

# What is Hesiod cluster information and how is it used by Debathena?

## Q: What is Hesiod cluster information and how is it used by Debathena?

### Answer


The Hesiod name service specification includes a HesiodType of `cluster`. This cluster information is used by your workstation in a number of ways. While Athena workstations can function without Hesiod cluster information, it's strongly encouraged to take advantage of a number of features, such as automatic release upgrades for `debathena-cluster` workstations.

### Viewing your Hesiod cluster information

You can view your Hesiod cluster information with the following command:

```
joeuser@athena:~$ hesinfo `hostname` cluster

apt_release proposed
ubuntu_release jaunty 9.04
ubuntu_release lucid 10.04
syscontrol control/control-8.3 8.3
syscontrol control/control-8.4 8.4
syscontrol control/control-9.0 9.0
syscontrol control/control-9.1 9.1
syscontrol control/control-9.2 9.2
syscontrol control/control-9.3 9.3
syscontrol control/control-9.4 9.4
sysprefix /afs/dev.mit.edu/system/rhlinux
lpr mark-the-great
```

 If your workstation does not have any cluster info, you'll see the following error when you try and look up cluster information:  
`hesiod_resolve: Hesiod name not found`

### Requesting Hesiod cluster information

To request Hesiod cluster information for your workstation, please send mail to [hesreq@mit.edu](mailto:hesreq@mit.edu) and request that your workstation be added to the `public-linux` Hesiod cluster. Be sure to include your workstation's hostname in the request.

### Hesiod cluster information values

Hesiod cluster entries (or "records") consist of 2 to 4 space-separated fields. For more information on the meaning of these fields, please see the `getcluster(1)` man page.

Name	Possible values	Meaning
<code>apt_release</code>	<code>proposed</code> <code>production</code> <code>development</code>	The APT repository from which your workstation takes updates.
<code>ubuntu_release</code>	<code>jaunty</code> <code>lucid</code>	The supported Ubuntu releases this workstation will automatically upgrade to.

syscontrol	<not used in Debathena>	This is a legacy Athena 9 record. It has no effect on Debathena workstations.
sysprefix	<not used in Debathena>	This is a legacy Athena 9 record. It has no effect on Debathena workstations.
lpr	<i>a valid printer name</i>	The default printer for your workstation. Not all workstations will have this record.
syslib	<not used in Debathena>	This is a legacy Solaris Athena 9 record. If your workstation has this record and your workstation is not running Solaris, please contact <a href="mailto:hesreq@mit.edu">hesreq@mit.edu</a> to request an update.