Call me old fashioned, but I still prefer using `ifconfig` command. It’s not as cool as the `ip` command found in recent Linux distros, but familiar and universal enough to be found pretty much everywhere else. This post shows how to install packages to make `ifconfig` working again.

```
ifconfig lo
```

```
lo: flags=73<UP,LOOPBACK,RUNNING> mtu 65536
    inet 127.0.0.1 netmask 255.0.0.0
    inet6 ::1 prefixlen 128 scopeid 0x10<host>
    loop txqueuelen 1000 (Local Loopback)
    RX packets 62 bytes 5110 (4.9 Kib)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 62 bytes 5110 (4.9 Kib)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0
```

Yep, that’s the error message I’m seeing on most recent distros. This simply means that `ifconfig` is no longer a core functionality installed with a base OS. You can still get it by installing net-tools package in your environment.

Here’s how my attempt looked on Debian 9 (Stretch) VM just a
few minutes ago:

greys@debian9:~$ ifconfig -a
-su: /sbin/ifconfig: No such file or directory

Install net-tools package for ifconfig and more

Simple enough step (I just know and remember that ifconfig is in net-tools package):

You need to have superuser powers, and by default Debian 9 doesn’t have sudo installed – so I’m just using su command to become root:

greys@debian9:~$ su -
Password:

And now we install the net-tools package:

root@debian9:~# apt install net-tools
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  net-tools
0 upgraded, 1 newly installed, 0 to remove and 154 not upgraded.
Need to get 248 kB of archives.
After this operation, 963 kB of additional disk space will be used.
Get:1 http://ftp.ie.debian.org/debian stretch/main amd64 net-tools amd64 1.60+git20161116.90da8a0-1 [248 kB]
Fetched 248 kB in 0s (601 kB/s)
Selecting previously unselected package net-tools.
(Reading database ... 128276 files and directories currently installed.)
Preparing to unpack .../net-tools_1.60+git20161116.90da8a0-1_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking net-tools (1.60+git20161116.90da8a0-1) ...
Processing triggers for man-db (2.7.6.1-2) ...
Setting up net-tools (1.60+git20161116.90da8a0-1) ...

That’s it, **ifconfig** should start working right away:

```
root@debian9:~# ifconfig -a
enp0s3:  flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST>  mtu 1500
         inet 192.168.X.Y  netmask 255.255.255.0  broadcast 192.168.1.255
         inet6 fe80::a00:27ff:febe:8a41  prefixlen 64  scopeid 0x20<link>
         ether 08:00:27:be:8a:41  txqueuelen 1000  (Ethernet)
        RX packets 94337 bytes 138887593 (132.4 MiB)
        RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
        TX packets 31380 bytes 2338487 (2.2 MiB)
        TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0

lo:  flags=73<UP,LOOPBACK,RUNNING>  mtu 65536
     inet 127.0.0.1  netmask 255.0.0.0
     inet6 ::1  prefixlen 128  scopeid 0x10<host>
     loop txqueuelen 1 (Local Loopback)
    RX packets 1154 bytes 292002 (285.1 KiB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 1154 bytes 292002 (285.1 KiB)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0
```

**See Also**

- ifconfig: command not found in Debian
- Debian Linux
- Ubuntu Linux
- Ubuntu 19.04
- Basic Unix Commands
- ifconfig command
- ip command