



How to use the cwtmp utility to clear stale entries from utmp and related files.

Keywords

/etc/auth/system/ttys /etc/utmp clearing clients closed compress connections corruption cwtmp comments diagnostic faststart finger in internet logged odt openserver rlogind stale telnetd ttys utilities utility users utmp whodo wtmp xenix openserver open server odt 5.0.0 5.0.2 5.0.4 1.0.0 1.1.0 4.2 4.1 4.0 3.0 2.3.4

Release

SCO OpenServer Internet FastStart Release 5.0.4
SCO OpenServer Enterprise System Release 5.0.0, 5.0.2, 5.0.4, 5.0.5
SCO OpenServer Host System Release 5.0.0, 5.0.2, 5.0.4, 5.0.5
SCO OpenServer Desktop System Release 5.0.0, 5.0.2, 5.0.4, 5.0.5
SCO Internet FastStart Release 1.0.0, 1.1.0
SCO UNIX System V/386 Release 3.2 Operating System Version 4.0, 4.1, 4.2
SCO Open Server Enterprise System Release 3.0
SCO Open Server Network System Release 3.0
SCO Open Desktop Release 3.0
SCO XENIX Operating System Release 2.3.4 GT and Release 2.3.4 for computers based on Micro Channel Architecture (MCA)

Problem

[who\(C\)](#), [finger\(C\)](#), and other commands, show users as logged in when they are not.

Cause

It is possible that */etc/utmp* and related files have stale entries. Output from "who" and related commands is based on these files. The stale entries may be due to corruption in files that are read by utilities that update utmp, or to faulty third party software. In particular, the *ttys* file may have become corrupt. See other Technical Articles in the SCO Support Library, listed at the end of this article, for discussion and resolution of that problem, as well as alternatives for clearing */etc/utmp* and related files.

Solution

Run the following diagnostic to determine if /etc/utmp is corrupt ("#" indicates the root command line prompt):

```
# kill -0 `who -u | awk '{print $7;}'`
```

Any output indicates a stale /etc/utmp entry associated with that process id. Consult other Technical Articles in this database, listed at the end of this article, for guidance in dealing with cases for which the diagnostic produces no output.

There is a public domain utility, called "cwtmp" (compress wtmp), for clearing stale entries from /etc/utmp and related files. It can be downloaded from:

<ftp://ftp.armory.com/pub/scobins/cwtmp> (binary)

<ftp://ftp.armory.com/pub/source/cwtmp.tar.gz> (compressed source)

Some browsers will not download the binary file correctly. If this is the case, connect to the following URL and press <Shift>+click on the "cwtmp" filename:

<ftp://ftp.armory.com/pub/scobins>

Once downloaded correctly, place cwtmp in root's search path, and make it executable ("#" indicates the root command line prompt):

```
# chmod 700 cwtmp
```

You should first read the cwtmp instructions by running it with the -h flag:

```
# cwtmp -h
```

To clear the /etc/utmp file of stale entries, run cwtmp with the -U flag (U is uppercase):

```
# cwtmp -U
```

cwtmp can be run while the system is in multiuser mode. You can use crontab to run cwtmp at regular intervals.

Note

cwtmp is public domain software, and not part of any SCO-supported product.

See Also

The manual pages for [who\(C\)](#), [whodo\(C\)](#), [finger\(C\)](#), [awk\(C\)](#), [kill\(C\)](#), [chmod\(C\)](#), [crontab\(C\)](#).

For information on repairing a corrupt /etc/auth/system/ttys file, and for further discussion of utmp and related files:

[Technical Article 105610](#), "I want to clear my system of users who are not logged in."

[Technical Article 104857](#), "Log in and get "no utmp entry. You must log in from lowest level -sh""

[Technical Article 104588](#), "Rebuild ttys file from inittab including pseudo ttys after crash."

For cases in which the diagnostic in the "SOLUTION" section produces no output:

[Technical Article 107691](#), "Configure telnetd to close connection when client connection no longer exists."

[Technical Article 107693](#), "Configure rlogind to close connection when client connection no longer exists."

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