

# 1.108.5

## Notify users on system-related issues

### Weight 1

Linux Professional Institute Certification — 102

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# Outline

Context

Objective

/etc/issue

Manpage for `issue`

getty strings you can use  
in `issue`

`telnet` and `issue.net`

Message of the Day: `motd`

Manpage for `motd`

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# Topic 108 Documentation [8]

Where we are up to

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1.108.1 Use and Manage Local System Documentation  
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1.108.2 Find Linux Documentation on the Internet [3]

1.108.5 **Notify Users on System Related Issues** [1]

# Description of Objective

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Candidates should be able to notify the users about current issues related to the system. This objective includes automating the communication process, e.g. through logon messages.

# Key files, terms, and utilities include:

`/etc/issue` —

`/etc/issue.net` — File containing message displayed when users log in via `telnet` (which should be never! :-)

`/etc/motd` — Message of the day file: displayed when log in via `ssh` or the console

# Customize the Local Login screen with `/etc/issue`

- ▶ The login screen for Fedora Core 4 looks like this:

```
Fedora Core release 4 (Stentz)
Kernel 2.6.13-1.1526_FC4smp on an i686
```

```
login:
```

- ▶ The `getty` process spawned by `init` presents the contents of the file `/etc/issue` and provides a `login:` prompt for the user.
- ▶ The file `/etc/issue`

```
$ cat /etc/issue ↵
Fedora Core release 4 (Stentz)
Kernel \r on an \m
```

# man issue

ISSUE(5)                      Linux Programmer's Manual                      ISSUE(5)

NAME  
    issue - pre-login message and identification file

DESCRIPTION  
  
    The file `/etc/issue` is a text file which contains a message or system identification to be printed before the login prompt. It may contain various `@char` and `\char` sequences, if supported by `mingetty(1)`.

FILES  
    /etc/issue

SEE ALSO  
    mingetty(1), motd(5)

Linux                      1993-07-24                      ISSUE(5)

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# man getty—embedded in the `/etc/issue`

- `\d` insert current day (localtime),
- `\l` insert line on which mingetty is running,
- `\m` inserts machine architecture (`uname -m`),
- `\n` inserts machine's network node hostname (`uname -n`),
- `\o` inserts domain name,
- `\r` inserts operating system release (`uname -r`),
- `\t` insert current time (localtime),
- `\s` inserts operating system name,
- `\u` insert the number of current users logged in
- `\U` inserts “1 user” or “ $\langle n \rangle$  users”, where  $\langle n \rangle$  is the number of users logged in
- `\v` inserts operating system version (`uname -v`).

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# Telnet uses `/etc/issue.net`

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The following sequences are supported by telnetd:

<code>%l</code>	show the current tty
<code>%h, %n</code>	show the system node name (FQDN)
<code>%D, %O</code>	show the name of the NIS domain
<code>%d, %t</code>	show the current time and date
<code>%s</code>	show the name of the operating system
<code>%m</code>	show the machine (hardware) type
<code>%r</code>	show the operating system release
<code>%v</code>	show the operating system version
<code>%%</code>	display a single '%' character

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# Message of the Day — `motd`

## Login Sequence

- ▶ Contents of `/etc/issue` is displayed.
- ▶ `getty` displays the login prompt.
- ▶ `/bin/login` handles the login process.
  - ▶ User is authorized.
  - ▶ Contents of `/etc/motd` is displayed.
  - ▶ The login shell is executed.

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# Manpage for motd

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MOTD (5)                      Linux Programmer's Manual                      MOTD (5)

## NAME

motd - message of the day

## DESCRIPTION

The contents of `/etc/motd` are displayed by `login(1)` after a successful login but just before it executes the login shell.

The abbreviation "motd" stands for "message of the day", and this file has been traditionally used for exactly that (it requires much less disk space than mail to all users).

## FILES

`/etc/motd`

## SEE ALSO

`login(1)`, `issue(5)`

Linux                      1992-12-29                      MOTD (5)

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# motd

```
$ cat /etc/motd ↵  
G'day! :-)  
$ exit ↵
```

---

```
Red Hat Linux release 9 (Shrike)  
Kernel 2.4.20-8 on an i686
```

```
marsbar login: geoffrey  
Password:  
Last login: Wed Sep 10 22:23:15 on tty2  
G'day! :-)  
You have new mail.  
$
```

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# It also works with `ssh`

```
$ ssh nicku.org ↵
```

```
Last login: Thu Oct 27 10:51:21 2005 from nicku.org
```

```
G'day! :-)
```

```
$ cat /etc/motd ↵
```

```
G'day! :-)
```

```
$
```

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Login Screen `/etc/issue`

Telnet Login Screen `/etc/issue.net`

Login message `/etc/motd`

`wall` Message to all terminals

`talk` Split screen message

Email Users list

Phone They have a phone

Visit They have an office

# Topics Covered

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