

How to Confirm which Ports are Open on Your Linux System

If you wish to see which ports are open on your Linux system, perhaps to check your configuration, you can use the nmap tool. It's a powerful tool, but we'll focus on just this simple task.

If you don't have nmap, first install it. For example, on Ubuntu just run `sudo apt-get install nmap`. On Fedora it should be `sudo yum install nmap`. On Arch it should be `sudo pacman -Sy nmap`.

Once you've got nmap just run this simple command. Note that we're running it with superuser privileges (`sudo`), which is necessary.

```
$ nmap localhost
```

Your output may look something like this:

```
Starting Nmap 6.40 ( http://nmap.org ) at 2014-11-26 23:56 CET
Nmap scan report for localhost (127.0.0.1)
Host is up (0.0089s latency).
Other addresses for localhost (not scanned): 127.0.0.1
Not shown: 994 closed ports
PORT STATE SERVICE
21/tcp open  ftp
22/tcp open  ssh
53/tcp open  domain
80/tcp open  http
443/tcp open https
3306/tcp open mysql
```

So it shows you the open port numbers and the service that is using each. The above is pretty standard stuff. If you don't see what you expected you should check your configuration.

If you'd like to do more with nmap you can explore the nmap

built in documentation by running *man nmap*, which contains a breadth of information.

See Also

- [5 ways to use netstat](#)
- [Advanced Unix commands](#)