Setting the hostname of a system controller

The hostnamectl tool is provided for administering the three classes of hostnames that can be used on a system controller or license server running RHEL 7.

Scope

RHEL 7

The following tips are applicable for RHEL 7. For more information about configuring host names, refer to the Red Hat documentation: https://access.redhat.com/documentation/en-us/red_hat_enterprise_linux/7/html/networking_guide/ch-configure_host_names.

RHEL 9

For information about changing hostnames on RHEL 9 using the **nmcli** or **nmtui** tools, refer to the Red Hat documentation: https://access.redhat.com/documentation/en-us/red_hat_enterprise_linux/9/html/configuring_and_managing_networking/assembly_changing-a-hostname_configuring-and-managing-networking#proc_changing-a-hostname-using-nmcli_assembly_changing-a-hostname

View all hostnames

To view all the current hostnames, enter the command:

```
hostnamectl status
```

The `status` option is implied by default if no option is given.

Set all hostnames

To set all the hostnames on a system, as root, enter the command:

```
hostnamectl set-hostname name
```

This command changes the pretty, static, and transient hostnames to the name specified in *name*. The static and transient hostnames are simplified forms of the pretty hostname. Spaces are replaced with "-" and special characters are removed.

Set a particular hostname

To set a particular hostname, as root, enter the command with the relevant option:

```
hostnamectl set-hostname name [option...]
```

Where *option* is one or more of: `--pretty`, `--static`, and `--transient`.

If either the `--static` or `--transient` options are used with the `--pretty` option, the static and transient hostnames are simplified forms of the pretty hostname. Spaces are replaced with "-" and special characters are removed. If the `--pretty` option is not specivied, no simplification takes place.

If the pretty hostname to be set contains spaces or a single quotation mark, use quotation marks around the *name* entry. For example:

```
hostnamectl set-hostname "Advantest's SmarTest 8.2 system controller" --pretty
```

Check a hostname

To check if the hostname is set correctly as a fully qualified domain name, as root, enter the command:

```
hostname -f
```

An example of a correct response is: `server123.mycompany.com`

Incorrect response example: `localhost.localdomain`

Clear a particular hostname

To clear a particular hostname and revert to the default, as root, enter the command with the relevant option:

`hostnamectl set-hostname "" [option...]`

Where:

`""` is a quoted empty string.

option... is one or more of: `--pretty`, `--static`, and `--transient`.

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