

# Secure startup environment checking

This article describes the "server utility check for secure environment" feature in IBM® Informix® Dynamic Server (IDS).

## What is server utility check for secure environment?

When you start the IBM® Informix® Dynamic Server (IDS) database server on UNIX or Linux, IDS utilities now run several checks to determine the security of the startup environment.

## What the security checks do

IDS utilities check the following to determine if the environment is secure:

- Permissions and the existence of \$INFORMIXDIR and some directories under it. The following table lists the directories and their respective owners, groups, and expected permissions:

Subdirectory	Owner	Group	Permissions
.\$INFORMIXDIR)	informix	informix	755
bin	informix	informix	755
lib	informix	informix	755
gls	informix	informix	755
msg	informix	informix	755
etc	informix	DBSA	755
aaodir	informix	AAO	755
dbssodir	informix	DBSSO	755

- Permissions on the ONCONFIG configuration file. The file must belong to the Database Server Administrator (DBSA) group. The default DBSA group is informix. If the DBSA group is informix, the ONCONFIG file should be owned by user informix; otherwise, the ownership is not restricted. The file must not have public write permissions.
- Permissions on the sqlhosts file. The owner should be user informix, the group should be either the informix group or the DBSA group, and there should be no public write permissions. If the file is specified by setting the INFORMIXSQLHOSTS environment variable, then the owner and group are not checked, but public write permissions are not permitted.
- The length of both filenames \$INFORMIXDIR/etc/onconfig.std and \$INFORMIXDIR/etc/\$ONCONFIG must be less than 256 characters.

If the environment is not secure, the utilities exit with following type of warning message:

```
Warning: The database server does not read configuration files if they are
publicly writable, unless the INFORMIXDIR environment variable is
designated as secure in the /etc/informix directory.
```

## What products have security check utilities?

This feature is available only in these products and versions:

Product Name	Product Version (s)	Hardware Vendor	Operating System
IBM Informix® Dynamic Server	• 9.40.xC3 and above	All	UNIX, Linux

x can be U, H, or F depending on your operating system.

**How to disable security checking**

You can partially disable the security checking for a database server residing in a specific \$INFORMIXDIR directory. To disable security checking, run as user root:

```
$INFORMIXDIR/etc/informixdir-is-insecure
```

The informixdir-is-insecure script creates a /etc/informix/ directory (if necessary). In this directory, the script creates a file named server-10.xx.yyy. This file lists the \$INFORMIXDIR values for which security checking is disabled. The xx portion of the filename is the major version number and yyy portion is the fix-pack number for the database server.

**Example:** /etc/informix/server-10.00.UC1