

How to check the tape backup for PROMPT under LINUX

Check to determine that the nightly tape backup ran successfully

1. To check for the correct processing of the nightly tape backup check the edx mail box for any 'bad' error messages. You can check for errors while other users are on the system. This task should be ideally done daily, or at least weekly.

This is how to check mail for backup error messages using the Alt F3 window
At the dollar sign type in lower case "mail" and press enter as shown below:

\$ mail (press enter)

When you access a mail box messages will look similar to the following:

Mail version 8.1.6/693. Type ? for help.
"/var/spool/mail/edx"; 3 message 3 new

```
>N 1 root@prompt.server Fri Sept 6 05:02/695 "Cron root@prompt.server prbackup
>N 2 root@prompt.server Thu Sept 5 05:02/690 "Cron root@prompt.server prbackup
>N 3 root@prompt.server Wed Sept 4 05:02/685 "Cron root@prompt.server prbackup
```

& Your cursor will be to the right of the ampersand.

You will see a message at the top of the screen that tells the number of messages. The example shown above has 3 messages which are numbered in the 2nd column. Your mission is to check messages to determine if the backup is automatically executing successfully.

To view a message type the number at the ampersand and press enter like: **& 1**

Shown below is an example of a valid (or good) message in the edx mail box. You will get one of these messages per day resulting from the PROMPT automatic backup.

Focus only on lines beginning with "tar". The first "tar" statement about removing "/" from each member will always appear. Next, should be lines that include your workstation names. This is how we can tell that backup ran because there are no errors except for the device names that the backup ignored because they are not files.

Message 1:

```
From root: Friday Sept 6 02:02:06 2005
Date: Friday 6 Sept 2005 02:02:06 -0487
From: root@prompt.server (Cron Daemon)
To: edx@prompt.server
Subject: Cron ,root@prompt> prbackup /etc/cron.daily
X-Cron-Env: <SHELL=bin/bash>
X-Cron-Env: <PATH=/sbin:usr/sbin:usr/bin>
X-Cron-Env: <MAILTO=edx>
X-Cron-Env: <HOME=/>
X-Cron-Env: <LOGNAME=root>
```

```
tar: Removing leading "/" from member names
tar: /usr/edx/socket/ccb. $SYSLOG: socket ignored
tar: /usr/edx/socket/ccb. #SYSLOG: socket ignored
tar: /usr/edx/socket/ccb. $SYSLOGA: socket ignored
tar: /usr/edx/socket/ccb. $SYSLOGB: socket ignored
tar: /usr/edx/socket/ccb. $SYSLOGC: socket ignored
tar: /usr/edx/socket/ccb. $SYSLOGD: socket ignored
```

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2. Next are two examples of “bad” messages, meaning an error messages indicating the automatic tape backup FAILED to execute properly

```
tar: tape write error : /dev/st0  
tar: cannot open /dev/st0
```

A bad tape generally causes the first error message above, or the tape is write protected.

The second message can result if you failed to insert a tape, or your tape drive has failed.

If either of these “bad” messages appear you did not get a successful tape backup!

3. Next, you should delete the messages from the mailbox then exit the mailbox.

To delete messages from a mailbox, at the ampersand type **d 1-3** (this is 1 minus 3 with no spaces after the 1 or before the three) but please understand the number 3 might be different depending on how many messages are in your mailbox. If you have 5 messages you would type **d 1-5**.

4. To exit the mailbox, with the cursor at the ampersand type **q** and press enter, like: **& q**
5. While in the mail box if you accidentally type **mail** and press enter, you will get a prompt for **subject**. To get out of this press **ctrl** and **c** to cancel and you will return to **&** to enter **q** to exit.

End of procedure