
remap_file_pages, 1040
reverse map virtual memory, 1039
rmap VM, 1039
TLBFS, 1040
translation look-aside buffer file system, 1040
XFS journaling filesystem, 1042

2.6 release, 1037
boot, 417
boot options, 537
cleaning the source tree, 541
compiling, 543
configuring, 541
device driver, 888
display messages using dmesg, 432
dmesg utility, 547
export table, 708
EXTRAVERSION number, 542
install binary, 503
installing compiled, 544
messages, 547
module, 543. See also Loadable module
network packet filtering. See also iptables
packet filtering. See also iptables
parameter, 538
programming interface, 10
raw device, 478
rebuild, 537
responsibilities, 887
source code, installing, 539
source code, locating, 538
special files, 475
system calls, 887
kernelspace, 1065
Kernighan & Ritchie. See K&R
Key
BACKSPACE, 129
binding, 1065

CONTROL, 17
CONTROL-C, 102, 130
CONTROL-D, 125, 222, 296
CONTROL-H, 129, 138, 169, 217
CONTROL-L, 163, 171
CONTROL-M, 138
CONTROL-Q, 128
CONTROL-U, 129, 138, 169, 217
CONTROL-V, 102, 138
CONTROL-W, 129, 169, 217
CONTROL-X, 102, 129
Delete, 129
cryptography, 1014
disable, 17
erase, 129, 131, 217, 327, 462
interrupt, 130
kill, 129, 217
line kill, 129, 217
META, 1068
NEWLINE, 17, 290, 291
RETURN, 17, 129, 217, 290
SPACE bar, 138
suspend, 129, 130, 171, 231, 295, 959
TAB, 138
typeface, 17
word erase, 217

Keyboard, 1065
move cursor to next line, 17
system-config-keyboard, 430

Keyword
searching for using apropos, 157
variable, 300, 305
kfind utility, 268
Kickstart utility, 78
kill builtin, 130, 232, 252, 408,
409, 410, 567, 933, 960,
962, 965
kill key, 129, 217
Kill line key, 129, 217
KILL signal, 567
kill() system call, 888
killall utility, 411
kilo-, 1065
kliiper utility, 103, 275
KMail, 659
KNotes utility, KDE, 99
Knowledgebase, Red Hat, 1006

known_hosts file, 594, 596, 597
Konqueror
active view indicator, 270
bookmark, 266
Bookmark toolbar, 268
browser, 106
Extra toolbar, 268
file manager, 106, 109
getting started, 107
LDAP query, 692
link indicator, 271
Location toolbar, 268
lock to current location, 271
menu bar, 267
Navigation panel, 272
Search bar, 268
shortcut, 271
toolbar, 109, 267, 268
view, 109, 270, 271
Web Shortcuts, 266
workspace, 270
konsole utility, 273
Korn, David, 280, 1066
Korn Shell. See ksh
Kparts, KDE, 254
ks.cfg file, 78
ksh, 280, 1066
kudzu utility, 432, 582

L
filename extension, 871
LAN, 16, 361, 1066
compared to intranet, 358
configuring, 579
example, 363
more information, setting up a LAN, 587
setting up, 580
Language, procedural, 974
Language, used by the system, 124
Large number, 1066
Last in first out stack, 296
Last Line mode, vim, 167
lastlog file, 190
LBX, 367
ld utility, 867
LD_LIBRARY_PATH variable, 867, 868
LD_RUN_PATH variable, 867
ldap, 682, 1066
administrator, 686
KAddressBook client, 690
Konqueror client, 692
setting up a server, 685
tdadmin utility, 688
tldapmodify utility, 687
tdsearch utility, 687
td utility, 866, 867
ldif filename extension, 683
LDIF, LDAP, 683
ld-linux library, 866
ld-linux.so utility, 867
leaf, 1066
Least privilege, 406, 1066
Left-handed mouse, 110, 252
Length of filename, 180, 433
less utility, 116, 140, 230, 292, 910
let builtin, 347, 966
lib directory, 189, 864, 866, 867
libacl library, 866
libc library, 866
libc.so library, 863
libattr library, 866
libm.so library, 863
shared, 866, 868
statically linked, 866
libwrap.a library, 439, 441
ldd utility, 1029
LIFO stack, 296
Lightweight Directory Access Protocol. See LDAP
Line kill key, 129, 217
Line Printer Daemon. See lpd daemon
LINES variable, 934
Link, 12, 202, 1066
create using ln, 204
delete using rm, 208
export, 708
hard, 474, 475, 1060, 1066
hard versus symbolic, 203
hypertext, 395
indicator, Konqueror, 271
inode, 474
number of, display using ls, 193
point-to-point, 1074
remove using rm, 208, 474
soft. See Link, symbolic
symbolic, 1066
bash and, 207
create using ln, 206
defined, 474
versus hard, 203, 206
symlink. See Link, symbolic
Linux
2.6 kernel. See Kernel
boot, 545
distribution, 4
documentation, 114
Documentation Project, 121, 123
Filesystem Hierarchy Standard, 12, 188
Filesystem Standard, 12, 188
core. See Kernel
manual, 117
newsgroup, 413, 1007
PAM. See PAM
Pluggable Authentication Modules. See PAM
Standard Base, 188
Terminal Server Project, 698
Linux Software Map database, 1009
linux terminal name, 1011
linux.redhat.install newsgroup, 393, 394
linux.redhat.misc newsgroup, 394
linux.redhat.rpm newsgroup, 394
linux-gate.so.1 file, 443
LinuxSecurity.com security news, 1029
List server, 376, 1007
Listserv, 376, 1007
Live CD, 24
See also Installation
ISO image, 38
Live session, 49
llibacl library, 866
ln utility, 204, 206, 474
versus cp, 204
Load, system, display using w, 162
Load average, 162
Loadable module, 1067
Loader, boot. See Bootloader
Local area network. See LAN
variable, 316, 942, 957
local directory, 33, 504
local file, 189
Locale, 1067
locale built in, 312
localhost, 373, 466
locate database, 63, 158
locate utility, 63, 158
Location bar illustration, 109
Nautilus, 258
Location toolbar, Konqueror, 268
Lock to current location, Konqueror, 271
look utility, 925
lockd daemon, 389
locktty shell script, 925
Log
Apache, 819
DNS, 775, 778, 780
e-mail, 644
file, check, 569
file, rotate, 571
files, 190
in. See Login
machine, 567
OpenSSH, 607
out, 425, 1067
rsyslogd daemon, 390
sendmail, 644
system, 390
vsftpd, 633
log command (cvs), 890
log directory, 190, 473, 571, 1004, 1024
Logical expression, 1067
partition, 30
Volume Manager. See LVM
volume. See LVM, LV
Login, 1067
Choose a session dialog box, 96
description of, 424
GUI, 124
incorrect, 124
name. See Username
problems, 124, 565
procedure, 128
prompt, 128, 424
remote, 125, 126
root, 405, 569, 1079
screen, 96, 124
security, 1024
shell, 314, 425, 469, 1067
login utility, 314, 424
login.defs file, 468, 551
LOGNAME variable, 425
Logout, 125
logresolve utility, 830
logrotate utility, 571
logrotate.conf file, 571
logrotate.d directory, 571
logwatch utility, 567
Loopback service, 466
lost+found directory, 429
lp utility, 523
lpadmin utility, 527
lpd daemon, 389, 512
lpr utility, 139, 185, 193, 196, 205, 234, 288
LSB, 188
Iseek() system call, 889
lsmod utility, 544
lsot utility, 567
LV. See LVM, LV
LVM, 29, 35, 75
LV, 29, 35, 75
PV, 35
VG, 75
LWN.net security alerts, 1029
lynx text browser, 396

M
m filename extension, 871
m4 macro processor, 648
MAC address, 448, 1067
Machine
collating sequence, 1067
independence, 9
log, 567
name, display, 141
Macro, 1068
C preprocessor, 859, 861
derived, 860
m4, processor, 648
make, 874
processor, m4, 648
magic file, 473, 1068
Magic number, 108, 473, 1068
magic number database, 473
Mail
.forward file, 646, 652
accepting mail from unknown
hosts, 649
access file, 650
aliases, 644, 645
aliases file, 652
authenticated relaying, 662
cache server, 650
call root, 569
delivered email, 650
forwarding email, 650
how sendmail works, 644
IMAP, 659
JumpStart
 configuring sendmail on a
client, 642
 configuring sendmail on a
server, 643
KMail, 659
list server, 376, 1007
log, 644
mail directory, 644, 647, 650
mailbox, 307
maildir format, 644
mailertable file, 650
mailing list, 658
maillog file, 644
Mailman, 658
mailq utility, 646
mailstats utility, 647
makemap utility, 647
masquerading, 648
mailbox format, 644
MDA, 639, 1068
more information, 642
mqueue file, 644
MTA, 639, 1069
MTA security, 1019
MUA, 639, 1070
MUA security, 1020
network addresses, 164
newaliases utility, 646
POP, 659
Postfix, 664
postmaster, 659
prilasi utility, 646
prerequisites, 641
procmail daemon, 640
Qmail, 659
relay host, 650
security
about, 1019
GnuPG, 1019
MTA, 1019
MUA, 1020
PEM encryption, 1019
self-signed certificate, 662
sending to remote user, 375
sendmail daemon, 639, 640, 644, 646
sendmail.cf file, 647
sendmail.mc file, 642, 648
serving multiple domains, 651
SMTP, 639
spam, 382
SpamAssassin, 652
spamd daemon, 652
SquirrelMail, 656
SMTP, 639
spam, 382
SpamAssassin, 652
spamd daemon, 652
SquirrelMail, 656
SSL, 662
user agent, 390
virtusertable file, 651, 652
Webmail, 656
mail directory, 571, 644, 647, 650
mail utility, 164, 658
MAIL variable, 307, 425
Mailbox, 307
MAILCHECK variable, 307
maildir format, 644
mailertable file, 650
Mailing list, 658
Mailing list, 658
mailing list, 658
maillog file, 644
Mailman, 658
MAILPATH variable, 307
mailq utility, 646
mailstats utility, 647
Main
memory, 1068
menu, 99
panel, KDE, 97
main function, 862
Mainframe computer, 7
Maintenance. See System, administration
Major device number, 477, 1068
make utility, 154, 868, 869, 874
makedbm utility, 678
Makefile, discussion, 869
Makefile file, 858, 870
makemap utility, 647
makewhatis utility, 63, 158
MAN, 362, 1068
man directory, 190
man pages, 114
man utility, 14, 116, 120
Manager
session, 106, 133
window, 133
Man-in-the-middle, 773, 1018, 1021
Manuals
GNU, 123, 1005
HOWTO, 121
man, 116
reference, finding, 1005
system, about, 114
Map file, 715
Masquerading, 1068
IP, 791, 802, 806
mail, 648
Massachusetts Institute of Technology. See MIT
Master Boot Record. See MBR
Master server, DNS, 748
mbox format, 644
MBR, 545
MD5 encryption, 470, 1068
MD5SUM file, 42
md5sum utility, 42
MDA, 639, 1068
Mega-, 1068
Memory
main, 1068
paging, 472
testing, 52
virtual, 472
memtest86+ utility, 52
Menu, 1068
context, 102
Desktop, 99, 104
Icon context, 103
Main, 99
Panel, 112
Panel Icon, 98
Panel, KDE, 112
shell script, 929
Menu bar, 109
Konqueror, 267
Nautilus, 258
Merge, 1068
msg utility, 163
Message
daemon, from, 473
deny using msg, 163
Digest 5. See MD5
of the day. See motd file
security, 473
sending
email, 563
wall, 563
write, 162, 563
syslog directory, 1024
system, 473, 566
truncating, 570
usage, 214, 908, 914, 932, 1087
messages file, 190, 453, 473,
566, 569, 570, 775,
1004
META key, 1068
Metabit, 1045
Metacharacter, 233, 1068
Metacity window manager, 133
Metadata, 1069
Method of last resort, kill, 409
Metropolitan area network. See MAN
Microprocessor, 8
Middle mouse button, 102
MIME, 108, 261, 1069
mingetty utility, 314, 424, 467
Minicomputer, 7
mini-HOWTO documents,
finding, 121
Minimize window, 1069
MINIX, 4
minix filesystem, 479
Minor device number, 477, 1069
Mirror site, 1006
misc.jobs.offered newsgroup,
393
Mistake, correct typing, 129
MIT, 15
Athena, Project, 246
X Consortium, 246
MITM. See Man-in-the-middle
mkdir utility, 185, 187, 701
mkfifo utility, 476
mkfs utility, 432, 482, 569
mkswap utility, 472
Modem, 1069
Modem, cable, 1049
Modifying a user, 550
modinfo utility, 544
modprobe utility, 544
Module
See also Loadable module
kernel, 543
modules directory, 189, 544
Monitor, configure, 82
Monitors, dual, 82
More information
Apache, 813
DHCP, 445
DNS, 756
email, 642
FTP, 615
iptables, 792
LAN, setting up a, 587
NFS, 700
NIS, 670
OpenSSH, 594
PAM, 453
Samba, 721
security, 1028
system administration, 413
more utility, 140, 230, 910
Morris, Robert T. Jr., 1026
Mosaic Web browser, 395
motd file, 128, 425, 467, 469,
564
Mount, 1069
automatic, 388, 1046
filesystem automatically, 714
floppy diskette, 481
point, 30, 480, 483, 715, 1069
remote filesystem, 700
table, 465
mount utility, 428, 467, 480, 481,
701, 737
mountd daemon, 389, 703
mounts file, 467
Mouse
about, 1069
click explained, 96
left-handed, 110, 252
middle button, 102
mouseover, 1069
pointer, 1069
pointer, hover, 98, 1062
remap buttons, 252
right-handed, 252
wheel, 252
window manager, 15
Mouseover, 1069
Move
directory using mkdir, 192
file using mv, 191
Mozilla
history of, 395, 396, 507
ntnews, 393
proxy, 1076
mqueue file, 644
MS Windows. See Windows
msdos filesystem, 479
MS-DOS. See DOS
mt utility, 559
MTA, 639, 1069
security, 1019
mtab file, 467
MUA, 639, 1070
security, 1020
Multiboot specification, 1070
Multicast, 369, 1070
Multipurpose Internet Mail Extension. See MIME
Multitasking, 11, 231, 1070
Multiuser, 1070
about, 424
Linux design, 8, 10
mode, 424
extended, 424
initiate, 423
Superuser, 406
mv utility, 142, 191, 474
MX record, DNS, 651, 750
mxgdb utility, 880

N
Name
calendar, 214
daemons, 388
domain. See Domain, name
login. See Username
server, 383, 386
variable, 299
named.conf file, 763, 764, 777, 782
named daemon, 389, 758, 764
named directory, 764, 770
named file, 756, 775
Named pipe, 351, 474, 475, 476
named.conf file, 756
Namespace, 1070
NAT, 790, 1070
National Center for Supercomputer Applications, 395
Nautilus
control bars, 258
file
emblems, 260
manager, 255
open with, 259
permissions, 260
properties, 259
location bar, 258
menu bar, 258
open file, 259
Open Location dialog box, 258
Side pane, 257
spatial view, 255
toolbar, 258
traditional view, 257
Vew pane, 257
Navigation panel, Konqueror, 272
NBT, 1070
ncpfs filesystem, 479
ndb database, 1054
nessus utility, 1029
net use utility (Windows), 739
net utility, 720
net view utility (Windows), 739
NetBIOS, 1070
Netboot, 699, 1070
netcat utility, 1029
netgroup file, 467
Netiquette, 1070
Netmask, 1071
Netnews
answers, finding, 394
archive, groups.google.com, 394
comp.lang.c newsgroup, 393
comp.os.linux.announce newsgroup, 394
comp.os.linux.misc newsgroup, 393, 394
comp.os.linux.networking newsgroup, 394
cmp.newsgroup, 394
comp.os.linux.security newsgroup, 394
comp.os.linux.setup newsgroup, 394
comp.security.firewalls newsgroup, 1023
group structure, 393
groups, 393
hierarchical structure of groups, 393
history of, 392
linux.redhat.install newsgroup, 393, 394
linux.redhat.misc newsgroup, 394
misc.jobs.offered newsgroup, 393
Mozilla News, 393
Netscape News, 393
newsgroups, 393
nn utility, 393
readnews utility, 393
rec.skiing newsgroup, 393
m utility, 393
sci.med newsgroup, 393
soc.singles newsgroup, 393
structure of groups, 393
talk.politics newsgroup, 393
tin utility, 393
xrn utility, 393
xvnews utility, 393
Netscape
BugSplat, 507
history of, 395
Navigator, 395
ntnews, 393
netstat utility, 369
Network
@ in an address, 374, 375, 376
@ with email, 376
10BaseT cable, 361
10Base2 cable, 361
10BaseT cable, 361
address, 1071
  @ sign in, 374, 375, 376
e-mail, 164
mask, 371
space, private, 582, 1075
Address Translation. See NAT
boot, 1070
bottleneck, 381
Network, continued
broadcast, 360, 1048
address, 1048
multicast, compared, 370
packet, 367
unicast, compared, 367
browser, 395
Category 5 cable, 361
Category 5e cable, 361
Category 6 cable, 359, 361
Category 7 cable, 359
class, IP address, 368
coaixial cable, 361
connection, test using ping, 379
daemon, 358, 388
datagram, 359, 1054
dNS, 385
domain name, 385
dynamic IP address, 368
Ethernet, 357, 360, 361, 362, 1057
eXtranet, 359, 1057
FDDI, 1057
fiberoptic cable, 361
fileserver, 697
Filesystem. See NFS
firewall, 363
frame, 359, 1059
gateway, 362, 581, 1059
heterogeneous, 667
hops, 380
host address, 367
hostname, FQDN, 373
hostname, nickname, 373
hub, 361, 580, 1062
ICMP packet, 1062
Information Service. See NIS
interface card. See Network, NIC
Internet, 358
intranet, 358
IP
address, 367
address class, 368
Next Generation, 373
local area. See LAN
metropolitan area. See MAN
multicast, 369, 1070
nameserver, 385, 386
netmask, 1071
netnews. See Netnews
newsgroup, 393
NIC, 580, 581
number. See Network, address
packet, 359, 380, 1073
packet filtering, 1073. See also iptables
packet sniffer, 1073
partner net, 359
passive hub, 361, 580
ping to test, 379
point-to-point link, 360
port forwarding, 1075
PPP protocol, 367
private address space, 582, 1075
privileged port, 1075
protocol, 365
remote filesystem, 358
resolver, 386
route trace, 380
router, 361, 362, 363, 581, 1079
router, SmoothWall Linux distribution, 581
security
about, 1020
guidelines, 1021
solutions, 1021
segment, 1071
services, 358, 388
setting up, 580
SLIP protocol, 367
sniff, 1082
socket, 476
static IP address, 368
subnet, 371, 1083
about, 371
address, 1084
mask, 371, 1084
number, 1084
specifying, 436
switch, 360, 361, 580, 1071
switching hub. See Network, hub
TCP/IP protocol, 365
thicknet cable, 361
thinnet cable, 361
time Protocol. See NTP
token ring, 1086
topology, shared, 1081
trace route, 380
transfer rate, 361
thunted hosts, 376
tunneling, 1087, 1088
twisted pair cable, 361
UDP, 365, 1087
unicast, 367, 1087
unicast vs. broadcast, 367
unshielded twisted pair cable, 361
user communication, 374
utilities, 358, 376
UTP cable, 361
virtual private, 359
VPN, 359, 1088
WAN, See WAN
WAP, 581
wide area. See WAN
WiFi, 1089
wireless
access point, 581, 1089
bridge, 581
mode, 582
NIC, 584
network file, 671, 676
newaliases utility, 646
NEWLINE key, 17, 290, 291
News, Internet. See Netnews
Newsgroup
comp.lang.c, 393
comp.os.linux.announce, 394
comp.os.linux.answers, 413, 1007
comp.os.linux.misc, 393, 394, 413, 1007
comp.os.linux.networking, 394
comp.os.linux.security, 394
comp.os.linux.setup, 394
cmp.security.firewalls, 1023
linux.redhat.install, 394
linux.redhat.misc, 394
linux.redhat.rpm, 394
list of, 1007
misc.jobs.offered, 393
rec.skiing, 393
sci.med, 393
soc.singles, 393
talk.politics, 393
NFS, 697, 698, 1071
/proc/fs/nfs/exports file, 708
all_squash option, 712
attribute caching options, 702
block size, 704
client, setting up, 700
daemons, 389
data flow, 698
delay handling options, 703
error message, NFS server xxx not responding, 699

export
device file, 708
directory hierarchy, 708
table, kernel, 708
exportfs utility, 712
exports file, 708, 709
fstab file, 701, 702, 705
home directories, 586
JumpStart
configuring an NFS server with system-config-nfs, 707
mounting a remote directory, 700
line speed, testing, 704
miscellaneous options, 703
more information, 700
mount a filesystem, 700
mount utility, 701
nfsnobody, 711
NIS and, 711
options
all_squash, 712
attribute caching, 702
error handling, 703
miscellaneous, 703
root_squash, 711
performance, improving, 704
portmap utility, 700, 713
prerequisites, 700, 706
root_squash option, 711
security, 700
server–server dependency, 715
setuid, 701
showmount utility, 712
stop, 419
testing, 713
timeout, 703, 704
umount utility, 702
user ID mapping, 711
xtab file, 708, 713
nfs file, 708
nfsd daemon, 389, 713
nfsnobody, 711
NIC, 386, 580, 581, 1071
nice system call, 888
Nickname, host, 373
nicknames file, 670
NIS, 667, 668, 1071
adding users, 675
client setup, 671
client, test, 673
database, 373, 387, 1071
domain, 668
domain name, 671, 1072
GECOS, 682
login, 425
makedbm utility, 678
Makefile, 678
map, 669
displaying, 670
names, 669
nicknames, 670
master server, 668
more information, 670
need for, 373
network file, 671
NFS and, 711
nicknames file, 670
nisdomainname utility, 672
passwd utility, 674
prerequisites, client, 671
prerequisites, server, 675
removing users, 675
rpcinfo utility, 673
securenent file, 678
server setup, 675
server specify, 672
slave server, 668
source files, 669
testing, 681
Yellow Pages, 668
yp.conf file, 672
ypbind daemon, 673
ypbind-nt daemon, 673
ypbind utility, 670
yp client utility, 680
ypservers utility, 674
ypserversd daemon, 681
ypserv.conf file, 676
ypwhich utility, 673
ypxfr utility, 680
ypxfrd daemon, 680
nisdomainname utility, 672
nmap utility, 1029
nmbd daemon, 390, 720, 738, 739
nnmap utility, 739, 740
nn utility, 393
NNTP, 393, 1072
No news is good news, 876
noacpi boot parameter, 65
noapm boot parameter, 65
noclobber boot parameter, 65
Node, 1072
nologin utility, 469
nologin.txt file, 456, 469
Nonprinting character, 1072
Nonrewinding tape device, 558
Nonvolatile storage, 1072
Normal mode, vim, See vim,
Command mode
NOT Boolean operator, 974
nsswitch.conf file, 387, 425, 449,
468, 668, 755
nst0 file, 558
ntfs filesystem, 479
NTP, 1072
ntp.conf file, 389
ntpd daemon, 389
Null
builtin (), 961, 965
device, 227
string, 942, 1072
null file, 227, 462, 464, 570,
923, 962
Number
block, 1047
device
major, 1068
minor, 1069
giga-, 1059
hexadecimal, 1061
job, 231
kilo-, 1065
large, 1066
magic, 108, 1068
mega-, 1068
octal, 1072
sexillion, 1080
tera-, 1085
undecillion, 1087
O
–o Boolean operator, 967
o filename extension, 181, 863,
865, 871
Object file, 863, 864
ObjectClass, LDAP, 684
Octal number, 1072
od utility, 464
OLDPWD variable, 346
One-time password, 1024
Online documentation, 116, 383
Open file, 937
Group, 246
Location dialog box, Nautilus, 258
open() system call, 889
OpenLDAP, 682
OpenOffice.org, 100
OpenPGP Message Format, 1018
OpenSSH, 1072
.ssh directory, 593
authentication, 592, 594
authorized keys, 604
authorized_keys file, 593
automatic login, 604
clients, 595
compression, 610
cfg file, 601
configuration files, 601, 605
diff utility, 598
encryption, 594
files, 592
firewall, 609
global files, 593
host key, 594
how it works, 594
initial connection to, 596
JumpStart
starting the sshd daemon, 603
using ssh and scp, 595
known hosts, 596
known_hosts file, 594, 596, 597
log file, 607
more information, 594
NFS shared home directories, and, 586
port forwarding, 608
prerequisites, 595, 603
protocol versions 1 and 2, 592
public key encryption, 592
recommended settings, 596, 603
remote commands, 598
rhost authentication, 593
scp utility, 595
security, 591
server authentication, 596
session key, 594
setup, 596
sftp utility, 601
shell, remote, 598
ssh directory, 593
ssh utility, 592, 595, 597, 598
ssh_config file, 601
ssh_known_hosts file, 593, 596, 597
sshd daemon, 603
sshd_config file, 605
ssh-keygen utility, 604
troubleshooting, 607
tunneling, 608
user files, 593
X11 forwarding, 596, 602, 607, 608
Operating system, 1072
generic, 8
proprietary, 7
Operations menu, window, 102
Operator
bash, 969
in expressions, 969
redirection, 286
hitwise
\&, 970, 973
^, 970
|, 970
AND, 370, 371
Boolean, 972
!, 313, 970, 974
&&, 313, 506, 967, 971, 972, 974
|, 1000
!!, 313, 967, 971, 972, 973
–a, 911, 967
NOT, 974
–o, 967
decrement, 971
increment, 971
postdecrement, 971
postincrement, 971
predecrement, 971
preincrement, 971
relational, 968
short-circuiting, 972
table of, 969
OPIE utility, 1024, 1029
opt directory, 33, 189, 504
OPTARG variable, 963
Optimizer, C compiler, 864
OPTIND variable, 963
Option, 1072
bash. See bash, features
boot, 63
combining, 215
defined, 215
OR operator, 967
Order file using sort, 145
Order of expansion, command line, 301
Ordinary file, 179, 1072
Organize a filesystem, 178
Other access, 193
out shell script, 909
Output, 1072
append. See Append, standard output
redirect, 148
standard. See Standard, output
Overlay a shell, 290
Owner
access, 193
file, name of, display using ls, 193, 288
P
P2P, 1073
Pack archive file using tar, 153
Package. See Software, package
Packet, 1073
broadcast, 367
filtering, 1073. See also iptables
network, 359, 380
sniffer, 1073
unicast, 367
Page break, 171
Pager, 98, 116, 140, 1073
Paging, 472, 1073. See also swap
PAM, 452, 1073
features, 425
more information, 453
security, login, 1024
stack, 455
pam.conf file, 457
pam.d directory, 452, 453, 457, 468
Panel
desktop, 97
Icon menu, 98
menu, KDE, 112
Navigation, Konqueror, 272
Parameter
expansion, 346
positional, 946
shell, 299
special, 944
substitution, 301
Parent
directory, 179, 180
of all processes, 417
process, 314, 957, 1073
Parentheses
grouping commands, 293
shell functions, 336
Parentheses
Parse, 217, 342
parted utility, 72
Partition
/boot, 32, 74, 544
/home, 32
/usr, 33
/var, 32
deleting, 70
disk, 29, 1073
Disk Druid, 66
Editor, GNOME, 69
gparted editor, 69
guided creation, 31
LVM, 35
parted editor, 72
planning, 31
RAID, 33, 487
resizing, 71
size, table of minimum, 33
sizes, 31
table, 29
Partner net, 359
PASC, 280
Passive FTP. See FTP, passive
Passive hub, 361, 580
Passpharse, 1073
passwd database, 550, 1060, 1087, 1088
passwd file, 305, 424, 468, 565, 667, 919, 920, 1088
passwd utility, 405, 406, 471, 674
Password, 1073
breaking, 568
change, 126, 405
criteria, 127
group, 465
hashed, 470
one-time, 1024
Samba, 722
security, 126
Superuser, 568
PASV FTP. See FTP, passive
Path, search, 156
PATH variable, 306
inherited, 300
login, 425
Superuser, 405, 412
usage, 931
Pathname, 1074
~ (tilde) in a, 183
absolute, 183, 218, 1044
completion, 328
defined, 179
element, 1074
expansion, 233, 302, 349, 350
last element of, 1074
relative, 184, 185, 218, 1078
using, 191
pdf filename extension, 181
Peer, BitTorrent, 499
Period, leading in a filename, 234
Peripheral device. See Device
Permission
access, 1044
change using chmod, 194
collection, 70
directory, 196
delete, 196
display using ls, 193
execute, 288
read, 288
types of, 194
execute, 288
file access, 194, 465
read, 288
setgid, 195
setuid, 195
setuid, set using chmod, 406
Persistent, 1074
PGP encryption, 1018
pgpkey file. See .pgpkey file
Philosophy, UNIX, 374, 786
Phish, 1074
php filename extension, 824
Physical
device, 1074
security, 1026
volume. See LVM, PV
PID, 314, 1074
$! variable, and, 946
$S variable, 945
background process and, 231, 292
fg, 294
temporary file, use in name of, 933
PIDgin utility, 100
pidof utility, 411
pinfo utility, 119
ping utility, 379, 433, 470, 739
ping6 utility, 380
Pipe, 1074
command separator, 292
defined, 228
defined, 228
eof line, at, 920
filter, 14, 230
introduction, 148
named, 351, 474, 475, 476
noclobber and, 225
standard error, and, 285
symbol, 1000
syntax exception, 920
Pipeline. See Pipe
pirut utility, 497
Pixel, 1074
Plain, 1014, 1074
plan file. See .plan file
Pluggable Authentication Module. See PAM
Plus sign, 1000
Point to give focus, 131
Pointer to a file, 202
Point-to-point link, 360, 584, 1074
Point-to-Point Protocol. See PPP
POP, email, 659
pop3-login daemon, 659
popd builtin, 298
Port, 387, 1074
forwarding, 1075
forwarding, OpenSSH, 608
privileged, 387, 1020
Portability, 8, 9
portmap daemon, 389, 392, 437
portmap utility, 700, 713
Portmapper, 1075
Positional parameter, 300, 946
POSIX, 8, 280
Postdecrement operator, 971
Postfix, 664
postfix daemon, 1020
Postincrement operator, 971
Postmaster, 569
Postscript Printer Definition files, 526
Postscript, brace expansion, 344
Power management, 388
Power, turn off, 428
poweroff utility, 426
ppd filename extension, 526
PPD files, 526
PPID. See Parent, process
PPP protocol, 367, 470, 584
pppd daemon, 389
praliases utility, 646
Preamble, brace expansion, 344
Preboot Execution Environment. See PXE
Predecrement operator, 971
Preincrement operator, 971
Preprocessor directive #define, 859, 860
#include, 861
defined, 859
macro, 859, 862
symbolic constant, 859, 862
Prerequisites
Apache, 813
automount, 714
BitTorrent, 499
CUPS, 512
DHCP client, 446
DHCP server, 447
DNS, 755
FTP, 615
iptables, 793
make, 869
NFS, 700, 706
NIS client, 671
NIS server, 675
Samba, 721
sendmail, 641
vsftpd, 624
Pretty Good Privacy. See PGP
Primary buffer, 102
master server, DNS, 748
partition, 30
Print file, 143
IPP protocol, 512
queue, 529
Printable character, 1075
printcap file, 469
Printer
See also Printing
capability database, 469
configuring with CUPS, 524
control characters, 930
daemon, 389, 419
lpr and, 143
page break, 171
sharing, 529
skip to top of page, 171
top of form, 171
using, 143
printer utility, 531
Printing
See also Printer
CUPS, 512
manager, KDE, 531
quotas, 529
system, about, 511
UNIX traditional, 523
Windows, from, 532
Windows, to, 534
Privacy Enhanced Mail. See PEM
Private address space, 582, 1075
Private key, 1015
Privilege, least, 406, 1066
Privileged port, 387, 1020, 1075
Probe devices, 432
proc filesystem, 189, 471, 479, 480, 556
Procedural language, 974
Procedure, 1075
Process, 1075
background, 314, 316, 1046
child, 314, 316, 1050
defined, 219, 314
die, 314, 316
first, 417
foreground, 1058
fork, 314
ID. See PID
init, 417
kill, 409
parent, 314, 1073
parent of all, 417
parent-child relationship, 314
search for using ps and grep, 410
sleep, 219, 316
spawn. See Fork
spontaneous, 314
start, 219
structure, 314
substitution, 351
wake up, 219, 314, 316
Processing a command line, 217
procmail daemon, 640
procmail utility, 164
profile file, 281, 412, 425, 469
Program, 1075
See also Builtins; Utility
badtabs.c, 877
keeping current, 868
running a, 108
stop, 130
structures, 974
tabs.c, 859
terminate, 130
X Window System, 247
Programmer
applications, 889
systems, 889
Programming tools, 857
Project Athena, 246
project file. See .project file
PROM, 1075
Prompt, 1076
#, 405
$, 17
%, 17
bash, 307
job control and, 294
login, 128, 424
PS2, 336
PS3, 934
representation, 17
root, 405
secondary, 920
shell, 128, 214
Superuser, 405
Proprietary operating system, 7
Protocol, 1076
connectionless, 1052
collection-oriented, 366, 1052
datagram-oriented, 367
defined, 365
DHCP, 445
HTTP, 396
HTTPS, 396, 847
ICMP, 380
IPP, 512
IPSec, 1021, 1038
ISO model, 363
network, 365
NNTP, 393
Point-to-Point, 584
PPP, 367, 584
SLIP, 367
TCP/IP, 365
telnet, 390
UDP, 365
protocols file, 469, 799
Proxy, 1076
defined, 391
gateway, 391, 1076
server, 391, 1076
ps filename extension, 181
ps utility, 232, 314, 566, 570, 945
PS1 variable, 283, 307
PS2 variable, 309, 336
PS3 variable, 934
PS4 variable, 916
Pseudographical interface, 26
Pseudoterminal, 463
pstree utility, 315
pts file, 463
pub directory, 619
Public key encryption, 1015
Public key encryption, OpenSSH, 592
Public License, GNU. See GNU,
General Public License
public_html directory, 823
pushd builtin, 297
putchar C macro, 861
pwd builtin, 182, 186, 965
pwd utility, 185, 207
PXD variable, 346
PXE, 699
Python, 1076
Q
Qmail, 664, 1020
qnx4 filesystem, 479
Qt, 253
Question mark, 1000
Questions, finding answers to, 394
Quick substitution, 325
Quietsent, 423
quiet boot parameter, 50
quota utility, 573
quotaon utility, 573
Quotation mark
double, 301, 348, 905, 949
removal, 343
single, 138, 301, 920
single versus double, 333, 350
usage message, 914
Quoting, 1076
characters, 138, 291
shell variables, 301
special characters, 302
whitespace, 301
R
Radio button, 1077
RAID, 33, 487, 552, 1077
RAM, 1077
disk, 36, 1077
swap, and, 31, 472
testing, 52
Random access memory. See RAM
Random bytes, generating, 463
random file, 463
Random number generator, 463
RANDOM variable, 981
Raw
device, 478
mode, 477
rbae utility, 1030
rc file, 418
rc scripts, 418
rc.d
about, 422
directory, 469
init.d directory, 419, 421
init.d/kudzu file, 432
rc.local file, 420
rc.sysinit file, 418, 485
RC5 encryption, 1017
rcnr.d directory, 418
rep utility, 376
RDF, 1077
Read
access, 193, 288
user input, 953
read builtin, 923, 924, 929, 953,
954, 966
read() system call, 887, 889
Readline Library, 318, 326, 328
readnews utility, 393
readonly builtin, 303, 304, 305,
966
Readonly memory. See ROM
Readonly variable, 299
reboot utility, 426
Reboot, system, 124
Rebuilding Linux, 537
rec.skiing newsgroup, 393
Recursion, 975
Recursion, infinite, alias, 332,
335
Recursive plunge. See Recursion,
infinite, alias
Red Hat
Directory Server, 683
Enterprise Linux. See RHEL
Knowledgebase, 1006
Network. See RHN
Package Manager. See RPM
security information, 1030
Redirect
operators, bash, 286
output, 148
standard
error, 957, 962
input, 224, 957
output, 222, 225, 957
output and append, 226
output and error, 285
output of background job,
232
output using tee, 230
Redirection, 13, 222, 1077
Redundant array of inexpensive
disks. See RAID
Reentrant code, 887, 1077
Reexecuting commands, 318
Refresh screen, 163
Regular character, 1078
Regular expression, 993, 1078
\(...\) bracket expression, 998
ampersand, 999, 1002
anchor, 996
asterisk, 996
bracket, 995
bracketing, 998
caret, 996
delimiter, 994
dollar sign, 996
empty, 998
extended, 1000
full, 999
longest match, 997
period, 995
quoted digit, 999
quoting parentheses, 998
quoting special characters, 997
replacement string, 998
rules of use, 997
simple string, 994
special character, 994
special character, quoting, 997
square bracket, 1050
summary, 1001
reiserfs filesystem, 479
reject utility, 529
saint utility, 1030
Samba, 1080
[homes] share, 735
about, 719
administration. See Samba, swat utility
browser parameters, 733
browsing Linux shares from Windows, 735
communication parameters, 734
daemons, 720
global parameters, 730
home directories, sharing, 735
JumpStart, configuring a Samba server with system-config-samba, 723
Linux shares accessing from Windows, 735
setting up, 724
logging parameters, 733
manual configuration, 736
more information, 721
NBT, 1070
net use utility (Windows), 739
net utility, 720
net view utility (Windows), 739
NetBIOS, 1070
nmbd daemon, 720, 738, 739
nmblookup utility, 739, 740
password, 722
ping utility, 739
prerequisites, 721
printing from Windows, 533
printing to Windows, 534
security parameters, 730
share, 1080
share parameters, 734
shared directory, 587
SMB, 1081
smb.conf file, 729
smbclient utility, 720, 737, 740
smbd daemon, 720, 738
smbpasswd file, 722
smbstatus utility, 720, 738
smbtree utility, 720, 736
smbusers file, 722
suite of programs, 720
swat utility, 725
system-config-samba utility, 723
testparm utility, 738
testpms utility, 738
troubleshooting, 738
user
adding, 724
map, 722
name, 722
nobody, 724
utilities, 720
Web Administration Tool. See Samba, swat utility
Windows
networks, browsing, 737
share, 1080
shares from Linux, accessing, 736
shares, connecting to, 737
shares, displaying, 736
shares, mounting, 737
WINS, 1089
xinetd daemon, 726
samhain utility, 1023, 1030
SANS security training and education, 1030
sara utility, 1030
sbin directory, 190, 405
Scheduling
jobs, 10
routine tasks, 559
Schema, 1080
Schneier, Bruce, 1030
sci.med newsgroup, 393
cvp utility, 358, 476, 595. See also OpenSSH
screen, login, 124
screen, refresh, 163
script utility, 150
Script, init, 469
Script, shell. See Shell script
Scroll, 1080
Search
bar, Konqueror, 268
database, 396
directory, 190
index, 397
for a file, 261
for Files window, 261
keyword using apropos, 157
path, 156
string using grep, 143
using kfind, 268
Secondary prompt, 920
Secondary server, DNS, 748
Secret key encryption. See Symmetric key encryption
Secunia vulnerability monitoring, 1030
secure file, 453, 473, 1004
Secure Sockets Layer. See SSL
securenets file, 678
securetty file, 407
Security
access permission, 193, 194
accton utility, 1024
ACL, 1041, 1044
AIDE utility, 413, 1023, 1028
ANI, 1026
Apache security directives, 838
authentication, 1046
automatic number identification, 1026
back door, 1046
BIND. See Security, DNS
BIOS, 569
Bugtraq, 1024
caller ID, 1026
CERT, 568, 1024, 1028
checksum, 1050
dhroottkit utility, 1028
dkoot jail. See chroot jail
cipher, 1051
ciphertext, 1014, 1051
clearmessage, 1051
CLID, 1026
cookie, 1052
crack utility, 568
cracker, 1053
cryptography, 1053
cypher, 1051
DDoS attack, 1054
digital signature, 1016
DNS, 744, 774
DoS attack, 1056
DragonSquire IDS, 1023
dsniff utility, 1028
dsniff tool, 1019
director. See Encryption Enhanced Linux. See SELinux
d庹real utility, 1028
Fedora, 1023
file, 1019
finger utility, 375
firewall, 363
Security, continued
Firewall toolkit, 1029
Freefire solutions, 1028
FTP, 620, 625
fwtk utility, 1029
GIAC certification and training, 1029
hole, 506
host, 1023
host based trust, 377
host, trusted, 376
hosts.equiv file, 376
hping utility, 1029
in.rexed daemon, 390
Internet, root access, 407
IP spoofing, 377
IPng, 373
IPSec, 1021, 1038
IPv6, 373
ISC2, 1029
John the Ripper utility, 1029
keep the system secure, 568
Kerberos, 1029, 1065
kill, 409
lids utility, 1029
Linux features, 12
LinuxSecurity.com, 1029
lockty script, 925
login, 1024
account, 377
shell, 469
LWN.net, 1029
mailing list, bugtraq, 1028
 messages, 473
MITM. See Man-in-the-middle
more information, 1028
MTA, 1019
MUA, 1020
nessus utility, 1029
netcat utility, 1029
network
 about, 1020
guidelines, 1021
solutions, 1021
NFS, 700
rmap utility, 1029
one-time password, 1024
OpenSSH. See OpenSSH
OPIE utility, 1024, 1029
PAM, 425, 1024
password, 126, 405, 468
PATH and Superuser, 409
PATH variable, 307
physical, 1026
plaintext, 1014
priv utility, 406
RAS, 1025
rbac utility, 1030
Red Hat information, 1030
remote access, 1025
resources, 1028
ring of trust, 1018
rlogind daemon, 1024
root access, Internet, 407
RSA, 1079
rshd daemon, 1024
rsyslogd daemon, 1024
saint utility, 1030
samhain utility, 1023, 1030
SANS training and certification, 1030
sara utility, 1030
Schneier, Bruce, 1030
Secunia vulnerability monitoring, 1030
SecurityFocus tools and lists, 1030
SELinux, 414
sendmail, 415
sed utility, 571
Seed, BitTorrent, 499
Segment, network, 1071
select control structure, 933
Selection buffer, 102
Server, 1080
DNS
 cache, 767
full-functioned, 777
master, 748
primary master, 748
secondary, 748
slave, 780
split horizon, 781
types of, 748
file, 697
FTP, 624
mail list, 376, 1007
Message Block Protocol. See Samba, SMB
name, 385, 386
process, 384
proxy, 391
setting up, 435, 586
vsftpd, 624
X, 247, 1090
service utility, 420
Service, directory, 1055

up-to-date software, 506
virtual private network, 506
virus, 1026, 1088
VPN, 359
vsftpd, 630
wiping a file, 463
worm, 1026, 1088, 1090
xhost, 250
xineted daemon. See xinetd daemon
security directory, 452, 455
SecurityFocus, security tools and lists, 1030
sed utility, 571
Seed, BitTorrent, 499
Segment, network, 1071
select control structure, 933
Selection buffer, 102
Self-signed certificate, 659, 662, 848
SELinux, 414
sendmail file, 647
sendmail.mc file, 642, 648
Separating commands, 290
Server, 1080
DNS
 cache, 767
full-functioned, 777
master, 748
primary master, 748
secondary, 748
slave, 780
split horizon, 781
types of, 748
file, 697
FTP, 624
mail list, 376, 1007
Message Block Protocol. See Samba, SMB
name, 385, 386
process, 384
proxy, 391
setting up, 435, 586
vsftpd, 624
X, 247, 1090
service utility, 420
Service, directory, 1055
Services

- daemons providing, 388
- Internet, 392
- network, 388
- nsswitch.conf file, 449

services database, 1074

services file, 388, 392, 470

Session, 1080

- defined, 106
- failsafe, 1057
- key, OpenSSH, 594
- manager, 106, 133

sestatus utility, 416

- set builtin, 304, 913, 915, 916, 950, 951, 966
- built-in, 1081

setserial utility, 433

- Set group ID.
  - See Setgid
- Set user ID.
  - See Setuid

Setgid, 195, 1080

- root, files belonging to the group, 195, 406
- setgid option to mount, 481, 701
- root, files owned by, 195, 406

security, 568

Sexillion, 1080

shadow file, 424, 470

shar shell script, 936

- Share, 1080
- share directory, 190

Shell script, 279, 286, 1081

- # comment, 289
- #! shell to use, 288
- /dev/tty for a terminal, 958
- addbanner, 961
- bash, 974
- birthday, 935
- bundle, 936
- chkargs, 906, 908
- command_menu, 929
- comment, 289
- configure, 505
- count, 921
- cpdir, 287
- create, 286
- debug, 916
- double quotation marks, 949, 954
- error message, 915, 932
- executing, 287, 289
- Here document, 935
- infinite loop, 960
- invocation, 289
- is_regfile, 907
- links, 912
- locktty, 925
- makepath, 975
- menu, 929
- out, 909
- PATH usage, 932
- quiz, 978
- quote in, 905, 914, 920, 949
- read user input, 953
- recursion, 973
- running, 289
- safedit, 931
- shar, 936
- specifying a shell, 288
- spell_check, 922
- temporary filename, 933, 945
- usage message, 908, 914, 932
- user input, 953
- whos, 919
- whoson, 287

SHELL variable, 425

Shell variable

- $!, 946
- $#0, 931, 947
- $S, 933, 945
- $#*, 948
- $#?, 946
- $#@, 919, 948
Shell variable, continued
$0, 947
BASH_ENV, 282
CDPATH, 311
COLUMNS, 934
CVSROOT, 891
DISPLAY, 250
ENV, 282
FCEDIT, 320
HISTFILESIZE, 316
HISTSIZE, 316
HOME, 300, 305, 425, 961
IFS, 309
INPUTRC, 329
keyword, 305
LD_LIBRARY_PATH, 867, 868
LD_RUN_PATH, 867
LINES, 934
LOGNAME, 425
MAIL, 307, 425
MAILCHECK, 307
MAILPATH, 307
naming, 299
noclobber, 225
OLDPWD, 346
OPTARG, 963
OPTIND, 963
PATH, 306
example, 931
keyword shell variable, 300
login, 425
root, 405
security, 412
PS1, 283, 307
PS2, 309, 336
PS3, 934
PS4, 916
PWD, 346
quoting, 301
RANDOM, 981
readonly, 299
REPLY, 934, 954
SHELL, 425
TERM, 125, 425, 462
shells file, 432
shell builtin, 949, 964, 966
Short-circuiting operator, 972
Shortcut, Konqueror, 271
Shortcut. See Link
showmount utility, 712
shxml filename extension, 824
Shutdown system, 124
shutdown utility, 426, 472
Side pane, Nautilus, 257
Signal, 1081
defined, 959
hang up, 960
HUP, 567
KILL, 567
kill, 960
list of, 959
names, 959, 962
quit, 960
software termination, 960
TERM, 130
terminal interrupt, 960
Signature, digital, 1016
Silicon Graphics, 395
Simple filename, 183, 185, 218, 425, 1081
Single quotation mark, 138, 920
Single versus double quotation marks, 333
Single-user
from multiuser, 428
maintenance, 423
mode, about, 423
Superuser, 406
system, 1081
Size of file, display using ls, 193
skel directory, 551
Skip to top of page, 171
slapcat utility, 688
slapdpassw utility, 686
Slave server, DNS, 748, 780
Sleep, shell, 219
sleep system call, 316
Slice. See Partition
SLIP protocol, 367
Sloppy focus, 131
Slow system, 566
Smartcard, 1025
SMB. See Samba, SMB
smb.conf file, 729
smbclient utility, 720, 737, 740
smbd daemon, 390, 720, 738
smbfs filesystem, 479
smbpasswd file, 722
smbstatus utility, 720, 738
smbtree utility, 720, 736
smbusers file, 722
Smiley, 1081
Smilies, plural of smiley
smoat utility, 63
SmoothWall, Linux router
distribution, 581
SMTP, 379, 639, 1081
Snap, window, 1081
SNAT, 806
Sneakernet, 1081
Sniff, 1082
so file, 863, 866
so filename extension, 863, 866
SOA record, DNS, 751
soctimes newsgroup, 393
Socket
about, 476
UNIX domain, 475
SOCKS, 1082
Soft link. See Symbolic, link
Software
add, 497
bug, 506
free, definition, 1033
installing, 489
keep up-to-date, 506
package, 489
add, 502
information, 502
remove, 503
termination signal, 960
upgrading, 489
Sort, 1082
sort utility, 14, 145, 229, 230, 1058
source builtin, 283
Source code management, 889
Source repository, 891
SPACE, 138, 1082
Spam, 1082
SpamAssassin, 652
whois and, 382
spamd daemon, 652, 655
Sparse file, 1082
Spawn. See Fork
Special
character, 1082
*, 234
?, 233
[), 235
defined, 138, 233
filename generation, 233
Here document, 936
pathname expansion, 233
quoting, 301, 302
regular expressions, 993
standard input, 936
file
  - about, 474, 475
  - block, 475
  - character, 475
  - device file, 1055
  - parameters, shell, 300, 944
Speed, Internet, 359
spelling_check shell script, 922
shell script, 922
Spinner, 1082
splash boot parameter, 50
split utility, 878
Split horizon server, DNS, 781
Splitting, word, 309
Spontaneous process, 314
Spoofing, IP, 1064
spool directory, 571, 1004
SQL, 1082
Square bracket, 1083
test, 907
SquirrelMail, 656
src directory, 190, 538
srp utility, 1030
ssh directory, 593
ssh utility, 126, 358, 476, 584, 592, 595, 597, 598, 1025, 1030. See also OpenSSH
ssh_config file, 601
ssh_known_hosts file, 593, 596, 597
sshd daemon, 388, 390
sshd_config file, 605
ssh-keygen utility, 604
SSL
  - Apache, 847
  - email, 662
  - security, 1019
st0 file, 558
Stack
  - defined, 296
  - directory, manipulation, 296
  - LIFO, 296
  - PAM, 455
Stallman, Richard, 2
Stand-alone computer, 357
Standard
  - directories and files, 188
  - error, 220, 284, 915, 937, 1083
  - exec, 957
  - file descriptor, 284, 937
  - shell script, 914
  - trap, 962
input, 220, 1083
exec, 957
  - file descriptor, 284, 937
  - pipe (), 292
  - redirect, 224
  - special character, 936
output, 220, 1083
append, 226
exec, 957
  - file descriptor, 284, 937
  - pipe (), 292
  - redirect, 222, 230
Standards
  - FHS, 188
  - Free Standards Group, 188
  - FSG, 188
  - FSSTND, 188
  - Linux Filesystem Hierarchy Standard, 188
  - Linux Standard Base, 188
  - LSB, 188
  - OpenPGP Message Format, 1018
  - option handling, 965
STARTTLS, security, 663, 1019
Startup file, 182, 1083
  - .bash_login file, 281
  - .bash_logout file, 281
  - .bash_profile, 281, 462
  - .bashrc, 184, 281, 462
  - .cshrc, 1053
  - .inputrc, 329
  - .login, 1067
  - .logout, 1067
  - .profile, 281, 462, 1075
  - .toprc, 563
/etc
  - bashrc, 281, 425
  - profile, 281, 425, 469
bash, 281
BASH_ENV variable, 282
  - check for problems, 565
ENV variable, 282
startup utility, 128, 248
stat utility, 433
stat() system call, 888
stderr daemon, 389
Static IP address, 368
Statically linked library, 866
Status
  - exit, 1057
  - line, 1083
stdio.h C header file, 861
Sticky bit, 1083
Stop a program, 130
Stopping a job using the suspend key, 231
strace utility, 887
Streaming tape, 1083
Streams. See Connection-oriented protocol
String, 1083
  - comparing, 968
  - double quotation marks, 301
  - finding using grep, 143
  - pattern matching (bash), 968
Stroustrup, Bjarne, 9
Structure, data, 1054
Structured Query Language. See SQL
stty utility, 462, 925
Stylesheet. See CSS
su utility, 406, 407, 408, 568
Subdirectory, 178, 1083
Subdomain, 746
Subnet, 371, 1083
  - address, 1084
  - mask, 371, 1084
  - number, 1084
  - specifying, 436
Subpixel hinting, 1084
Subroutine. See Procedure
Subshell, 289, 293, 1084
Substitution
  - command, 348
  - parameter, 301
sudo utility, 406
sudoers file, 406
Sun Microsystems, 373, 667, 697
Superblock, 1084
Supercomputers, 8
Superserver. See xinetd daemon
Superuser, 94, 405, 1084
  - becoming, 406
  - multiuser mode, 406
  - password, 568
  - password, changing a user’s, 127
PATH variable, 405
PATH, and security, 409
  - powers, 195
  - privileges, 405
  - prompt, 405
  - setuid, 406
  - single-user mode, 406
  - su utility, 406
  - sudo utility, 406

Suspend key, 129, 130, 171, 231, 295, 959
SVID. See System, V Interface Definition
Swap, 472, 1084 filesystem, 31, 472, RAM, and, 31, 472 space, 1084 swapon utility, 472
swat utility, 1030
Switch. See Network, switch Switching hub, 361, 580
sylpheed utility, 164
Symbol table, 881
Symbolic constant, 859 debugger, 880 hostname, 387 link, 206, 474, 475, 1066, 1084 creating using ln, 206 deleting using rm, 208 symlink. See Symbolic, link Symmetric key encryption, 1016 sync utility, 427 Syntax, command line, 214 sys file, 538 sysconfig about, 471 hwconf file, 432 sysctl utility, 537, 538 sysctl.conf file, 537 System administration accept utility, 529 at utility, 559 authconfig utility, 430 back up files, 557 bug, 506 chkconfig utility, 422 client, specifying, 435 communicate with users, 563 configuration file rules, 435 consolehelper utility, 408, 427 crontab utility, 559 dmesg utility, 418, 432 dump utility, 557 ed2k utility, 432 edquota utility, 573 exportfs utility, 428 file backup, 552 growing, 570 filesystem integrity, 484 mount remote, 700 repair, 429 free space, disk, 570 fsck utility, 429, 484 gdmsetup utility, 88 group, add, 552 groupadd utility, 552 groupdel utility, 552 groupmod utility, 552 halt utility, 426, 427, 428 host, specifying, 435 hosts.allow file, 438 hosts.deny file, 438 init scripts, 418 init utility, 424, 425 KDE, 112 Kickstart utility, 78 kill builtin, 408, 410 killall utility, 411 kudzu utility, 432 log in problem, 565 log, machine, 567 logwatch utility, 569 ladmin utility, 527 linfo utility, 526 ls of utility, 567 memtest86+ utility, 52 mkts utility, 432 more information, 413 mount remote filesystem, 700 mount utility, 428 multiuser mode, 423 multiuser/graphical mode, 424 parted utility, 72 password, modify, 551 pidof utility, 411 poweroff utility, 426 problems, 565 ps utility, 232, 314, 566, 570 quota utility, 573 quotaon utility, 573 reboot utility, 426 reject utility, 529 reports, 560 rescue mode, 411 restore utility, 557 rpcinfo utility, 437 rpm utility, 501 rsyslogd daemon, 574 runlevels, 418 schedule tasks, 559 SELinux, 414 service utility, 420 setuid files, finding, 413 shutdown utility, 426 single-user mode, 423, 428 slow system, 566 su utility, 407 subnet, specifying, 436 sync utility, 427 system does not boot, 429 telinit utility, 428 tools, 405 top utility, 562 Trojan horse, 412 trouble alias, 567 tune2fs utility, 432, 485 umask builtin, 433 umount utility, 428, 483 uname utility, 434 user add, 550, 551 cannot log in, 565 getting information to, 563 modify, 550, 551 remove, 552 useradd utility, 551 userdel utility, 552 usermod utility, 552 vmstat utility, 561 wall utility, 428 wget utility, 508 xinetd daemon, 439 administrator, 94, 1084 powers, 195, 405 responsibilities, 403 Superuser, 195 boot, 417 bring down, 426 bring up, 417 bug, 506 call, 858, 887, 888 bad, trapping, 959 C, from, 858 chmod(), 889 chown(), 889 close(), 889 creat(), 889 defined, 10, 887
device, raw, 478
exec(), 289, 888
exit(), 888
filesystem operations, 888
fork(), 289, 314, 316, 888
gethostbyname(), 755
getpid(), 888
getppid(), 888
kill(), 888
lseek(), 889
manual section, 117
nice(), 888
open(), 889
process control, 888
read(), 887, 889
sleep(), 316
stat(), 888
tracing with strace, 887
unlink(), 889
wait(), 888
write(), 887, 889
console, 125, 423, 1085
crash, 428
dataless, 699, 1054
diskless, 698
does not boot, 429
error messages, 473
initialization, customize, 419
logging in, 96
logs, 574
maintenance, 423
messages, 473, 574
mode, 1085
operation, 417
powering down, 428
programmer, 889
reboot, 124, 426
reports, 560
rescue mode, 42
security, 568
shutdown, 124, 426
single-user, 1081
system-config-nfs utility, 707
V Interface Definition, 9
V UNIX, 1085
well-maintained, 404
system services database, 1062
system-config-bind utility, 759
system-config-date utility, 430
system-config-display utility, 80
system-config-firewall utility, 794
system-config-httpd utility, 816
system-config-keyboard utility, 430
system-config-kickstart utility, 78
system-config-language utility, 430
system-config-lvm utility, 35
system-config-network utility, 583
system-config-network-cmd utility, 431
system-config-nfs utility, 707
system-config-rootpassword utility, 431
system-config-samba utility, 723
system-config-securitylevel utility, 794, 803
system-config-selinux utility, 416
system-config-services utility, 420
system-config-soundcard utility, 431
system-config-users utility, 550
sysv filesystem, 479
TCP/IP, 365, 391
telah, 1085
tee utility, 230
Teletypewriter, 1087
telinit utility, 423, 428
telnet utility, 126, 358, 377, 378, 845, 1020
telnetd daemon, 390, 1024
Temporary file, 933
Tera-, 1085
TERM signal, 130
TERM variable, 125, 425, 462
Termcap, 1010, 1011
termcap file, 1085
Terminal, 1085
ASCII, 1045
character-based, 1050
console, 1052
emulator
   GNOME, 105, 265
   KDE, 105, 273
telnet, 125
term, 220
interrupt signal, 960
name
   ansi, 1011
   linux, 1011
   vt100, 462, 1011
   vt102, 1011
   vt220, 1011
   xterm, 1011
pseudo, 463
Server Project, Linux, 698
specifying, 1010
standard input, 221
standard output, 221
X, 1090
Terminate a program, 130
Terminfo, 1010, 1011
terminfo database, 165
terminfo directory, 1085
Ternary operator, 971, 973
test builtin, 905, 906, 907, 911, 915, 918, 920, 966
test utility, 906
testparm utility, 738
testprns utility, 738
Text
   box, 1085
echo, 149
file, 164
Textual interface, 26
http utility, 699
Index

**tftp** daemon, 390

tg filename extension, 181

Theme, 1085

Then control structure, 904, 908, 911

Thicknet, 361, 1085

Thinnet, 361, 1085

Thompson, Ken, 9, 1046

Thread, 886, 887

Three-finger salute, 427

Thumb, 1085

tif filename extension, 181, 1086

tiff filename extension, 181, 1086

Tilde expansion, 183, 305, 345

Tiled windows, 1086

time builtin, 966

Time to live. See TTL

timed daemon, 390

tin utility, 393

Titlebar, 101

TkCVS utility, 898

TLS, security, 1019

tmp directory, 571, 933

Toggle, 1086

Token, 214, 342

Token ring network, 1086

Toolbar

defined, 102

Extra, Konqueror, 268

illustration, 109

Konqueror, 109, 267, 268

Nautilus, 258

Tooltip, 98, 1086

Top of form, 171

top utility, 562, 566

Top-down design, 980

torrent filename extension, 499

Torrent, BitTorrent, 499

torrentinfo-console utility, 500

Torvalds, Linus, 1, 2, 3, 6, 1065

touch utility, 191, 872

tput builtin, 925

tr utility, 151, 228, 285

traceroute utility, 380

traceroute6 utility, 381

Tracker, BitTorrent, 499

Transactions signatures, DNS. See DNS, TSIG

Transfer rate, network, 361

Transient window, 1086

Transmission Control Protocol. See TCP

Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol. See TCP/IP

Transport Layer Security. See TLS

trap builtin, 925, 959, 966

Treachery, security tools, 1030

Tree structure, 178

tripwire utility, 1023, 1030

Trolltech, 253

Troubleshooting, DNS, 775

true utility, 961

Trusted host, 376

tset utility, 433

TTL, 1086

TTL, DNS, 751

tty file, 958

tty utility, 220

TTY. See Teletypewriter

tune2fs utility, 432, 485

Tunneling, 1087

Tunneling, OpenSSH, 608

Tutorial

FTP, 616

Using vim to create and edit a file, 164

Twisted pair cable, 361

txt filename extension, 181, 235

type builtin, 953, 966

Type of file, display using ls, 193

Typeface conventions, 17

typescript file, 150

typeset builtin, 303, 944

Typo, correcting, 129

tz filename extension, 154

U

U.S. Library of Congress, 378

UCE. See Span

timeout utility, 375

UDP, 365, 1087

UDP/IP, 391

ufs filesystem, 479

unsafe utility, 464

UID, 1087

effective, 1056

password file, in, 468

ulimit builtin, 881

umount utility, 428, 467, 483, 702

umdos filesystem, 479

unalias builtin, 332, 335

uname utility, 434

uncompress utility, 181

Undecillion, 1087

Undefined variable, 942

Unicast packet, 367, 1087

Unicast vs. broadcast, 367

Unicode, 1087

uniq utility, 146

Unique filename, 933, 945

University of Illinois, 395

UNIX

Bourne Shell, 280

domain socket, 475

philosophy, 374

printing, traditional, 523

System V, 6, 1085

System V Interface Definition. See System V Interface Definition

unix2dos utility, 151, 620

unlink() system call, 889

Unlock view, Konqueror, 271

Unmanaged window, 1087

Unmount a busy filesystem, 483

Unpack archive file using tar, 153

Unshielded twisted pair. See UTP

until control structure, 924

unzip utility, 153

update command (cvs), 893

updatedb utility, 63, 158

Upgrade. See Fedora, installing

Upgrading software, 489

ups utility, 880, 886

Uptime, display using w, 162

uptime utility, 162

urandom file, 463

URL, 1087

URL, 396, 1087

Usage message, 214, 908, 914, 932, 1087

Usenet, 392, 396

User

accounts, manage, 550

add, 550, 551

authentication, 424

cannot log in, 565

communication, network, 374

created variable, 299, 300

UTC
Datagram Protocol. See UDP
finger, 159
ID. See UID
interface, 1063, 1088
map, Samba, 722
mode, 1088
modify, 550, 551
name, Samba, 722
name. See Username
nfsnobody, 711
nobody, Samba, 724
private groups, 465
remove, 552
root. See Superuser
Samba, 724
Superuser. See Superuser
w, 161
who, 159
user_list file (vsftpd), 636
useradd utility, 551
userdel utility, 552
usermod utility, 552
Username, 468, 470, 1088
Userspace, 1088
usr partition, 33
UTC, 1088
Utility, 1088
accept, 529
accton, 1024
adduser, 551
AIDE, 413, 1023, 1028
amanda, 554
anacron, 559
apm, 428
apropos, 63, 116, 157, 1005
aspell, 921, 923
at, 388, 464, 559
authconfig, 430
automount, 714
basename, 931, 932, 961
bison, 16
bittorrent-curses, 499
builtins versus, 906
bunzip2, 152, 156
bzcat, 153
bzip2, 152, 156, 556
bzip2recover, 153
cancel, 523
cat, 139, 221, 223, 224, 284, 910
cchkconfig, 422
chkrootkit, 1028
chmod, 194, 288
chsh, 432
clear, 432
compress, 153, 181
consolehelper, 408, 427
cp, 141, 192, 293
cpio, 555, 556
clone, 568
crontab, 464, 559
cut, 347
cvs, 890
date, 149, 227
ddd, 880, 886
degmod, 544
df, 699
dhclient, 446
diff, 147, 598
dig, 382, 754, 758, 776
dmesg, 418, 432, 547
dos2unix, 151, 620
DragonSquire, 1023
dsniff, 1028
dump, 557
e2label, 432
edquota, 573
egrep, 999
emacs, 164
ethereal, 1028
Evolution, 164
exportfs, 428, 712
fformat, 482
file, 147, 473, 571
find, 413, 571, 913, 916
find using whereis, 156
find using which, 156
finger, 159, 374, 375, 389, 919
flex, 16
fsck, 429, 478, 484, 569
ftp, 358, 468, 614, 620
fuser, 483
fwk, 1029
gawk, 919, 920
gcc, 9, 862
gcc (GNU), 878
gdb, 880, 881
gdm, 426
gdm (GNOME), 88
gdmsetup, 88
getty, 314
gnome-appearance-properties, 263
gnome-control-center, 110
gnome-search-tool, 261
gnome-terminal, 265
gopher, 395
grained, 69
gprof, 16
gq, 692
grep, 143, 229, 919, 920, 923,
935, 1049, 1058
grupadd, 552
grupdel, 552
grupmod, 552
grups, 465
grub, 545
gunzip, 153
gzip, 153
halt, 426, 427, 428
head, 144
host, 382, 755
hostname, 141, 374
hpng, 1029
id, 408
info, 118, 237, 1005
init, 314, 417, 423, 424, 425,
427, 466
insmod, 544
ipchains, 790
iptables, 789
iptables-restore, 802
iptables-save, 802
iwconfig, 584
John the Ripper, 1029
jwhois, 382
kcolorchooser, 274
krain, 560
kdbg, 880
kerberos, 1025, 1029
kfind, 268
Kickstart, 78
killall, 411
kllpper, 103, 275
konsole, 273
kudzu, 432, 582
ld, 867
ldapadd, 688
ldapmodly, 687
ldapsearch, 687
ldd, 866, 867
ld-linux.so, 867
less, 116, 140, 230, 292, 910
lids, 1029
links, 396
lnt, 878
ln, 204, 206, 474
locate, 63, 158
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Utility, continued</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>lock, 925</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>login, 314, 424</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>logresolve, 830</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>logrotate, 571</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>logwatch, 569</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lp, 523</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ldapadmin, 527</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lpc, 143, 523</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lpr, 143, 229, 231, 523</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lprm, 143, 523</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lpstat, 143, 523</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ls, 139, 185, 193, 196, 205, 234, 288</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ismod, 544</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iso, 567</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lynx, 396</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mail, 164, 568</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mailq, 646</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mailstats, 647</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>make, 154, 868, 869, 874</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>makedbm, 678</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>makemap, 647</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>makewhatis, 63, 158</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>man, 14, 116, 120</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>md5sum, 42</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>memtest86+, 52</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mesg, 163</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mingetty, 314, 424, 467</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mkdir, 185, 187, 701</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mkfifo, 476</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mkfs, 432, 482, 569</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mkswap, 472</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>modinfo, 544</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>modprobe, 544</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more, 140, 230, 910</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mount, 428, 467, 480, 481, 701, 737</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mt, 559</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mv, 142, 191, 474</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mxgdb, 880</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>names, typeface, 17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nessus, 1029</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>net, 720</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>net use (Windows), 739</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>net view (Windows), 739</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>netcat, 1029</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>netstat, 369</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>network, 358, 376</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>newaliases, 646</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nisdomainname, 672</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nmap, 1029</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nmblookup, 739, 740</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nn, 393</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nologin, 469</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>od, 464</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPIE, 1024, 1029</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>option, 215</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parted, 72</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>passwd, 405, 406, 471, 674</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pidgin, 100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pidof, 411</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pinfo, 119</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ping, 379, 433, 470, 739</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ping6, 380</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pirit, 497</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>portmap, 700, 713</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poweroff, 426</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pralises, 646</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>printer, 531</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>procmail, 164</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ps, 232, 314, 566, 570, 945</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pstree, 315</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pwd, 185, 207</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>qmail, 1020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quota, 573</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quotaon, 573</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rbad, 1030</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rcp, 376</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>readnews, 393</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reboot, 426</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reject, 529</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reset, 433</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>restore, 557</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rlogin, 358</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rm, 140, 208, 334, 474, 910</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rmdir, 190</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rmmid, 544</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rm, 393</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rpcbind, 700</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rpcinfo, 437, 473</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rpm, 572</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rsh, 358, 376</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rsyslog, 390</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>runlevel, 428</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>runtime, 566</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S/Key, 1024</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>saint, 1030</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>samhain, 1023, 1030</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sara, 1030</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scp, 358, 476, 595, 595. See also</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OpenSSH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sestatus, 416</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>setserial, 433</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sftp, 601</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sha1sum, 41</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>showmount, 712</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shutdown, 426, 472</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slapcat, 688</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slappasswd, 686</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smbclient, 720, 737, 740</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smbstatus, 720, 738</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smbtree, 720, 736</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smtp, 63</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>snort, 1030</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sort, 14, 145, 229, 230, 1058</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spltm, 878</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>srp, 1030</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ssh, 126, 358, 388, 476, 584, 592, 595, 597, 598, 1025, 1030. See also OpenSSH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ssh-keygen, 604</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>startx, 128, 248</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stat, 433</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>strace, 887</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sty, 462, 925</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>su, 406, 407, 408, 568</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>suddo, 406</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>swapon, 472</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>swat, 725</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>swatch, 1030</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sylpheed, 164</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sync, 427</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>syslog, 537, 538</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>system-config-bind, 759</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>system-config-date, 430</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>system-config-display, 80</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>system-config-firewall, 794</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>system-config-httpd, 816</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>system-config-keyboard, 430</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>system-config-kickstart, 78</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>system-config-language, 430</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>system-config-lvm, 35</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>system-config-network, 583</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>system-config-network-cmd, 431</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>system-config-nfs, 707</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>system-config-rootpassword, 431</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>system-config-samba, 723</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>system-config-securitylevel, 794, 803</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>system-config-selinux, 416</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>system-config-services, 420</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>system-config-soundcard, 431</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>system-config-users, 550</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Index 1137

tail, 144, 232
talk, 376, 390
tar, 153, 293, 554, 556
tee, 230
telinit, 423, 428
telnet, 126, 358, 377, 378, 845, 1020
test, 905, 906, 911, 915, 966
testparm, 738
testprns, 738
tftp, 699
tin, 393
TkCVS, 898
top, 562, 566
torrentinfo-console, 500
touch, 191, 872
tr, 151, 228, 285
ttraceroute, 380
ttracerout6, 381
tripwire, 1023, 1030
true, 961
tset, 433
tty, 220
tune2fs, 432, 485
typeset, 303
udev, 475
ufsdump, 464
umount, 428, 467, 483, 702
uname, 434
uncompress, 181
uniq, 146
unik2dos, 151, 620
unzip, 153
updatedb, 63, 158
ups, 880, 886
uptime, 162
useradd, 551
userdel, 552
usermod, 552
uucp, 393
vimtutor, 164
vmstat, 561
w, 161, 566
wall, 428, 563
wc, 347
webalizer, 851
wget, 508
whatis, 63, 158
whereis, 157
which, 156
who, 159, 220, 227, 229, 468, 572
whois, 382
write, 159, 162, 563
X Window System, 247
xargs, 571
xclock, 108
xev, 248
xhost, 249
Xinerama, 1090
xmodmap, 252
Xorg, 246
x11n, 393
xvnews, 393
xvnc, 880, 885
yppinit, 680
yppasswd, 674
ypwhich, 673
ypxfr, 680
yum. See yum
yumdownloader, 496
zcat, 153
zip, 153
UTP cable, 361
uucp utility, 393

V
var filename extension, 824
var partition, 32
Variable, 299, 1088
braces, 302
completion, 329
default value, assign, 951
display error message, 952
environment, 299
expansion, 346, 951
exported, 957
global, 299, 957
keyword, 300
local, 316, 957
modifiers, 951
naming, 299
readonly, 299
remove, 303
shell, 299
substitute default value, 951
substitution, 301
undeclared, 942
user created, 299, 300
VeriSign, 1016
vfat filesystem, 479
VG. See LVM, VG
vi bash command line editor, 326
Video card, configure, 82
View pane, Nautilus, 257
View, Konqueror, 109, 270
Viewport. See Workspace
vim
bash command line editor, 326
case sensitivity, 1049
Command mode, 166
correct a mistake, 169, 170
create a file, 164
d command, 170
dd command, 170
delete text, 170
ad a file, 164
end a session, 171
enter text, 167
exit from, 171
exit, emergency, 165
getting started, 165
Input mode, 166, 167
insert text, 170
Last Line mode, 167
move the cursor, 169
Normal mode. See vim,
Command mode
page break, 171
quit, 171
replacement string, 1002
safedit script, 931
special characters, 1002
starting, 165
terminal specification, 1010
u command, 170
undo changes, 170
Work buffer, 171
x command, 170
 ZZ command, 171
vimtutor utility, 164
Virtual
colone, 125, 1088
filesystem, 480
memory, 472
private network. See VPN
virtusertable file, 651, 652
Virus, 1026, 1088
VLAN, 1088
vmstat utility, 561
Volume group. See LVM, VG
Volume label, 432, 483
VPN, 359, 1088
vsftpd
See also FTP
crhost jail, 628
configuration file, 626
connection parameters, 634
vsftpd, continued
display, 632
downloading files, 630
files, 636
log, 633
logging in (users), 627
messages, 632
PASV connections, 634
PORT connections, 634
prerequisites, 624
security, 630
server, 624
stand-alone mode, 624, 627
starting, 625
testing, 625
uploading files, 630
vsftpd.conf file, 626
vsftpd.log file, 636
vt100 terminal, 462, 1011
vt102 terminal, 1011
vt220 terminal, 1011
Vulcan death grip, 427

W
w utility, 161, 566
W2K, 1089
W3. See World Wide Web
W3C, 1089
wait builtin, 966
wait() system call, 888
Wake up, process, 316
wall utility, 428, 563
WAN, 16, 360, 362, 363, 1089
WAP, 581, 1089
wc utility, 347
Web
See also World Wide Web
crawler, 396
ring, 1089
shortcuts, Konqueror, 266
whatalizer utility, 851
Webmail, 656
Weissman, Terry, 507
wget utility, 508
whatis database, 63, 158
whatis utility, 63, 158
wheel group, 456
whereis utility, 157
which utility, 156
while control structure, 920, 956, 961, 964
Whitespace, 1089
command line, 291
defined, 138
quoting, 301
who am i, 159
who utility, 159, 220, 227, 229, 468, 572
whois utility, 382
whos shell script, 919
whoson shell script, 287
Wide area network. See WAN
Widget, 1089
Wi-Fi, 1089
Wildcard, 1089. See also Metacharacter
Window, 1089
active, 131
cascading, 1049
clipboard, 103
Configure Panel, 113
context menu, 102
cut and paste, 102
cycling, 102
decorations, 133
defined, 100
file, 220
focus
click-to-focus, 131
enter-only focus, 131
explicit focus, 131
focus-follows-mouse, 131
focus-strictly-under-mouse, 131
focus-under-mouse, 131
input focus, 131
point to give focus, 131
sloppy focus, 131
ignored, 1062
input focus, 102, 131
List, GNOME, 99
Location bar, 109
manager, 15, 16, 1089
about, 133
Compiz Fusion, 133
Metacity, 133
menubar, 109
minimize, 1069
mouse buttons, remap, 252
Operations menu, 102
resizing, 101
root, 103
scrollbar, 1080
Search for Files, 261
shading, 102
snap, 1081
thumb, 1085
tiled, 1086
toolbar, 109
typical, 1086
unmanaged, 1087
wobbly, 133
Windows
convert files, 151
dual-boot system, 79
filename limitation, 180
integration. See Samba
net use utility (Samba), 739
net view utility (Samba), 739
networks, browsing using Samba, 737
privileged port, 1075
Samba. See Samba
shares from Linux, accessing using Samba, 736
shares, connecting to using Samba, 737
shares, displaying using Samba, 736
shares, mounting, 737
winprinter, 517
WINS, 1089
Wiping a file, 463
Wire. See Cable
Wireless. See Network, wireless
Wobbly windows, 133
Word, 1089
defined, 129, 214, 954
deleting, 129
designator, 322
erase key, 217
parse a command line, 342
splitting (bash), 309
Work buffer, 1089
Work buffer, vim, 171
Working directory, 1090
change using cd, 186
defined, 182
execute a file in, 307
PATH, 287
relative pathnames and, 184
significance of, 184
versus home directory, 187
Workspace, 1090
defined, 96
GNOME, 15
Konqueror, 270
Switcher, GNOME, 99
Workstation, 7, 1090
World Wide Web
about, 395
Berners-Lee, Tim, 395
CERN, 395
Consortium, 1089
Enquire, 395
HTML, 395
hypermedia, 396
hypertext, 395
link, hypertext, 395
Mosaic browser, 395
name, 395
origins, 395
overview, 395
search engine, 396
URL, 396
Web crawler, 396
Worm, 1026, 1088, 1090
Write access, 193
write utility, 159, 162, 563
write() system call, 887, 889
wtmp file, 190, 572
www directory, 819
WWW. See World Wide Web
WYSIWYG, 1090
X
X
Consortium, 246
server, 1090
terminal, 247, 1090
X Window System, 15, 80, 1090
application (client), 247
client, 247
client and server, 247
color depth, 251
display number, 250
DISPLAY variable, 250
display, access to, 249
emergency exit, 252
event, 247
exiting from, 252
freedesktop.org group, 254
history, 246
ID string, 250
layers, 246
library, 134
Metacity window manager, 133
mouse
buttons, remap, 252
left-handed, 252
right-handed, 252
wheel, 252
multiple X servers, 251
program, 247
remote computing and local
displays, 248
resolution, changing, 132
screen number, 250
server, 247
server process, 567
setup, system-config-display
utility, 80
stack, 246
starting, 128, 248
utilities
clients, 247
startx, 248
xclock, 108
xmodmap, 252
window manager, 133
X stack, 246
X.org versus XFree86, 246
X11 forwarding, OpenSSH, 596, 602, 607, 608
X11R6.6, 246
X11R7.0, 80
xev utility, 248
XFree86 versus X.org, 246
Xinerama, 1090
Xlib, 246
xorg.conf file, 80
X.org, 80
X11 directory, 80, 189
X11R6.6, 246
X11R7.0, 80
xargs utility, 571
xclock utility, 108
XDMCP, 1090
xDSL, 1090
xev utility, 248
xf86 files system, 479
xhost utility, 249
Xinerama, 1090
xinetd daemon, 388, 390, 421, 422, 439, 726
xinetd.conf file, 421, 439
xinetd.d directory, 421, 439
XINU, 4
Xlib, 246
XML, 1090
xmodmap utility, 252
xorg file, 80
Xorg utility, 246
xorg.conf file, 82
Xremote, 367
xm utility, 393
XSM, 1090
xtab file, 708, 713
xterm terminal name, 1011
xvnews utility, 393
xxgdb utility, 880, 885
Y
y filename extension, 871
Yellow Pages, 668
yp.conf file, 672
ypbind daemon, 673
ypbind-mt daemon, 673
ypinit utility, 680
yppasswd utility, 674
ypasswd daemon, 681
yppasswd file, 682
ypserv.conf file, 676
ypwhich utility, 673
ypxr utility, 680
ypxfld daemon, 680
yum, 490
automatically running, 496
configuration file, 490
install option, 493
remove option, 494
update option, 492
using, 492
yum.conf file, 490
yum.repos.d directory, 490
yum.repos.d file, 491
yumdownloader utility, 496
yum-updateds daemon, 496
yum-updatesd.conf file, 496
Z
Z filename extension, 153, 181
Z Shell, 1090
zeat utility, 153
zero file, 464
Zimmerman, Phil, 1018
zip utility, 153
Zone, DNS, defined, 746
zsh shell, 1090
Zulu time. See UTC