

04-09-2012, 09:34 PM #1

**CollieJim**  
Member  
Registered: Mar 2005  
Distribution: Gentoo, Kubuntu  
Posts: 501  
Rep:

**Where is screen cleared before initial login prompt?**  
  
In the past the screen has not been cleared before displaying /etc/issue and the initial login prompt. I like that because sometimes errors and warnings are displayed that do not appear in any logfile.  
  
Recently one of my 2 machines (probably the one I changed to baselayout 2) has started clearing the screen. Not good.  
  
What do I need to change to prevent clearing?  
  
Thanks  
Jim

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04-09-2012, 09:44 PM #2

**jhwiliams**  
Senior Member  
Registered: Apr 2007  
Location: Portland, OR  
Distribution: Debian, Android, LFS  
Posts: 1,168  
Rep:

**On my system, ~/.bash\_logout calls clear\_console:**  
  
Code:

```
# ~/.bash_logout: executed by bash(1) when login shell exits.  
  
# when leaving the console clear the screen to increase privacy  
  
if [ "$SHLVL" = 1 ]; then  
    [ -x /usr/bin/clear_console ] && /usr/bin/clear_console -q  
fi
```

  
So I could comment out those lines, if I wanted:  
  
Code:

```
# ~/.bash_logout: executed by bash(1) when login shell exits.  
  
# when leaving the console clear the screen to increase privacy  
  
#if [ "$SHLVL" = 1 ]; then  
#    [ -x /usr/bin/clear_console ] && /usr/bin/clear_console -q  
#fi
```

You can edit `/etc/skel/.bash_logout` if you want to change the behavior for all new accounts, as well.

04-09-2012, 10:28 PM

#3

**CollieJim**

Member

Registered: Mar 2005  
Distribution: Gentoo, Kubuntu  
Posts: 501

**Original Poster**

Rep: 

How is something in `~/.bash_logout` relevant? No-one is logged in yet, so which one to use? I'm talking about clearing the screen before the `*initial*` login prompt is displayed.

05-01-2012, 01:09 PM

#4

**Bruce Hill**

HCL Maintainer

Registered: Jun 2003  
Location: McCalla, AL  
Distribution: Gentoo / Funtoo  
Posts: 6,926

Rep: 

Quote:

Originally Posted by **CollieJim** 

*In the past the screen has not been cleared before displaying `/etc/issue` and the initial login prompt. I like that because sometimes errors and warnings are displayed that do not appear in any logfile.*

*Recently one of my 2 machines (probably the one I changed to baselayout 2) has started clearing the screen. Not good.*

*What do I need to change to prevent clearing?*

*Thanks  
Jim*

This is the new default behavior in `agetty`. You can add `--noclear` in `TERMINALS` section of `/etc/inittab` to avoid it.

Here's how that section should look to get the old behavior of not clearing:

Code:

```
# TERMINALS
c1:12345:respawn:/sbin/agetty --noclear 38400 tty1 linux
c2:2345:respawn:/sbin/agetty 38400 tty2 linux
c3:2345:respawn:/sbin/agetty 38400 tty3 linux
c4:2345:respawn:/sbin/agetty 38400 tty4 linux
c5:2345:respawn:/sbin/agetty 38400 tty5 linux
c6:2345:respawn:/sbin/agetty 38400 tty6 linux
```

It was in the post install message of `sys-apps/util-linux-2.20.1-r1` - 02/27/2012

Code:

```
LOG: postinst
|The agetty util now clears the terminal by default. You
```

might want to add --noclear to your /etc/inittab lines.

Hope that gets you all fixed up.

2 members found this post helpful.

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