



ESP Network Configuration

5/13/22 Brent Roman brent@mbari.org



Linux Serial Console

- RS-232 Serial 3-wire interface
 - 115200 baud, 8 bits 1-stop bit, no parity
 - Not suitable for transfer of long data files
- ESP bootloader's shell is only available on console
- Connect to it with any terminal emulator
- Only used as a last resort for:
 - reconfiguring basic networking parameters
 - debugging an ESP that will not boot
 - capturing a kernel crash dump
 - updating the Linux kernel
 - via Ethernet or SDcard

ESP Networking Hardware

- Built-in Wired Ethernet
- WiFi
- Cellular Radio Modem
- Satellite Radio Modem
- Point-of-Presence (PPP) wired serial
- Wired Ethernet via USB
- Freewave Radio via PPP
- Acoustic Modem

Built-in Wired Ethernet

- Most reliable ESP networking interface
 - Bootloader uses built-in Ethernet to upload new kernels
- Supports only 10 or 100Mbit/s – nothing faster
 - Usually runs at only 10Mbit/s to save 300mW of power
- Network configuration
 - via Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP)
 - manually when local net does not support DHCP
 - typically requires net configuration via serial console
 - Always responds on backup IP address of 10.10.10.10
 - this can provide ‘direct’ Ethernet access w/o DHCP



ESP WiFi

- A few older USB WiFi dongles are supported
 - primarily in 2.4Ghz band
- Usually operates as a WiFi client
 - with most common WiFi security schemes
- May alternatively operate as WiFi Access Point
 - with very limited features
- Must configure by editing text file

```
/etc/wpa_supplicant.conf
```

```
https://linux.die.net/man/5/wpa\_supplicant.conf
```



Cellular LTE modems

- supports quite a variety of USB cell modems
 - Most require sim card and service contract
 - Beware ESP cannot read text messages
 - also cannot enter password on a webpage
 - some cell providers do not support M2M
 - (Machine-2-Machine)
 - Best service in US is from Verizon
 - Verizon offers LTE-M specialized for M2M
 - T-Mobile LTE is also quite good

Satellite Data Modem

- Only Iridium model 9555 satphone tested
 - others should also work
- Iridium satphone xfers data @ 2400baud
 - Billed \$1 USD / minute
 - at best this is \$1 / 12kilobytes !
 - Too slow & expensive to send images
 - or fully detailed logs
- Experimental ESP config limits data
 - Typically used with Long Mission Mode

PPP Serial Data Link

- Used within power limited vehicles
 - like MBARI's Low Power AUVs
- 5 wire RS232 serial interface
 - Runs at up to 430kBaud
 - Emulates a network interface
 - Provides full internet access
 - sort of like a faster dial-up internet

Additional Network Interfaces

- More Ethernet, modem and WiFi interfaces
 - can be connected on the ESP's USB port
 - may require addition of powered USB hub
- Many USB devices automatically recognized
 - but require some custom configuration

Network Interface Aliases

- Physical Devices

- `wired` #builtin Ethernet
- `WiFi` #any WiFi dongle operating as a client
- `AP/WiFi` #any WiFi dongle operating as access point
- `iridium` #Iridium 9555 satphone
- `me910` #Telit model ME910 LTE-M modem
- `platform` #PPP serial data link to LRAUV

- Virtual Devices

- `direct` #always available IP address 10.10.10.10
- `wg2shore` #Wireguard VPN to ESPshore.mbari.org
- `shore` #Obsolete PPTP VPN to ESPshore



Network Interface Names

- Interface names are assigned by the Linux kernel
 - tend to be less mnemonic than the corresponding alias
 - list all network names having aliases with:

```
$ cd /etc/sysconfig
```

```
$ ls -l `find -type l`
```

 - example: ifcfg-eth0 → ifcfg-wired
 - 'eth0' is the kernel's name for the 'wired' interface
 - use aliases (like wired) with ifup and ifdown
 - some lower level network tools require kernel names
 - /sbin/ifconfig eth0 #for instance

Network Interface Commands

- `# ifup interfaceAlias | Name`
 - Brings up interface (ignored if already UP)
 - Must be run as root user
- `# ifdown interfaceAlias | Name`
 - Shuts down interface
 - Must be run as root user
- Take care not to shut down important links

Network Interface Status

- `$ /sbin/ifconfig {-a} {interfaceName}`
 - shows configuration for interface
 - all UP interfaces if name omitted
 - all interfaces (UP or DOWN) if -a specified
- `$ /sbin/route {-n}`
 - displays networking routes
- Both commands may be run as normal user

Network Configuration Files

```
/etc/sysconfig/    #configuration directory
  if-default      #default network interface configuration
  ifcfg-*         #custom configuration for interface *
  if-order        #start/stop interfaces on boot/shutdown
  gateway.priority #determines default network route
```

```
/etc/inittab      #select services to start on boot
```

```
/etc/wpa_supplicant.conf #WiFi security/passwords,etc.
```

- Only these files may be altered
- It is quite easy to break networking if one isn't careful
 - Be prepared to access ESP via its serial console port!



/etc/sysconfig/if-default

- Configures interfaces lacking a specific ifcfg-*

```
BOOTPROTO="dhcp-b"    #dhcp in background
DHCPNAME=`hostname`

#VPN=$ESPshore/shore    #server IP / VPN interface

hosts() {    #add lines before EOS
local name=$IFNAME
[ "$IFALIAS" ] && name=`basename $IFALIAS`
    cat <<EOS
$(netIfIP $IFNAME $DHCPNAME-$name)
EOS
}
```

/etc/sysconfig/ifcfg-wired

```
. $syscfg/if-default
IFALIAS=wired
IFNAME=eth0
BOOTPROTO="dhcp-b -m1800" #dhcp in background, renew every 30 min
#BOOTPROTO=static #uncomment for static IP addresses
IPADDR=192.168.0.50 #assign this IP address if DHCP fails
#NETMASK=255.255.255.0
#GATEWAY=192.168.0.1
#ignoreDNS=yes #uncomment to ignore DNS servers from DHCP

if $ignoreDNS; then
  resolv_conf() {
    cat <<END
search shore.mbari.org
nameserver 8.8.8.8 #Google's public DNS
nameserver 8.8.4.4
END
  }
fi

ifPost() { #function called after main interface is UP
  ifup direct #bring up static alias
}
```


/etc/sysconfig/ifcfg-direct

```
#last resort method of contacting host if network is misbehaving
#is to configure another host on the same physical LAN
#with the address 10.10.10.11
#Then, from that host,
# telnet to the IPADDR configured below.
#NOTE: You must ensure no other hosts on the LAN share these
IPADDRses!
```

```
IFALIAS=direct
```

```
IFNAME=eth0:10
```

```
BOOTPROTO=static
```

```
IPADDR=10.10.10.10
```

```
NETMASK=255.255.255.0
```



/etc/sysconfig/if-order

```
# Define interface start and stop order on boot & shutdown
# Interfaces in START list are started before NFS and login allowed
# Interfaces in STOP list are stopped in sequence before others
# Interfaces in START are stopped last in reverse order
```

```
START='lo wg2shore'
```

```
STOP='wg2shore shore'
```