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ANSWERS TO EVEN-NUMBERED EXERCISES

2. What does the `/etc/resolv.conf` file do? What do the `nameserver` lines in this file do?

The `/etc/resolv.conf` file is the resolver configuration file. It provides access to DNS for Internet address resolution. The `nameserver` lines indicate which systems the local system should query to resolve hostnames into IP addresses, and vice versa.

4. What does the `..` entry in a directory point to? What does this entry point to in the root (`/`) directory?

The `..` entry is a link to the parent directory. In the case of the root directory, there is no parent, so the `..` entry is a link to the root directory itself.

6. What is a FIFO? What does FIFO stand for? What is another name for a FIFO? How does a FIFO work?

A FIFO is a special file, also called a named pipe. You read from and write to the file to read from and write to the pipe. The term FIFO stands for *first in, first out*. The first information you put in one end is the first information that comes out the other end.

8. Without using `rm`, how can you delete a file? (*Hint*: How do you rename a file?)

```
$ mv file /dev/null
```

10. Why should `/var` reside on a separate partition from `/usr`?

Files in `/var` change often, unlike files in `/usr`. When a system crashes, it is more likely that a filesystem with recently modified files will become

corrupt than a stable filesystem. To lessen the chance of the data in `/usr` becoming corrupted when a system crashes, keep `/usr` on a separate partition.

12. How would you mount an ISO image so you could copy files from it without burning it to a CD?

```
$ mount -t -o loop image.iso /mnt/image
```

See “THE LOOP DEVICE” on the mount man page for more information.