Glossary

The words tacctl and this documentation use, in one list · Checked against tacctl 0.2.25

Contents

Terms are in alphabetical order. Each entry points to the page that explains it in full.

Term	Meaning	More
Accounting	The server's record of commands run on devices. `tacctl log accounting` shows it.	*Audit and Compliance*
Apply	Junos only: tacctl commits a plan under `commit confirmed`, proves it with a fresh login as you, then confirms.	*Engineer Guide* §5.1
Audit line	A syslog line (tags `tacctl`, `tacctl-console`) that tacctl writes for every change and refusal: who, what, result, snapshot.	*Audit and Compliance*
Back-out	The lines that undo a plan's paste. `tacctl device config plan <name> --backout` prints them.	*Engineer Guide* §7
Bench address	The address a cloned device has before it replaces the original (`tacctl device clone --staging`). `device rename --replace` ends it.	*Engineer Guide* §2.5
Break-glass account	A local emergency account on a device, recorded per scope with `tacctl scope breakglass`; on Junos it may be `root`. tacctl never stores its password.	*Break Glass* §1
Break-glass firewall	The nftables table `inet tacctl` that refuses the TCP connections of held addresses to the server, so a device that falls back only when the server is unreachable does fall back. Set with `tacctl config breakglass-firewall reject|drop|off`.	*Break Glass* §2.1
Break-glass hold	The server stops answering one device or host on purpose, so its local accounts work. Never expires.	*Break Glass*
Canary	In one Junos apply run, the first device of each shape goes alone; the rest of its shape start only when it applied. If it fails, they are skipped (`skipped: canary <name> failed`) and, at the default `--max-failures` of 1, the run stops. It is about the order of a run, not about what was proved earlier (see Confirmed shape).	*Engineer Guide* §5.3
Client config	An ssh configuration file (`tacctl device client-config`) that gives plain `ssh` and `scp` the registry's pinned host keys.	*Connecting to Devices* §3
Clone (device)	`tacctl device clone`: register a copy of a device at a bench address, then move it into place with `device rename --replace`.	*Engineer Guide* §2.5
Configured / unconfigured	A registered device is configured when a scope's prefixes cover its address. Only configured devices authenticate users.	*Concepts* §4
Confirmed shape	A shape that an earlier apply has proved on one device (committed, a fresh login as you worked, what landed is what the check showed). `apply --confirmed` applies only confirmed shapes; a shape nobody has proved is `new`. See also Seeded shape.	*Engineer Guide* §5.3
Console (login console)	The login shell of every tacctl user on the tacctl server: tacctl commands and ssh to devices, nothing else.	*Getting Started* §1

Term	Meaning	More
Converge	`device config plan --converge`: after the first paste is verified, also remove statements outside the standard (old servers and similar).	*Engineer Guide* §4
Diff	What differs between a device's last pull and what tacctl renders, section by section.	*Engineer Guide* §3
Drift	Two uses: a device whose configuration differs from the standard (`device config list --differs`), and a rendered server file edited by hand (`DRIFT`, exit status 3).	*Exit Codes*
Emergency lockdown	The server refuses the logins of chosen groups on a scope. Superusers keep access. Never expires.	*Emergency Lockdown*
Enroll (device)	`tacctl device enroll`: one attended run from a new address to its plan: key, vendor, registration, pull, plan.	*Engineer Guide* §2.2
Enroll (host)	`tacctl host enroll`: install TACACS+ or RADIUS login on a Linux host and register it.	*Linux Host Operations* §3
Extras	Statements in a managed section that tacctl does not render. Reported, left alone until `--converge`.	*Engineer Guide* §4
Group	Decides *what* a user can do: device privilege and tacctl tier.	*Concepts* §2
Host key / pin	The device's ssh host key. tacctl pins it at registration, and ssh accepts only the pinned key.	*Connecting to Devices* §5
Host sync	`tacctl host sync`: push user changes to enrolled Linux hosts. Nothing reaches a host without it.	*Linux Host Operations* §2
Kept snapshot	A snapshot copied by `tacctl backup keep` to a place no retention reaches. A rollback keeps the one that holds what it dropped.	*Backups and Undo* §4.2
Legacy ssh	A device setting for old IOS that offers only SHA-1 key exchange, CBC ciphers and `ssh-rsa`. Separate from the configuration syntax.	*Vendor Notes* §2.4
Managed sections	The parts of a device's configuration tacctl compares: `aaa`, `roles`, `mgmt-acl`, `snmp`, `netconf`, `breakglass`, and in some scopes `system`.	*Concepts* §6
Managed server login	The login of every user to the tacctl server and its console: the reserved scope `tacctl`, this server's registry entry, the PAM client and sshd's drop-in. `install` and `upgrade` set it up; `host enroll --local` rebuilds or repairs it.	*Superuser Daily Operations* §11.1
Notice	A flag on a device or host that needs attention, with the command that fixes it. `tacctl device notice list`.	*Concepts* §5
Onboard	`tacctl device onboard`: bring a blank Junos device in through one of its local accounts.	*Engineer Guide* §2.3
Password cache	Keeps your network password in locked memory for the session. A superuser allows it per tier; each user turns it on with `console password-cache on`. With it on, `ssh` asks for the password the first time and keeps it.	*Getting Started* §1.3

Term	Meaning	More
Pending host	An enrolled host the sshd lockdown drop-in has not reached (or not yet removed from): unreachable, held or refused. `emergency lockdown status` lists it; `host sync` completes it.	*Emergency Lockdown* §3.1
`PENDING`	A Junos apply whose state could not be read after the commit. Type nothing on the device until the time shown (the device's own clock) passes.	*Vendor Notes* §3.2
Plan	The exact fix for a device: report, the region between `PASTE FROM HERE` and `PASTE TO HERE`, checks and back-out.	*Engineer Guide* §4
Pool (SNMPv3 users)	The SNMPv3 users of a level (the server, a scope or a device), with one default user. A device reads with its own default, else its scope's, else the server's.	*Superuser Daily Operations* §4.10
Pull	Log in to a device as you and read its managed sections. Read only.	*Engineer Guide* §3
Reason	Free text given with `--reason` on lockdowns and holds. Logged as typed: never put a secret in it.	*Audit and Compliance* §6
Recover	`tacctl backup recover`: put back only the email addresses or SNMPv3 users that a rollback dropped, from a snapshot, without restoring anything else.	*Backups and Undo* §4.3
Registry	The list of devices (and hosts) by name, with address, vendor and pinned keys.	*Concepts* §4
Required password change	A user must change the password before logging in to anything but the tacctl server. Set by `user add` and a superuser's `user passwd` by default; never binds a superuser.	*Access Lifecycle* §5.1
Restore point	Cisco: a copy of the configuration on flash, added before a plan's region with `--restore-point=flash:`.	*Vendor Notes* §2.5
Scope	Client address prefixes plus a shared secret. Decides *where* a user can log in.	*Concepts* §3
Secret (shared secret)	The TACACS+ or RADIUS key between a scope's devices and the server. Every print writes a `secret-read` audit line.	*Concepts* §3
Seeded shape	A shape a superuser filed as confirmed on their word, for a device that was applied and verified by hand: `tacctl device config shapes seed <name>`. It allows what a confirmed shape allows and is logged.	*Engineer Guide* §5.3
Server address	The address devices and hosts reach this server at: the setting `server.addresses`, shown and changed by `tacctl server addresses`. It is the default of `--server`.	*Superuser Daily Operations* §11.2
Severity	A plan's rating of each problem: `ACCESS`, `MONITORING` or `COSMETIC`.	*Engineer Guide* §4

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Shape	The same change on several devices: a 12-hex id of the statements `plan` would type, with secrets removed and per-device values (location, contact, host name) masked. Devices that need the same change share a shape; the review shows it once per shape. It is `new`, `confirmed` or `seeded`.	*Engineer Guide* §5.2
`sid`	The session id that ends every audit line of one command run, so `grep sid=<id>` finds them all.	*Audit and Compliance* §2
Snapshot	A copy of tacctl's configuration taken before every change. `tacctl backup list`.	*Backups and Undo*
Status (user)	Enabled or disabled: decides *whether* a user can log in.	*Access Lifecycle*
System shell	A user's own shell on the tacctl server, started with the console word `system-shell`. Superusers always; read-only and operator users when a superuser opens it; engineers never.	*Superuser Daily Operations* §10.1
Template user	Junos: the local account a TACACS+ user logs in through. Must exist before TACACS+ logins work.	*Vendor Notes* §3.1
Tier	The level of tacctl access a group gives: read-only < operator < engineer < superuser.	*Concepts* §2
Timing scale	A whole number from 1 to 10 that multiplies the network timings tacctl uses to reach a device, for a slow or distant one. Set for a device, a scope or the server; 1 changes nothing.	*Connecting to Devices* §7

See also: Concepts · Command Reference Map · `man tacctl`