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` 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

`apt_release`	`proposed`
	`production`
	`development`
		The APT repository from which your workstation takes updates.

`ubuntu_release`	`jaunty` `lucid`	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`	*a valid printer name*	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 `hesreq@mit.edu` to request an update.