

nmcli Network Tool

May 2021

Overview

A customer had made lots of changes to the network interfaces on a unit and was having a lot of issues, performing an `ip a` displayed the interface names and IP addresses, and this looked normal.

However, using the nmcli tool told a slightly different story.

nmcli

While nmcli may have many uses, I want to focus on just one. This is not a how to fix your network, this is just highlighting a good use for nmcli. Running nmcli displayed the following output:

```
nmcli con

NAME    UUID                                  TYPE    DEVICE
eth0    d9ced338-a402-60eb-c131-0fd3ab4b5ab7 ethernet eth5
eth1    84d43311-57c8-8986-f205-9c78cd6ef5d2 ethernet eth4
eth2    ee7189fe-a32a-4873-bf26-145d4e19a51d ethernet eth0
eth4    3a73717e-65ab-93e8-b518-24f5af32dc0d ethernet eth1
eth5    841334f5-7d18-33f9-86f1-84cee61678a0 ethernet eth3
eth3    c5ca8081-6db2-4602-4b46-d771f4330a6d ethernet --
```

If you look at the above output, you can see that the **NAME** and **DEVICE** are not aligned. eth0 is listed as device eth5, in fact none of interface names and devices are aligned.

The problem was in the ifcfg-ethx files, and once this was fixed (the eth name and mac address in each file was incorrect).

After fixing this issue, running nmcli again gave the following output:

```
nmcli con

NAME    UUID                                  TYPE    DEVICE
eth0    d9ced338-a402-60eb-c131-0fd3ab4b5ab7 ethernet eth5
eth1    84d43311-57c8-8986-f205-9c78cd6ef5d2 ethernet eth4
eth2    ee7189fe-a32a-4873-bf26-145d4e19a51d ethernet eth0
eth4    3a73717e-65ab-93e8-b518-24f5af32dc0d ethernet eth1
eth5    841334f5-7d18-33f9-86f1-84cee61678a0 ethernet eth3
eth3    c5ca8081-6db2-4602-4b46-d771f4330a6d ethernet --
```

Now that the **NAME** and **DEVICE** are aligned, everything started working.

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