

Troubleshooting: `ifconfig` Not Found in Debian



I've actually written about [ifconfig not found](#) before, but noticed recently another possible scenario so will mention it today.

Make Sure Net-Tools Package is Installed

This is still the most common reason for your shell not finding the [ifconfig command](#): it's just not installed by default. So install it using apt command:

```
$ apt install net-tools
```

Call `ifconfig` Using Full Path

This is the thing I noticed on my Debian VM earlier today: your regular user may not have `/sbin` directory in its `PATH`. Which means `ifconfig` command will still not work if you just type the command name:

```
greys@debian9:~$ ifconfig
-bash: ifconfig: command not found
You have new mail in /var/mail/greys
```

But if you type the full path to the command, it will work:

```
greys@debian9:~$ /sbin/ifconfig
enp0s3: flags=4163 mtu 1500
inet 192.168.1.XX netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast
192.168.1.255
inet6 fe80::a00:27ff:febe:8a41 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x20
ether 08:00:27:be:8a:41 txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
RX packets 26263716 bytes 9251567381 (8.6 GiB)
RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
TX packets 131362 bytes 12206621 (11.6 MiB)
TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0
```

Update `PATH` Variable to Include `/sbin`

Edit the `.profile` file in your home directory. For me it's `/home/greys/.profile`.

Somewhere towards the end of it there should be a PATH variable updates section, on my VM it includes linuxbrew that I installed recently:

```
set PATH so it includes user's private bin if it exists
```

```
if [ -d "$HOME/bin" ] ; then
    PATH="$HOME/bin:$PATH"
fi
```

```
PATH=$PATH:/home/greys/.linuxbrew/bin
eval $(/home/greys/.linuxbrew/bin/brew shellenv)
```

We need to update this section. And if there isn't one, just create another one at the end of the file. Both changes should aim to add /sbin directory to the PATH variable.

Update the file:

```
PATH=$PATH:/home/greys/.linuxbrew/bin
```

... with this:

```
PATH=$PATH:/home/greys/.linuxbrew/bin:/sbin
```

... or create new one:

```
PATH=$PATH:/sbin
```

Save the file and read it again to test:

```
greys@debian9:~$ source .profile
/home/greys/.linuxbrew/Homebrew/Library/Homebrew/brew.sh: line
4: warning: setlocale: LC_ALL: cannot change locale
(en_US.UTF-8): No such file or directory
```

That's it, type [ifconfig](#) and it should work now:

```
greys@debian9:~$ ifconfig
enp0s3: flags=4163  mtu 1500
    inet 192.168.1.XX  netmask 255.255.255.0  broadcast
192.168.1.255
    inet6 fe80::a00:27ff:febe:8a41  prefixlen 64  scopeid
0x20
    ether 08:00:27:be:8a:41  txqueuelen 1000  (Ethernet)
    RX packets 26267641  bytes 9252896750 (8.6 GiB)
    RX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  frame 0
    TX packets 131600  bytes 12231427 (11.6 MiB)
    TX errors 0  dropped 0  overruns 0  carrier 0
collisions 0
```

See Also

- [Debian 10 Buster](#)
- [ifconfig command](#)
- [ifconfig command not found](#)
- [Upgrading Raspberry Pi to Raspbian OS based on Debian Buster](#)