

Solaris Interview Questions And Answers Guide.



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Solaris Job Interview Preparation Guide.

Question # 1

What is size of page in solaris?

Answer:-

8 Kb per page In ultrasparc
4 Kb per Page in AMD

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Question # 2

What is the command to do an interactive boot from the ok prompt?

Answer:-

Answer: The Interactive Boot Process:
At the ok prompt, type boot -a and press Enter. The boot program prompts you interactively
Answer 2:
After Power on,
press,
STOP+A
at the ok prompt type,
ok>boot -a

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Question # 3

Consider the following crontab entry: ?59 23 13 * 5 /wipe.disk? What time will this cronjob run?

Answer:-

That means: on Black Friday, your hard drive will get wiped out.
==> (on 13th and Friday) 23:59, /wipe.disk will be running _____ If the 13'th Day of the month is Friday, the job will run.
(week day starts from Sunday day 1).

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Question # 4

How can i disable STOP+A utility on SUN machines, which brings system into OK> prompt?

Answer:-

in /etc/system set abort_enable=0 will disable STOP-A _____ There are several ways to disable "STOP-A"
(1)Edit the /etc/default/kbd file
KEYBOARD_ABORT=disable
(2)Use the "kbd -a disable" command
(3) Edit /etc/system file
set abort_enable = 0

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Question # 5

How do we know how many LAN cards we have in server?

Answer:-

Just Type in the following command at prompt#ifconfig -a.That shall give the LAN Cards as well as total Physical and Logical IP Addresses
dmesg - It displays all configured items on systems.

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Question # 6

What is "Piping" solaris?

**Answer:-**

pipng:- sending the output of a command to the input of another is called piping.

some examples are:

```
$cat | wc
```

will output total line's, word's and character's

```
$cat | wc | wc
```

will output total line's, word's and character's

A unix pipe provides a one-way flow of data.

For example, if a Unix users issues the command

```
$who | sort | pr
```

then the Unix shell would create three processes with two pipes between them:

A pipe can be explicitly created in Unix using the pipe system call. Two file descriptors are returned--`fdes[0]` and `fdes[1]`, and they are both open for reading and writing. A read from `fdes[0]` accesses the data written to `fdes[1]` on a first-in-first-out (FIFO) basis and a read from `fdes[1]` accesses the data written to `fdes[0]` also on a FIFO basis.

When a pipe is used in a Unix command line, the first process is assumed to be writing to `stdout` and the second is assumed to be reading from `stdin`. So, it is common practice to assign the pipe write device descriptor to `stdout` in the first process and assign the pipe read device descriptor to `stdin` in the second process. This is elaborated below in the discussion of multiple command pipelines.

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Question # 7

Where are the templates stored that are copied into the users home directories for their personal customizations?

Answer:-

```
/etc/skel
```

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Question # 8

Which NFS daemons are found on the NFS server?

Answer:-

```
nfsd
```

```
mountd
```

```
lockd
```

```
statd
```

```
nfslogd
```

These five daemons will be in NFS server.

statd and lockd will be in NFS client too.

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Question # 9

What SPARC emergency keyboard sequence will take the system to the ok prompt (forth monitor) but will send output to `TTYA`?

Answer:-

```
stop+A
```

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Question # 10

What file controls system wide password aging?

Answer:-

```
/etc/shadow
```

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Question # 11

Which of the following can be an appropriate name for a cluster?

Answer:-

```
SUNWadm
```

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Question # 12

What flag used with `patchadd` will prevent a later back out by preventing `patchadd` from backing up files? If this flag is used, the patch cannot be removed.

Answer:-

You have to use the option "`-d`" along with the `patchadd` command.

```
patchadd -d
```

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Question # 13

What file do you put the `umask` setting in?

Answer:-



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The UMASK value for bourne and korn shell users can be modified system wide by editing the "umask" entry in the "/etc/profile" file. To change the default UMASK for the C shell, modify the UMASK variable in "/etc/default/login" file.

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Question # 14

When using the admintool, the membership list for groups is separated by what?

Answer:-

commas

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Question # 15

Among the applications below, which one is not a client/server application?

Answer:-

cron

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Question # 16

What command will display the VTOC for disk c0t0d0s0?

Answer:-

prtvto /dev/rdisk/c0t0d0s0

PRTVTOC

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Question # 17

In order to save a template in /etc/format.dat, what two steps must occur?

Answer:-

name & save

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Question # 18

What command enables a printer?

Answer:-

enable

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Question # 19

Which of the following commands can tell you whether packets are being delayed or dropped on your network?

Answer:-

spray

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Question # 20

What file contains the location of the namespace configuration textfiles such as hosts.rev, named.local, etc..?

Answer:-

/etc/named.conf

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Question # 21

What file controls global variables for system wide values for the Bourne Shell?

Answer:-

/etc/profile

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Question # 22

Partition sizes can be set manually or from what configuration?

Answer:-

/etc/format.dat

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Question # 23



The hardware-level user interface that you see before the operating system has been started is called:

Answer:-

open boot

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Question # 24

Give the command that will display your default boot device.

Answer:-

the command would be
eeprom boot-device & not printenv as suggested

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Question # 25

How many different kill signals are there?

Answer:-

47

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Question # 26

What software install group do you need to select in order to load the compilers?

Answer:-

Developer

sunwccprog

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Question # 27

The NVRAM is also soldered to the main logic board or motherboard.

Answer:-

It is a pluggable IC with yellow sticker on it, can be easily replaceable when it goes wrong.

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Question # 28

What command will install the patches: 123456-01 and 123457-01 if both are located in the /just.patches directory?

Answer:-

Check man for "patchadd" ...
:)eNJOY

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Question # 29

What command can you use to display all of your groups?

Answer:-

On AIX You can use
groups -To Display full list
id -G - To display group id number
On Solaris you can use
groups - To display full list
id -a - To display full list of groups with group id numbers

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Question # 30

What field will cause the message Your password has expired to be displayed to the user?

Answer:-

The /etc/shadow file contains following fields.Login-id : Which indicates the username of that particular user.Passwd : It Contains encrypted password.Lastchg : Indicates the number of days between 1-JAN-1970 and last password modification date.Min : Contains minimum no of days required between password changes.Max : Contains the maximum no of days the password is valid before the user's prompted to enter a password at login.Warn : Contains the number of days the user is warn before the password expires.Inactive : Contains the number of inactive days allowed for that user before the user's account is locked. Expire : contains the date when the user account expires once exceeded. The user can no longer log in also it will display the message "Your password has been expired".

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Question # 31

What is the command for seeing a long listing of all the processes running on your unix box?

Answer:-



ps ,
ps -aux ,
ps -ef ,
top

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Question # 32

What is sticky bit in Solaris?

Answer:-

If a directory is writable and has sticky bit is set, files within directory removed or renamed only if one or more following is true:

- The user owns the file
- The user owns the directory
- The file writable by the User
- The user is "root"

chmod 1777 project_dir

The sticky bit is displayed as the letter t in the execute field for 'others'.

Sticky Bit is a permission bit that protects the files with in a Directory. If the directory has sticky bit set, a file can be deleted by the owner of the file, the owner of the directory or root.

This Prevents a user from deleting other users files from public directories .

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Question # 33

How do you check the cron jobs of other users, (as a super user)

Answer:-

The above would work. You could also run:

crontab -l Username

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Question # 34

What does this file /etc/path_to_inst contain and what is the importance of this file

Answer:-

/etc/path_to_inst contains each device, its instance name and number along with its physical name.

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Question # 35

What is the command can reconfigure devices with out reboot?

Answer:-

Either you can use

1.devfsadm

single command solaris 8 onwards in the backward we have to use

1.drvconfig

2.diskor tape..(Device type)

3. devlinks

then the device will configure properly.

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Question # 36

How to restore a corrupted file system or trouble shoot bad super blocks for a FS c0t2d0s5

Answer:-

get into single user mode from ok prompt by using the command below.

boot -s

use the newfs command to check the number of back ups for the superblock used.

use newfs -N to display the value for /dev/dsk/c1t1d0s0 as below.

newfs -N /dev/dsk/c1t1d0s0

use fsck command to fix the superblocks as below

fsck -F ufs -o b=75680 /dev/rdisk/c1t1d0s0

Now the blocks are replaced get to multiuser mode using init 3

server should boot fine.

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Question # 37

How will you add a virtual IP address to a server in Solaris. Given the interface qe0 and IP 10.10.1.150

Answer:-

Syntax:

#ifconfig qe0:1 plumb

ifconfig qe0:1 10.10.1.150 up

where "qe0" is an interface (e.g., le0) and N is a number between 1 and <MAX>. Removing the pseudo interface and associated address is done



with "ifconfig qe0:1 10.10.1.150 down".

As with physical interfaces, all you need to do is make the appropriate /etc/hostname.qe0:X file.

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Question # 38

What are the different phases in boot process

Answer:-

Boot phases of Solaris Operating Environment are:

1. boot PROM
2. boot programs like bootblk, ufsboot
3. kernel initialization like loading modules
4. init phase

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Question # 39

How do you determine which Run Level the system is running

Answer:-

u can find out currently system run level

who -r

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Question # 40

How would you find out what version of Solaris is currently running?

Answer:-

Run the command showrev. There's a man page on showrev and there are switches to help you do whatever you're trying to do

uname -r is the command to know the version of the OS and uname -s for the type of OS.

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Question # 41

What does reboot -r do?

Answer:-

reboot -r (reconfigure the /dev & /devices)

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Question # 42

What is the difference between a probe-scsi and a probe-scsi-all?

Answer:-

Both these commands are run at obp (open boot Prom) probe-scsi will probe the internal scsi and probe-scsi-all will probe both internal and external scsi. Maybe not the best explanation but not bad...

The probe-scsi command communicates with all SCSI devices connected to on-board SCSI controllers.

The probe-scsi-all command additionally accesses devices connected to any host adapters installed in PCI slots.

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Question # 43

What would a XIR signal do to a server and why would it be used?

Answer:-

XIR signal used by reset command in solaris.

reset (1M) allows you to reset one or more domains in one of two ways: reset the hardware to a clean state or send an externally initiated reset (XIR) signal. The default is to reset the hardware to a clean state. You will receive an error if the virtual keyswitch is in the secure position. An optional confirmation prompt is given by default. Refer to Chapter 6 in the System Management Services (SMS) 1.2 Administrator Guide for the Sun Fire 15K/12K Systems for more information.

An XIR signal (reset -x) also traps to low-level domain software (OpenBoot PROM or kadb), which retains control of the software. The domain must be rebooted manually.

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Question # 44

How would you find out what kernel parameter SHMMAX is set to by one command?

Answer:-

using command cat /etc/passwd

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Question # 45

What is after the VTOC on the root filesystem?



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Answer:-

A solaris disk has an area called volume table of contents(VTOC) that stores information about disk structure and organization.

VTOC stores in 0th sector

After VTOC Boot Block is there from (1-15) sector

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Question # 46

What is difference between Process and Daemon in Solaris?

Answer:-

A 'daemon' is a software process that runs in the background (continuously) and provides the service to client upon request. For example named is a daemon. When requested it will provide DNS service. Other examples are:

xinetd (it is a super-daemon, it is responsible for invoking other Internet servers when they are needed)

inetd (same as xinetd, but with limited configuration options)

sendmail/postfix (to send/route email)

Apache/httpd (web server)

'server process' run runs one time, when called by a daemon. Once done it will stop. For example telnetd (in.telnetd) or ftpd called from xinetd/inetd daemon . By calling server process from daemon you can save the load and memory. Use a server process for small services such as ftpd, telnetd

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Question # 47

How to install win xp after installing solaris for dual booting.

Answer:-

I think "if you first installed Solaris then try to install XP, XP will overwrite the Solaris.Becoz XP is single boot, It is better to install XP first then install Solaris.."

Simple funda is First install Workstation then install Servers..

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Question # 48

You logged into the system using telnet.

As a system administrator, how would you figure out the system transaction is slow between the system you logged into and from the system you did telnet login?

Answer:-

you can simply use the time command on both systems.! For example:

time <<trans>>

out put will be like..

real 0m2.009s

user 0m0.000s

sys 0m0.000s

So, in actuality, It took a total of 2.009 seconds of my time to watch this command complete. But, as you can see, it used virtually no processing time.

For small transaction you may not find the much difference(sometimes no diff)

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Question # 49

Why we use / for mount any filesystem?

Answer:-

/ represents the top most level of the OE directory hierarchy, therefore other sub directories have to be mounted under /

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Question # 50

What is the big difference between /dev/dsk and /dev/rdsn

Answer:-

In Solaris whenever you create a new slice using format command a raw physical slice or a Raw Device will be created which is addressed as /dev/rdsn/c#d#s# where # is the number for slice.

After formatting it with newfs command the slice will be addressed as /dev/dsk/c#d#s# which can now be used for mounting.

eg. newfs /dev/rdsn/c0d0s4

mkdir /oracle

mount /dev/dsk/c0d0s4 /oracle

After mounting /dev/dsk/c#d#s# is called as Block Device

/dev actually contains logical device names which are links (Shortcuts in windows terminology) to actual physical devices in /devices directory.

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Question # 51

How many cpus we can connect to a spark machine in Solaris?

Answer:-

Sun Fire 15K can have upto max of 106 processors

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Question # 52



How can we find RAM size in solaris server?

Answer:-

#prtdiag command will help you to find the RAM size.

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Question # 53

How to configure mail server in sun solaris?

Answer:-

1. Install the sendmail recent package..
 2. in /etc/mail/sendmail.cf file configure for localhost,mail server and domain name.
 3. Restart the sendmail service...
- that's it .. getback to me if having any more doubt.

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Question # 54

How to find 32 or 64 bit system instances of OS?

Answer:-

On a 32-bit system, the two-part kernel is located in the directory /platform/?uname -m?/kernel.
On a 64-bit system, the two-part kernel is located in the directory/platform/?uname -m?/kernel/sparcv9

isainfo -b

the above command displays whether the processor is 32/64 bit

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Question # 55

What could be the reason and what files has to be checked to fix this and which log file we have to refer to know more details about the problem.

Answer:-

The user is existig in the /etc/passwd file and the shell is also properly configured and there is no specific error messages in the /var/adm/messages file.

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Question # 56

Which obp command has a permanent allies?

Answer:-

When NValias need is:

In case system can not boot from primary disk and it is needed to make another boot disk to access the data , nvalias command is used.
nvalias command makes the device alias and assigns an alternate name to a physical disk. Physical address of target disk is required which can be had by show-disk command on ok>.

ok> nvalias disk7 /iommu@f,e0000000/sbus@f,e0001000/dma@3,81000/esp@3,80000/sd2,0

The new aliased disk can be named as boot disk or can be used for booting by referring its name

ok> setenv boot-device disk7

ok>reset

or

ok> boot disk7

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Question # 57

List the files in current directory sorted by size?

Answer:-

- ls -l | grep ^- | sort -nr

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Question # 58

List the hidden files in current directory?

Answer:-

- ls -a | grep "^.."

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Question # 59

Delete blank lines in a file?

Answer:-

- cat sample.txt | grep -v ^\$ > new_sample.txt

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Question # 60



Search for a sample string in particular files?

Answer:-

- grep .Debug.*.confHere grep uses the string .Debug. to search in all files with extension..conf. under current directory.

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Question # 61

Display the last newly appending lines of a file during appendingdata to the same file by some processes ?

Answer:-

- tail .f Debug.logHere tail shows the newly appended data into Debug.log by some processes/user.

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Question # 62

Display the Disk Usage of file sizes under each directory in current Directory ?

Answer:-

- du -k * | sort .nr (or) du .k . | sort -nr

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Question # 63

Change to a directory, which is having very long name ?

Answer:-

- cd CDMA_3X_GEN*Here original directory name is . .CDMA_3X_GENERATION_DATA..

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Question # 64

Display the all files recursively with path under current directory ?

Answer:-

- find . -depth -print

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