

# How to Control Systemd Services on Remote Linux Server

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Systemd system and services manager can be controlled using the [systemctl command](#) line utility. It enables you to manage **systemd** locally or on a remote Linux machine over the SSH protocol.

In this short article, we will show you how to manage systemd system and service manager on a remote Linux machine over a SSH session.

**Attention:** We recommend using public/private key pairs for passwordless authentication for SSH, as opposed to passwords, and also employing additional methods to secure SSH service, as explained in these guides.

1. [SSH Passwordless Login Using SSH Keygen in 5 Easy Steps](#)
2. [5 Best Practices to Secure and Protect SSH Server](#)
3. [How to Block SSH and FTP Access to Specific IP and Network Range](#)

To connect to a remote server, run **systemctl** with the `--host` or `-H` flag as follows. In the command below, we are connecting to the remote server as the **root** user and **status** is a subcommand of systemctl utility used to view the status of the **httpd** service on **centos.temint.lan** (remote Linux server).

```
$ systemctl --host root@centos.temint.lan status httpd.service
OR
$ systemctl -H root@centos.temint.lan status httpd.service
```

```
aaronkili@tecmint ~ $ systemctl --host root@centos.temint.lan status httpd.service
● httpd.service - The Apache HTTP Server
   Loaded: loaded (/usr/lib/systemd/system/httpd.service; enabled; vendor preset: disabled)
   Active: active (running) since Wed 2017-10-18 11:52:00 EAT; 6min ago
     Docs: man:httpd(8)
           man:apachectl(8)
  Process: 2513 ExecStop=/bin/kill -WINCH ${MAINPID} (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
  Process: 2408 ExecReload=/usr/sbin/httpd $OPTIONS -k graceful (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
 Main PID: 2518
    Status: "Total requests: 0; Current requests/sec: 0; Current traffic: 0 B/sec"
   CGroup: /system.slice/httpd.service
```

Manage Systemd Service on Remote Linux

Similarly, you can also start, stop or restart remote systemd service as shown.

```
$ systemctl --host root@centos.temint.lan start httpd.service
$ systemctl --host root@centos.temint.lan stop httpd.service
$ systemctl --host root@centos.temint.lan restart httpd.service
```

To end the session, simply type `[Ctrl+C]`. For more information and usage options, see the **systemctl** man page:

```
$ man systemctl
```

That's all for now! What follows is an assortment of systemd articles which you'll find useful:

1. [The Story Behind: Why 'init' Needed to be Replaced with 'systemd' in Linux](#)
2. [Managing System Startup Process and Services \(SysVinit, Systemd and Upstart\)](#)
3. [Manage Log Messages Under Systemd Using Journalctl \[Comprehensive Guide\]](#)
4. [How to Create and Run New Service Units in Systemd Using Shell Script](#)
5. [How to Change Runlevels \(targets\) in SystemD](#)

In this article, we showed you how to manage systemd system and service manager on a remote Linux machine. Use the feedback section to ask questions or share your thoughts about this guide.

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Aaron Kili is a Linux and F.O.S.S enthusiast, an upcoming Linux SysAdmin, web developer, and currently a content creator for TecMint who loves working with computers and strongly believes in sharing knowledge.

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