

# Debian Networking

On a typical Debian-based distribution, you have three major packages available for that purpose:

- ifupdown (daemon: networking)
- NetworkManager
- systemd (daemon: systemd-networkd)

In general, you should choose one and stick to it, even if ifupdown works well with NetworkManager it can still creates unexpected configuration issues.

## ifupdown

Quite deprecated but reliable, you might encounter it on many older systems. The config is stored in **/etc/network/interfaces** and managed by the **networking.service** daemon which is a wrapper around the ifup and ifdown commands which are also wrappers themselves around ifconfig (or ip for ifupdown2).

## NetworkManager

Usually included with desktop distributions since many graphical front-ends are available, the config is stored in **/etc/NetworkManager** and managed by the NetworkManager.service daemon.

You can manage the config with the included nmcli or nmtui utilities.

## systemd-networkd

Usually used on server distributions and the official successor to ifupdown as it is included within systemd, the config is stored in **/etc/systemd/network** and managed by the **systemd-networkd.service** daemon.

## dhclient

Although not a daemon, dhclient from isc-dhcp-client is nonetheless a very important package and often required on desktop distributions as you often need to obtain a IPv4 from a DHCP server.

Hopefully, as IPv6 (which uses SLAAC) is slowly being adopted, this will probably change in a near or distant future.

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