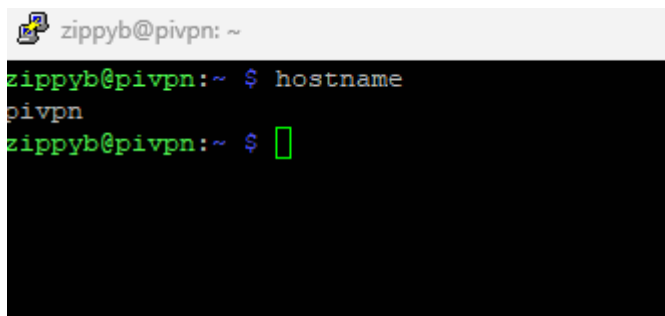


# Changing the Hostname on Linux and Removing VPN Server.

I want to change the hostname on my pivpn because I have moved that to a different system and want to use this for something else but don't need to reinstall linux:

use hostname to see current hostname or it is after your profile name right there in the terminal:

```
hostname
```



```
zippyb@pivpn: ~  
zippyb@pivpn:~$ hostname  
pivpn  
zippyb@pivpn:~$
```

We can edit the hostname file with this command:

```
sudo nano /etc/hostname
```

Output:

```
zippyb@pivpn: ~  
GNU nano 5.4 /etc/hostname  
pivpn  
[ Read 1 line ]  
^G Help      ^O Write Out  ^W Where Is   ^K Cut        ^T Execute    ^C Location  
^X Exit      ^R Read File  ^\ Replace    ^U Paste      ^J Justify    ^_ Go To Line
```

I'm going to change the name to PI-DT-02 because I already have another pi I named PI-DT-01.

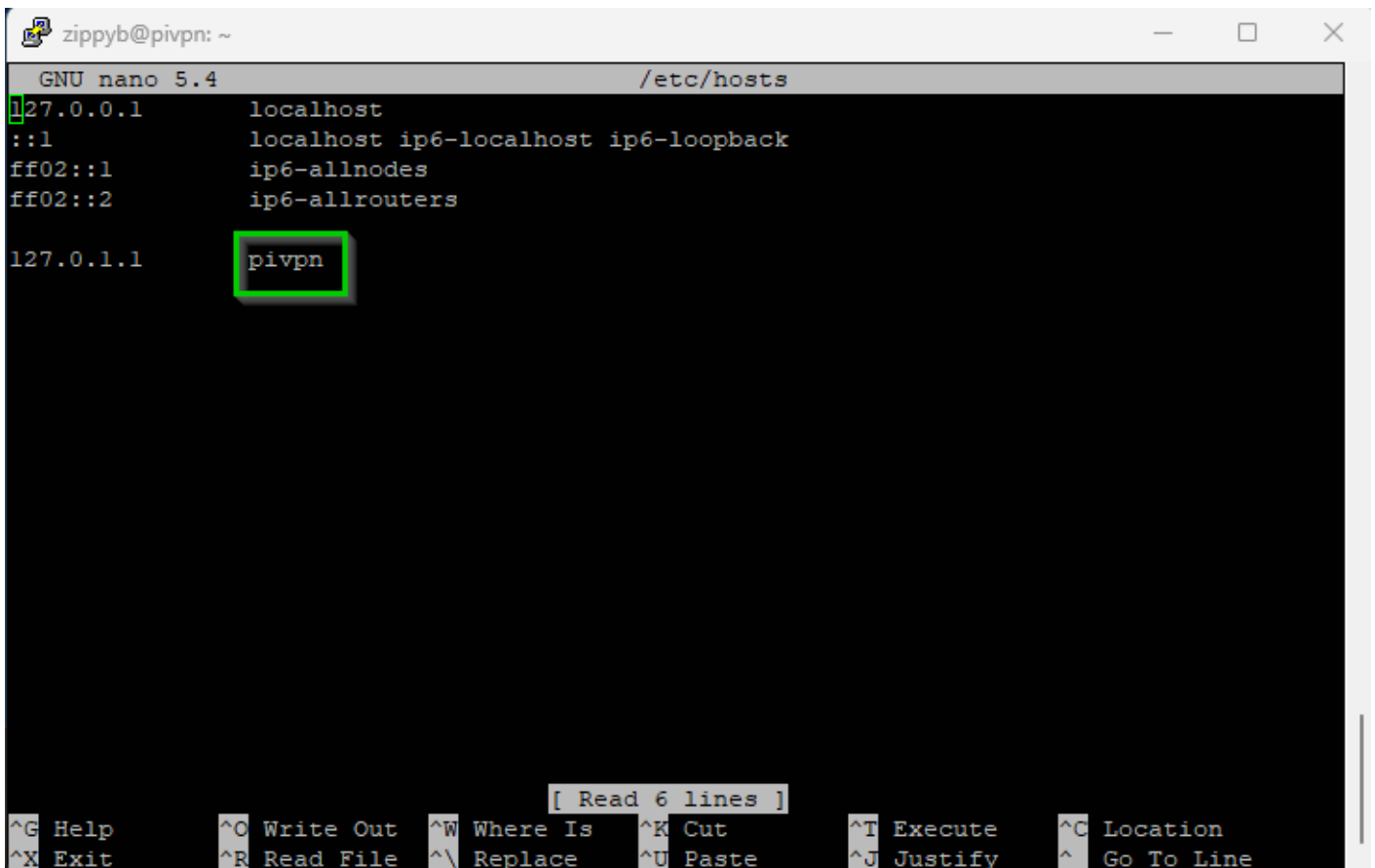
```
zippyb@pivpn: ~  
GNU nano 5.4 /etc/hostname *  
PI-DT-02  
[ Read 1 line ]  
^G Help      ^O Write Out  ^W Where Is   ^K Cut        ^T Execute    ^C Location  
^X Exit      ^R Read File  ^\ Replace    ^U Paste      ^J Justify    ^_ Go To Line
```

CTRL+S to save and CTRL+X to exit.

Now we need to edit the hosts file to update the name to match the new one with this command:

```
sudo nano /etc/hosts
```

I'm going to change the box highlighted in green to my new hostname:



```
zippyb@pivpn: ~  
GNU nano 5.4 /etc/hosts  
127.0.0.1 localhost  
::1 localhost ip6-localhost ip6-loopback  
ff02::1 ip6-allnodes  
ff02::2 ip6-allrouters  
127.0.1.1 pivpn  
[ Read 6 lines ]  
^G Help      ^O Write Out  ^W Where Is   ^K Cut        ^T Execute    ^C Location  
^X Exit      ^R Read File  ^\ Replace    ^U Paste      ^J Justify    ^_ Go To Line
```

Save and exit that file.

To apply those changes we will have to reboot.

```
sudo reboot
```

That disconnects the SSH session and I'll wait for it to come up.

If you want to know when it is reachable you can use the powershell command:

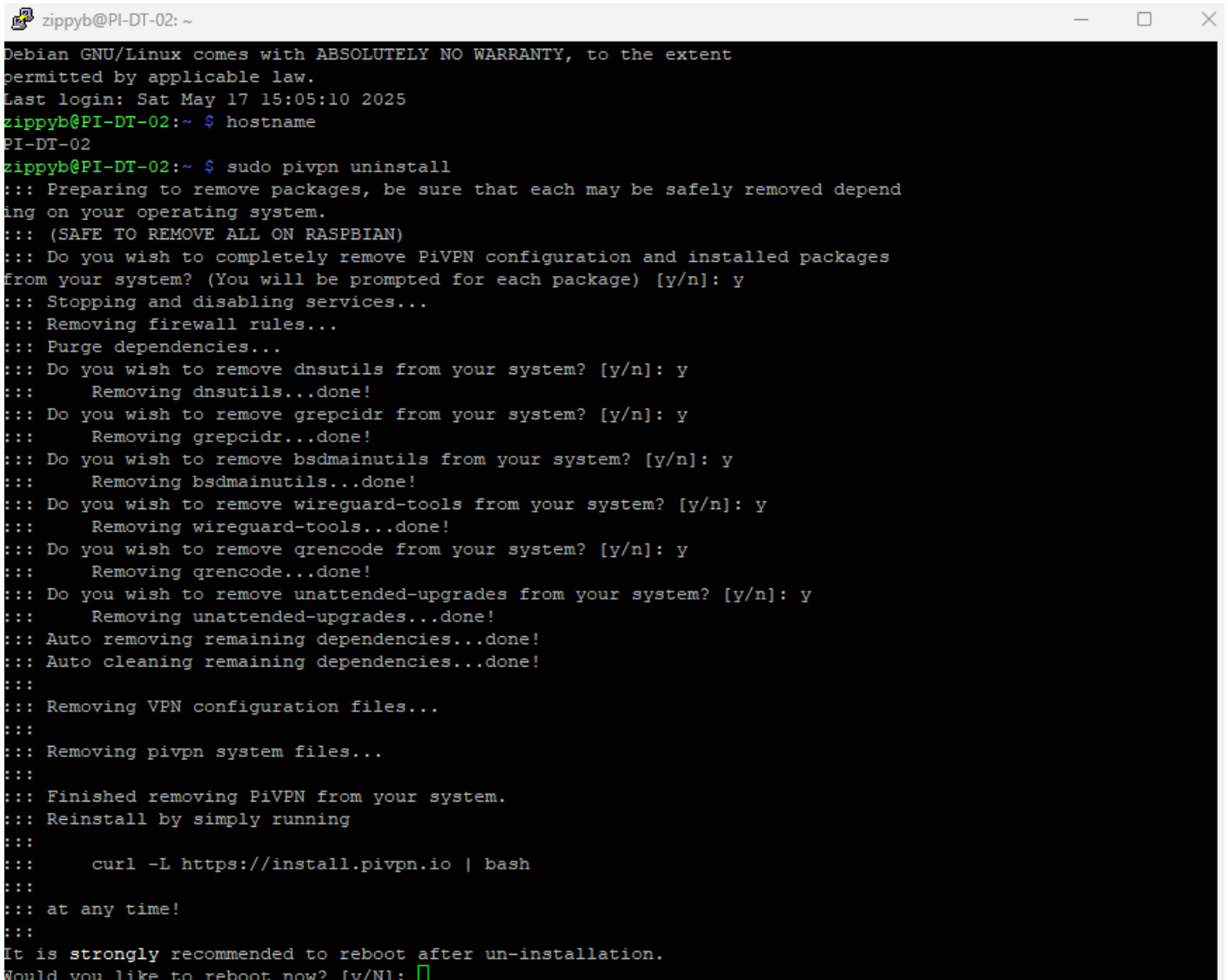
```
ping 192.168.1.16 -t
```



Good to Go!

The rest is specific to the old setup of my pivpn. I was using wireguard so lets remove these packages:

```
sudo pivpn uninstall
```



```
zippyb@PI-DT-02: ~  
Debian GNU/Linux comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent  
permitted by applicable law.  
Last login: Sat May 17 15:05:10 2025  
zippyb@PI-DT-02:~ $ hostname  
PI-DT-02  
zippyb@PI-DT-02:~ $ sudo pivpn uninstall  
:: Preparing to remove packages, be sure that each may be safely removed depend  
ing on your operating system.  
:: (SAFE TO REMOVE ALL ON RASPBIAN)  
:: Do you wish to completely remove PiVPN configuration and installed packages  
from your system? (You will be prompted for each package) [y/n]: y  
:: Stopping and disabling services...  
:: Removing firewall rules...  
:: Purge dependencies...  
:: Do you wish to remove dnsutils from your system? [y/n]: y  
::   Removing dnsutils...done!  
:: Do you wish to remove grepcidr from your system? [y/n]: y  
::   Removing grepcidr...done!  
:: Do you wish to remove bsdmainutils from your system? [y/n]: y  
::   Removing bsdmainutils...done!  
:: Do you wish to remove wireguard-tools from your system? [y/n]: y  
::   Removing wireguard-tools...done!  
:: Do you wish to remove grencode from your system? [y/n]: y  
::   Removing grencode...done!  
:: Do you wish to remove unattended-upgrades from your system? [y/n]: y  
::   Removing unattended-upgrades...done!  
:: Auto removing remaining dependencies...done!  
:: Auto cleaning remaining dependencies...done!  
::  
:: Removing VPN configuration files...  
::  
:: Removing pivpn system files...  
::  
:: Finished removing PiVPN from your system.  
:: Reinstall by simply running  
::   curl -L https://install.pivpn.io | bash  
::  
:: at any time!  
::  
It is strongly recommended to reboot after un-installation.  
Would you like to reboot now? [y/N]: 
```

I'm removing the full stack so I'm using y for the answer to all the questions.

I'll go ahead and reboot now.

Lets strip the pi down to a Clean Base:

```
sudo rm -rf /etc/pivpn
```

Removes leftovers.

## Final Touch:

If you want a clean slate without re-imaging:

```
sudo apt install deborphan  
sudo deborphan | xargs sudo apt-get -y remove --purge
```

This removes orphaned libraries left behind by uninstalled apps.

Notice it didn't remove some of my home directory contents which I wish to keep:

```
zippyb@PI-DT-02:~ $ ls  
abc.sh.save  Downloads      junel4thlogs.txt  restart-wireguard.sh  Videos  
Bookshelf    game.sh.save  Music              Templates  
Desktop      history.txt   Pictures           thinclient_drives  
Documents    iplookup.sh  Public            update.sh  
zippyb@PI-DT-02:~ $
```

---

Revision #1

Created 17 May 2025 20:27:26 by Nate Nash

Updated 21 December 2025 18:11:14 by Nate Nash