



# Config Mode Lock Mechanisms

This chapter describes how administrative lock mechanisms operate within StarOS configuration mode.

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## Overview of Config Mode Locking

You enter the Global Configuration (config) mode via the Exec mode **configure** command. By default all administrative users share config mode. Multiple administrative users can share access to config mode simultaneously. This is called a shared-lock.

The primary indication for the existence of a shared-lock is a message displayed when entering config mode.

```
Warning: One or more other administrators may be configuring this system
```



**Note** There are no default restrictive behavior changes when entering config mode under a shared-lock.

When multiple administrators edit or save the running config, concurrent changes may result in conflicting, inconsistent, or missing configuration commands. A similar problem can occur when saving the configuration if someone is attempting to restart the system.

An optional **lock [ force | warn ]** keyword for the **configure** command allows an administrator to request a mutually exclusive lock of the config mode to assure that no other user is simultaneously modifying the configuration. This is called an exclusive-lock. Once an exclusive-lock is granted to an administrator, no one else can access config mode for the duration of the session while the lock is held. The exclusive-lock is terminated only when the user holding the lock exits to Exec mode.

A shutdown-lock is enabled during a save configuration operation to prevent other users from reloading or shutting down the system while the configuration is being saved.

Config mode locking mechanisms such as shared-lock, exclusive-lock and shutdown-lock mitigate the possibility of conflicting commands, file corruption and reboot issues.

## Requesting an Exclusive-Lock



### Important

To avoid complications resulting from the failure of an administrator holding an exclusive lock to exit config mode, it is a best practice to configure all administrator accounts with CLI session absolute timeouts and/or idle timeouts. For additional information on setting these timeouts, see the *Using the CLI for Initial Configuration* section of the *Getting Started* chapter in this guide.

You can request an exclusive-lock on config mode by executing the Exec mode **configure lock** command.

```
[local]host_name# configure [ <url> ] lock [ force | warn ]
```

If you specify a URL, the exclusive lock is associated with the pre-loaded configuration file. If you do not specify a URL, the exclusive lock is granted for the running configuration. For additional information see [Effect of Config Lock on URL Scripts, on page 3](#).

The **force** option forces all other administrators to exit out of configuration mode, including anyone currently holding the exclusive-lock.

The **warn** option warns all other administrators to exit out of configuration mode. This administrator will be taking the exclusive-lock soon. You may want to use this option before actually forcing administrators out of configuration mode,

If there are no other administrators in config mode, entering **configure lock** immediately grants you an exclusive-lock.

```
[local]host_name# configure lock
Info: No one else can access config mode while you have the exclusive lock
[local]host_name#
```

When the exclusive lock is granted, no other administrators are allowed to enter into config mode or load a config file. Any other administrators attempting to enter into config mode or load a config file will see the following message:

```
Failure: User <username> has the exclusive lock
- please enter 'show administrators' for more information
```

If another administrator attempts to enter config mode with the exclusive-lock when it is already enabled, the following message appears:

```
Failure: Another administrator is still in configuration mode
- please enter 'show administrators' for more information
```

If you do not obtain an exclusive lock initially, you can use **configure lock force**.

If **configure lock force** is successful, all users who have been forced to exit to Exec mode will see a warning message indicating that they were forced to exit from config mode:

```
[local]host_name(config)#
Warning: Administrator <username> has forced you to exit from configuration mode
[local]host_name#
```

A **configure lock force** command may not be successful because there is a very small chance that another administrator may be in the middle of entering a password or performing a critical system operation that cannot be interrupted. In this case a failure message will appear:

```
[local]host_name# configure lock force
Failure: Another administrator could not release the configuration mode lock
- please enter 'show administrators' for more information
```

The **configure lock warn** command sends a warning message to all config mode users (if any) and then waits up to 10 seconds to try and acquire the exclusive-lock. If any users are still in config mode, the config mode remains in a shared-lock state.

```
[local]host_name# configure lock warn
please wait for this message to be sent to the other administrators.....
[local]host_name(config)#
```

The other administrators would eventually see this message in their session output:

```
[local]host_name(config)#
Administrator <username> requires exclusive access to configuration mode
>>> You need to exit from configuration mode as soon as possible <<<
[local]host_name#
```

The **configure lock warn** command does not usually result in the exclusive-lock being acquired since the other administrators would typically not anticipate seeing the message in their session output.




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**Important**

StarOS logs all major config mode lock interactions to the event log and syslog facility (if configured). You can access a record of what interactions transpired at any time.

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## Effect of Config Lock on URL Scripts

When attempting to load a config script file using the **configure <url>** command, you must acquire either the shared-lock (default) or the exclusive-lock. Since the config script file typically contains the **config** command, the lock is actually held before and after the **config** command is parsed and executed.

The lock is held throughout the execution of the entire config file. Since the same shared-lock is used as the interactive config mode lock, a warning message is displayed followed by a confirmation prompt (if **-noconfirm** is not enabled) as shown in the example below.

```
[local]host_name# config /flash/myconfig.cfg
Warning: One or more other administrators may be configuring this system
Are you sure? [Y/N]:
```

With **-noconfirm** enabled, since all the commands are also echoed to the screen, the warning message will likely scroll off the screen and may not be noticed.




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**Important**

When StarOS first starts up, the Initial Boot Config File is always exclusively locked while loading.

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## Saving a Configuration File

Saving a partial or incomplete configuration file can cause StarOS to become unstable when the saved configuration is loaded at a later time. StarOS inhibits the user from saving a configuration which is in the process of being modified.

With a shared-lock in-effect for the duration of the save operation, you are prompted to confirm the save operation.

```
[local]host_name# save configuration /flash/config.cfg
Warning: One or more other administrators may be configuring this system
Are you sure? [Y/N]:
```

If an exclusive-lock is being held by a user, the save operation will fail.

```
[local]host_name# save configuration /flash/config.cfg
Failure: Configuration mode is currently locked, use ignore-lock to ignore lock
```

You can use the **ignore-locks** keyword with the **save configuration** command to override an existing exclusive-lock.

```
[local]host_name# save configuration /flash/config.cfg ignore-locks
Warning: Ignoring the configuration mode lock held by another administrator
```



### Important

The **save configuration** command also enables a shutdown-lock that prevents any other users from reloading or shutting down the system while the configuration is being saved. For additional information, refer to [Reload and Shutdown Commands, on page 4](#).

## Reload and Shutdown Commands

The Exec mode **reload** and **shutdown** commands can result in a corrupted or partial configuration file when either of these commands are executed while a **save configuration** command is still in progress.

To prevent this problem from occurring, the **reload** and **shutdown** commands share a CLI shutdown-lock with all **save configuration** commands executed across StarOS. This means while any **save configuration** command is executing, StarOS cannot execute a **reload** or **shutdown** command. These commands are queued indefinitely until all save configuration operations are complete.

To prevent the user from being “hung” indefinitely in the wait queue, the user may press Control+C to exit the wait as shown in the example below.

```
[local]host_name# reload
Are you sure? [Yes|No]: yes
Waiting for other administrators to finish saving configuration
(ctrl-c to abort) .....^C
Action aborted by ctrl-c
[local]host_name#
```

On those rare occasions when you must reboot StarOS immediately regardless of the risk of corrupting any file(s) in the process of being saved, you can use the **ignore-locks** keyword in combination with the **reload** or **shutdown** command. With this option StarOS displays the appropriate warning message, but does not wait for save configuration operations to complete before initiating the reboot.

```
[local]host_name# reload ignore-locks -noconfirm
Warning: One or more other administrators are saving configuration
Starting software 21.0...
Broadcast message from root (pts/2) Wed May 11 16:08:16 2016...
The system is going down for reboot NOW !!
```




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**Caution** Employing the **ignore-locks** keyword when rebooting the system may corrupt the configuration file.

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## show administrators Command

The Exec mode **show administrators** command has a single-character "M" column that indicates the current lock mode for the administrator's session. The M-mode characters are defined as follows:

- [blank] – Administrator is in Exec mode
- **c** – Administrator session is currently in Config Mode (shared-lock)
- **s** – Administrator session is currently saving the config
- **f** – Administrator session is currently loading the config file
- **L** – Administrator session is currently in Config Mode with the exclusive-lock

The following is sample output of the **show administrators** command indicating current lock mode:

```
[local]asr5500# show administrators
Administrator/Operator Name  M Type  TTY          Start Time
-----
Bob                          admin  /dev/pts/2  Tue Mar 29 11:51:15 2016
Alice                        c admin  /dev/pts/1  Mon Mar 28 14:41:15 2016
Carol                        admin  /dev/pts/0  Mon Mar 28 14:40:52 2016
```

