

Answers to Even-numbered Exercises

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2. What does the `/etc/resolv.conf` file do? What does the `nameserver` line 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` line indicates 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, and 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 that 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` be on a separate partition from `/usr`?

Files on `/var` change often. Files on `/usr` rarely change. 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` from being corrupted when a system crashes, it is kept on a separate partition.

12. How would you mount an ISO image so that 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.