

NAME

hostapd - authenticator for IEEE 802.11 networks

SYNOPSIS

hostapd [-**BdhKtv**] [-**P** *pidfile*] *config-file* ...

DESCRIPTION

The **hostapd** utility is an authenticator for IEEE 802.11 networks. It provides full support for WPA/IEEE 802.11i and can also act as an IEEE 802.1X Authenticator with a suitable backend Authentication Server (typically FreeRADIUS). The **hostapd** utility implements the authentication protocols that piggyback on top of the normal IEEE 802.11 protocol mechanisms. To use **hostapd** as an authenticator, the underlying device must support some basic functionality such as the ability to set security information in the 802.11 management frames. Beware that not all devices have this support.

The **hostapd** utility is designed to be a "daemon" program that runs in the background and acts as the backend component controlling the wireless connection. It supports separate frontend programs such as the text-based frontend, `hostapd_cli(8)`.

The following arguments must be specified on the command line:

config-file

Use the settings in the specified configuration file; the name of the specified wireless interface is contained in this file. See `hostapd.conf(5)` for a description of the configuration file syntax.

Changes to the configuration file can be reloaded by sending a SIGHUP to the **hostapd** processor or with the `hostapd_cli(8)` utility, using "hostapd_cli reconfigure".

OPTIONS

The options are as follows:

- d** Enable debugging messages. If this option is supplied twice, more verbose messages are displayed.
- h** Show help text.
- t** Include timestamps in debugging output.
- v** Display version information on the terminal and exit.
- B** Detach from the controlling terminal and run as a daemon process in the background.

-K Include key information in debugging output.

-P *pidfile*

Store PID in *pidfile*.

SEE ALSO

ath(4), ipw(4), iwi(4), mwl(4), ral(4), rum(4), run(4), ural(4), hostapd.conf(5), hostapd_cli(8), ifconfig(8)

HISTORY

The **hostapd** utility first appeared in FreeBSD 6.0.

AUTHORS

The **hostapd** utility was written by Jouni Malinen <j@w1.fi>. This manual page is derived from the *README* file included in the **hostapd** distribution.