# About These Docs

What this documentation covers, how it relates to the repository docs, and the conventions it follows · Checked against tacctl 0.2.25

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This documentation is the **operations** layer of tacctl: how to do things during a shift. It is written for network engineers, operators and support staff.

## 1. What is here, and what is not

| Here (this documentation) | In the repository docs |
|---|---|
| Task guides by role: operators, engineers, superusers | Installation, upgrades and rolling back |
| Procedures: connecting, access lifecycle, device changes, hosts, undo | Backends, the store, generated files, RADIUS and metrics |
| Emergencies: troubleshooting, runbooks, lockdown, break-glass | Every command and flag, every `tacctl.yaml` setting |
| Concepts, a glossary, exit codes, operator release notes | Design plans and development notes |

The repository documentation and `man tacctl` are updated in the same change as the code, so they are the reference. When this documentation and the reference disagree, **the reference wins**: please report the difference.

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## 2. Which release a page describes

Every page says, under its title, which tacctl release it was checked against (for example *Checked against tacctl 0.2.21*). The footer shows the release for the documentation as a whole. Run `tacctl version` on your server to see which release you have. *What's New for Operators* lists what changed between releases.

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## 3. Conventions

| Convention | Meaning |
|---|---|
| `tacctl …` commands | The full form, for a normal shell. In the login console or `tacctl shell`, leave out `tacctl`. |
| Console-first pages | *Day-to-Day Device Operations* shows commands without the prefix, as typed at the console |
| **Tier** or **Who** column | The lowest tier that can run a command: R read-only, O operator, E engineer (own scopes), S superuser |

| Convention | Meaning |
|---|---|
| `--dry-run`, `--check` first | Every risky command is shown with its preview first |
| `--reason "<ticket>"` | Lockdowns and holds always carry a ticket number |
| Numbered sections | Cite a section as *Page §4.2* |
| Yellow callouts | Warnings and gotchas |

### 3.1 Example names

All examples use made-up names from the examples table of the tacctl repository, so no example points to a real network. Names the table does not list are invented in the same style.

| Kind | Names |
|---|---|
| Server | `tacacs.example.net` (its console prompt is `tacacs>`) |
| Scopes | `lab`, `site-a`, `site-b` |
| Cisco devices | `sw1`, `sw2`, `sw3`, `sw7` (legacy IOS 12.4) |
| Junos devices | `rtr1`, `rtr2`, `jsw1` (blank switch, onboarded) |
| WTI | `pdu1` |
| Linux hosts | `web1`, `db1`, `db2` |
| Users | `alice`, `bob`, `carol`, `dave`; each name keeps one role on a page |
| Addresses | `10.10.0.0/16` (`site-a`), `10.10.0.1` (`sw1`), `10.10.0.2` (`rtr1`), `10.10.0.50` (`pdu1`) |
| Tickets | `INC-4821`, `CHG-1182` |

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## 4. Reporting a mistake

If a page is wrong or out of date, use **Report a problem with this page** at the foot of the page: it opens a GitHub issue with the page already named. Or open an issue on the tacctl repository naming the page, the section and the tacctl release you run.

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## 5. Printable PDFs

Every page links its PDF under the title. All of them:

| Page | PDF |
|---|---|
| *Home* | tacctl-home.pdf |
| *Getting Started* | tacctl-getting-started.pdf |
| *Concepts* | tacctl-concepts.pdf |
| *Quick Reference* | tacctl-quick-reference.pdf |
| *Operator Field Guide* | tacctl-operator-field-guide.pdf |
| *Day-to-Day Device Operations* | tacctl-day-to-day-device-operations.pdf |
| *Engineer Guide: Device Changes* | tacctl-engineer-guide-device-changes.pdf |
| *Superuser Daily Operations* | tacctl-superuser-daily-operations.pdf |
| *Connecting to Devices* | tacctl-connecting-to-devices.pdf |
| *Access Lifecycle* | tacctl-access-lifecycle.pdf |
| *Linux Host Operations* | tacctl-linux-host-operations.pdf |
| *Vendor Notes* | tacctl-vendor-notes.pdf |
| *Backups and Undo* | tacctl-backups-and-undo.pdf |
| *Audit and Compliance* | tacctl-audit-and-compliance.pdf |
| *Troubleshooting* | tacctl-troubleshooting.pdf |
| *Incident Response Runbooks* | tacctl-incident-response-runbooks.pdf |
| *Emergency Lockdown* | tacctl-emergency-lockdown.pdf |
| *Break Glass* | tacctl-break-glass.pdf |
| *Command Reference Map* | tacctl-command-reference-map.pdf |
| *Exit Codes* | tacctl-exit-codes.pdf |
| *Glossary* | tacctl-glossary.pdf |
| *What's New for Operators* | tacctl-whats-new-for-operators.pdf |
| *About These Docs* | tacctl-about-these-docs.pdf |

*See also: Home · Command Reference Map · Glossary*