**Q:** How do you know what default values would be assigned to a user when created using useradd command?  
  
**A:** These are the two files which contain the default values to be assigned to a user when created using useradd  
# less /etc/default/useradd  
GROUP=100  
HOME=/home  
INACTIVE=-1  
EXPIRE=  
SHELL=/bin/bash  
SKEL=/etc/skel  
CREATE\_MAIL\_SPOOL=yes  
You can also view the **default parameters** set for new user to be created using  
# useradd -D  
GROUP=100  
HOME=/home  
INACTIVE=-1  
EXPIRE=  
SHELL=/bin/bash  
SKEL=/etc/skel  
CREATE\_MAIL\_SPOOL=yes  
The second file containing values used by useradd command for UID, GID, password encryption method and expiry related information  
# less /etc/login.defs  
MAIL\_DIR        /var/spool/mail  
  
PASS\_MAX\_DAYS   99999  
PASS\_MIN\_DAYS   0  
PASS\_MIN\_LEN    5  
PASS\_WARN\_AGE   7  
  
UID\_MIN                   500  
UID\_MAX                 60000  
  
GID\_MIN                   500  
GID\_MAX                 60000  
  
CREATE\_HOME     yes  
UMASK           077  
  
USERGROUPS\_ENAB yes  
ENCRYPT\_METHOD SHA512

### **1. How to change default values of useradd command?**

Either you can open /etc/default/useradd file and edit the file or you can also do the same using CLI as shown below  
  
To change the **default home directory** location for all new users  
# useradd -D -b /opt/users  
# useradd -D | grep HOME  
HOME=/opt/users  
To change the **default login shell**  
# useradd -D -s /bin/sh  
# useradd -D | grep -i shell  
SHELL=/bin/sh  
Now what if you want to add custom arguments to your user while creating them. let us discuss in detail the different options which you can use along with useradd command

### **2. Create multiple users with same UID**

# useradd -o student -u 501  
# useradd -o mohit -u 501  
# useradd -o user -u 501  
Verify the UID of the newly create users  
# grep 501 /etc/passwd  
student:x:501:501::/home/student:/bin/sh  
mohit:x:501:504::/home/mohit:/bin/sh  
user:x:501:505::/home/user:/bin/sh

### **3. Manually assign a UID to the user**

By default a user automatically gets any free uid more than 500 when you run the useradd command. But what if you manually want to assign a uid to your user  
# useradd -u 550 student  
Let us verify the assigned uid to student  
# id student  
uid=550(student) gid=550(student) groups=550(student)

### **4. Create user without home directory**

# useradd -M test  
# su - test  
su: warning: cannot change directory to /home/test: No such file or directory  
  
-bash-4.1$ pwd  
/root

### **5. Create user with custom defined home directory**

# useradd -d /home/users/test test  
# su - test  
  
$ pwd  
/home/users/test

### **6. Add user to different primary group**

By default when you run useradd command, a group with the same name is created inside /etc/group but what if you donot want a group to be created with the same name instead add the user to some different already existing group.  
  
Here we will create a user "mohit" and add him to group "admin" without creating another "mohit" group  
# useradd -g admin mohit  
Verify the groups of user "mohit"  
# groups mohit  
mohit : admin

### **7. Add user to different secondary group**

In the above command you saw if we are mentioning a different primary group while using useradd command then a default group with the name of user is NOT created. Now what if you want a group with username's to be created but instead you want the user to add some secondary group.  
  
Here user student is created along with group student but also in the same command we are addingstudent to dba group  
# useradd  -G dba student  
Verify groups of student  
# groups student  
student : student dba

### **8. Add user to multiple groups**

You can add the user to multiple secondary groups using single command  
# useradd -G admin,dba student  
Verify  
# groups student  
student : student admin dba

### **9. Manually assign a shell to user**

Be default when you create a user in Red Hat Linux the user gets /bin/bash shell. But in case you want to give them some other shell for login use the below command  
# useradd -s /bin/sh  student  
# su - student  
  
-sh-4.1$ echo $SHELL  
/bin/sh  
-sh-4.1$

### **10. Creating a user along with encrypted password**

Now you can create a user with pre-defined password, but the condition is the password used should be encrypted which you can do with various methods. Here I will show you one method to do so  
  
Encrypt your password using below command  
# openssl passwd -crypt mypassw0rd  
Warning: truncating password to 8 characters  
TuUFdiN1KaCHQ  
Now you can use the encrypted password for your new user  
# useradd -p TuUFdiN1KaCHQ student  
Try to login to the user, for which the password would be "**mypassw0rd**"