

1.107.3

Print files

Weight 1

Linux Professional Institute Certification — 102

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

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Outline

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Context
Objective
Resources
lpr

lpq
a2ps
mpage
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Topic 107 Printing [3]

Where we are up to

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1.107.2 Manage printers and print queues [1]

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1.107.4 Install and configure local and remote printers [1]

Description of Objective

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Candidates should be able to manage print queues and manipulate print jobs. This objective includes adding and removing jobs from configured printer queues and converting text files to postscript for printing.

Key files, terms, and utilities include:

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lpq Display Print queue

lpr Job submission

mpage Print multiple pages per sheet

Resources of interest

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Printing-HOWTO

Printing-Usage-HOWTO

lpr — Submit job to Print Queue

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

Usage of `lpr` is:

```
lpr [-P<printer>] [-#<num>] <filename> ...
```

Examples: Print `/etc/hosts` file to spool `lp0`:

```
$ lpr -Plp0 /etc/hosts ↵
```

Print two copies of `/etc/hosts` file to default print spool:

```
$ lpr -#2 /etc/hosts ↵
```

lpq — See print jobs in queue

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- ▶ `lpq` displays the jobs in either the default printer queue, or a specified one

man lpq

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lpq(1) Easy Software Products lpq(1)

NAME

lpq - show printer queue status

SYNOPSIS

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

DESCRIPTION

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

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

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

The -a option reports jobs on all printers.

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

SEE ALSO

cancel(1), lp(1), lpr(1), lprm(1), lpstat(1)
CUPS Software Users Manual, <http://local->

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a2ps — Convert ASCII to Postscript

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

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

Example:

```
$ a2ps -o myfile.ps myfile.txt ↵
```

```
$ cat myfile.ps > /dev/lp0 ↵
```

mpage — Print multiple pages per page

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

Usage:

```
mpage [-1248] [options] input-file ...
```

Example: Print 4 pages per page on A4

```
$ mpage -4 -b A4 bigfile.ps | lpr ←
```

Topics Covered

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