

# Introduction

Welcome to the *Official Red Hat Linux Customization Guide*.

The *Official Red Hat Linux Customization Guide* contains information on how to customize your Red Hat Linux system to fit your needs. If you are looking for a step-by-step, task-oriented guide for configuring and customizing your system, this is the manual for you. This manual discusses many intermediate topics such as the following:

- Setting up a network interface card (NIC)
- Performing a Kickstart installation
- Configuring Samba shares
- Managing your software with RPM
- Determining information about your system
- Upgrading your kernel

This manual is divided into the following main categories:

- Installation-Related Reference
- Network-Related Reference
- System Configuration
- Package Management

This guide assumes you have a basic understanding of your Red Hat Linux system. If you need reference material which covers more basic issues such as configuring your desktop or playing audio CD-ROMs, please refer to the *Official Red Hat Linux Getting Started Guide*. If you need more advanced documentation such as an overview of the Red Hat Linux filesystem, please refer to the *Official Red Hat Linux Reference Guide*.

HTML and PDF versions of the Official Red Hat Linux manuals are available on the Documentation CD and online at <http://www.redhat.com/docs/>.



## Note

Although this manual reflects the most current information possible, you should read the *Red Hat Linux Release Notes* for information that may not have been available prior to our documentation being finalized. They can be found on the Red Hat Linux CD #1 and online at:

<http://www.redhat.com/docs/manuals/linux>

## 1. Changes to This Manual

This manual has been expanded to include new features in Red Hat Linux 8.0 as well as topics requested by our readers. Significant changes to this manual include:

### *File Systems*

New to this version is a file systems part. It discusses ext3, swap space, RAID, LVM, and managing disk storage with `parted`.

### *Kickstart*

The kickstart options have been updated to include the new options in Red Hat Linux 8.0, and the **Kickstart Configurator** chapter has been updated to include many new features.

### *LVM Configuration*

This new chapter discusses how to configure LVM during installation.

### *Network Configuration*

The network configuration chapter now includes information on network profiles and network aliases.

### *Basic Firewall Configuration*

This chapter includes the new **Security Level Configuration Tool**.

### *Network File System (NFS)*

This chapter now includes how to export directories using the **NFS Server Configuration Tool**.

### *Apache HTTP Server*

Both Apache HTTP Server chapters have been updated for version 2.0.

### *Console Access*

How to use the `pam_timestamp` module has been added.

### *Log Files*

This new chapter contains information on how to examine log files with the **Log Viewer**.

### *Package Management Tool*

The **Gnome-RPM** application has been replaced with **Package Management Tool**, which this new chapter discusses.

## 2. Document Conventions

When you read this manual, you will see that certain words are represented in different fonts, typefaces, sizes, and weights. This highlighting is systematic; different words are represented in the same style to indicate their inclusion in a specific category. The types of words that are represented this way include the following:

#### `command`

Linux commands (and other operating system commands, when used) are represented this way. This style should indicate to you that you can type the word or phrase on the command line and press [Enter] to invoke a command. Sometimes a command contains words that would be displayed in a different style on their own (such as filenames). In these cases, they are considered to be part of the command, so the entire phrase will be displayed as a command. For example:

Use the `cat testfile` command to view the contents of a file, named `testfile`, in the current working directory.

#### `filename`

Filenames, directory names, paths, and RPM package names are represented this way. This style should indicate that a particular file or directory exists by that name on your Red Hat Linux system. Examples:

The `.bashrc` file in your home directory contains bash shell definitions and aliases for your own use.

The `/etc/fstab` file contains information about different system devices and filesystems.

Install the `webalizer` RPM if you want to use a Web server log file analysis program.

### application

This style should indicate to you that the program named is an end-user application (as opposed to system software). For example:

Use **Mozilla** to browse the Web.

[key]

A key on the keyboard is shown in this style. For example:

To use [Tab] completion, type in a character and then press the [Tab] key. Your terminal will display the list of files in the directory that start with that letter.

[key]-[combination]

A combination of keystrokes is represented in this way. For example:

The [Ctrl]-[Alt]-[Backspace] key combination will exit your graphical session and return you to the graphical login screen or the console.

### text found on a GUI interface

A title, word, or phrase found on a GUI interface screen or window will be shown in this style. When you see text shown in this style, it is being used to identify a particular GUI screen or an element on a GUI screen (such as text associated with a checkbox or field). Example:

Select the **Require Password** checkbox if you would like your screensaver to require a password before stopping.

### top level of a menu on a GUI screen or window

When you see a word in this style, it indicates that the word is the top level of a pulldown menu. If you click on the word on the GUI screen, the rest of the menu should appear. For example:

Under **File** on a GNOME terminal, you will see the **New Tab** option that allows you to open multiple shell prompts in the same window.

If you need to type in a sequence of commands from a GUI menu, they will be shown like the following example:

Go to **Main Menu Button** (on the Panel) => **Programming** => **Emacs** to start the **Emacs** text editor.

### button on a GUI screen or window

This style indicates that the text will be found on a clickable button on a GUI screen. For example:

Click on the **Back** button to return to the webpage you last viewed.

computer output

When you see text in this style, it indicates text displayed by the computer on the command line. You will see responses to commands you typed in, error messages, and interactive prompts for your input during scripts or programs shown this way. For example:

Use the `ls` command to display the contents of a directory:

```
$ ls
Desktop      about.html    logs          paulwesterberg.png
Mail         backupfiles  mail          reports
```

The output returned in response to the command (in this case, the contents of the directory) is shown in this style.

prompt

A prompt, which is a computer's way of signifying that it is ready for you to input something, will be shown in this style. Examples:

```
$  
#  
[stephen@maturin stephen]$  
leopard login:
```

### user input

Text that the user has to type, either on the command line, or into a text box on a GUI screen, is displayed in this style. In the following example, **text** is displayed in this style:

To boot your system into the text based installation program, you will need to type in the **text** command at the `boot :` prompt.

Additionally, we use several different strategies to draw your attention to certain pieces of information. In order of how critical the information is to your system, these items will be marked as note, tip, important, caution, or a warning. For example:



#### Note

Remember that Linux is case sensitive. In other words, a rose is not a ROSE is not a rOsE.



#### Tip

The directory `/usr/share/doc` contains additional documentation for packages installed on your system.



#### Important

If you modify the DHCP configuration file, the changes will not take effect until you restart the DHCP daemon.



#### Caution

Do not perform routine tasks as root — use a regular user account unless you need to use the root account for system administration tasks.

**Warning**

If you choose not to partition manually, a server installation will remove all existing partitions on all installed hard drives. Do not choose this installation class unless you are sure you have no data you need to save.

### 3. More to Come

The *Official Red Hat Linux Customization Guide* is part of Red Hat's growing commitment to provide useful and timely support to Red Hat Linux users. As new tools and applications are released, this guide will be expanded to include them.

#### 3.1. Send in Your Feedback

If you spot a typo in the *Official Red Hat Linux Customization Guide*, or if you have thought of a way to make this manual better, we would love to hear from you! Please submit a report in Bugzilla (<http://www.redhat.com/bugzilla>) against the component `rhl-cg`.

Be sure to mention the manual's identifier:

```
rhl-cg(EN)-8.0-Print-RHI (2002-08-14T17:28-0400)
```

By mentioning this manual's identifier, we will know exactly which version of the guide you have.

If you have a suggestion for improving the documentation, try to be as specific as possible. If you have found an error, please include the section number and some of the surrounding text so we can find it easily.

### 4. Sign Up for Support

If you have an official edition of Red Hat Linux 8.0, please remember to sign up for the benefits you are entitled to as a Red Hat customer.

You will be entitled to any or all of the following benefits, depending upon the Official Red Hat Linux product you purchased:

- Official Red Hat support — Get help with your installation questions from Red Hat, Inc.'s support team.
- Red Hat Network — Easily update your packages and receive security notices that are customized for your system. Go to <http://rhn.redhat.com> for more details.
- *Under the Brim: The Official Red Hat E-Newsletter* — Every month, get the latest news and product information directly from Red Hat.

To sign up, go to <http://www.redhat.com/apps/activate/>. You will find your Product ID on a black, red, and white card in your Official Red Hat Linux box.

To read more about technical support for Official Red Hat Linux, refer to the *Getting Technical Support* Appendix in the *Official Red Hat Linux Installation Guide*.

Good luck, and thank you for choosing Red Hat Linux!

*The Red Hat Documentation Team*