

# 11

## ANSWERS TO EVEN-NUMBERED EXERCISES

2. How would you communicate each of the following messages?
  - a. The system is coming down tomorrow at 6:00 in the evening for periodic maintenance.  
Use the `/etc/motd` file and/or email.
  - b. The system is coming down in 5 minutes.  
Use `wall`.
  - c. Zach's jobs are slowing the system down drastically, and he should postpone them.  
Use `write`.
  - d. Zach's wife just had a baby girl.  
Use the `motd` file and/or email.
4. How would you allow a user to execute a specific, privileged command without giving the user the `root` password or permission to use `sudo` to run any command with `root` privileges?  
You can create a `setuid` program that belongs to a group that only the user who is to execute it belongs to and that has no permissions for other users. Alternatively, you can edit the `sudoers` file to grant the user permission to use `sudo` to execute the command.
6. What does the `/etc/init/rsyslog.conf` file do? When does it stop? What does the `respawn` keyword in this file mean?  
The `/etc/init/rsyslog.conf` file controls the `rsyslogd` service, which logs messages. The `stop on runlevel [06]` line stops the service when the system

is being brought down (runlevel 0) and when it is being rebooted (runlevel 6). The `respawn` keyword causes `init` to restart `logd` if it stops at a point other than when the system enters runlevel 0 or 6.

8. Give the command

```
$ /bin/fuser -uv /
```

What does the output list? Why is it so long? Give the same command while working with `root` privileges (or ask the system administrator to do so and email you the results). How does this list differ from the first? Why is it different?

This command displays a list of processes using the root filesystem. The list is long because all files on the system are children of root; therefore this command lists all processes using any file or filesystem.

The first list shows only processes owned by the user who gives the command. When the command is run by a user working with `root` privileges, the output shows all processes. The lists are different because the system does not permit a nonprivileged user to display information about other users.

10. Take a look at `/usr/bin/lesspipe`. Explain its purpose and describe six ways it works.

The `lesspipe` script is a preprocessor for `less`. Search for `LESSOPEN` in the `less` man page to obtain more information on `less` preprocessors and postprocessors. The `lesspipe` preprocessor allows you to view archived directories and compressed files on the fly, without creating intermediate files. For example, once you have set the `LESSOPEN` variable (give the command `lesspipe` and execute the first command line it displays), you can view a compressed file with the command `less memo.gz` or an archived directory with the command `less myold.tar`. The `lesspipe` script works with `tar`, `tar` and `gzip`, `tar` and `bzip2`, `gzip`, `bzip2`, `zip`, and `cpio` files. When you ask `less` to display a `deb` file, it displays information about the file, including a list of files it contains.

12. When a user logs in, you would like the system to first check the local `/etc/passwd` file for a username and then check NIS. How do you implement this strategy?

The `/etc/nsswitch.conf` file controls the order in which sources are consulted to fulfill a request from the system. The following entry in this file causes the system to check `/etc/passwd` first and NIS second:

```
passwd:      files nis
```