A sample output is as follows:

./user_adm.sh -details test

Login: test Name:

Directory: /home/test Shell: /bin/sh

Last login Tue Dec 21 00:07 (IST) on pts/1 from localhost

No mail.
No Plan.

Last password change : Dec 20, 2010

Password expires : never
Password inactive : never

Account expires : Oct 10, 2010

Minimum number of days between password change : 0

Maximum number of days between password change : 99999

Number of days of warning before password expires : 7

How it works...

The user_adm.sh script can be used to perform many user management tasks. You can follow the usage () text for the proper usage of the script which is called when any of the parameters given by the user is wrong or has the -usage parameter. A case statement is used to match the command arguments and execute the corresponding commands according to that. The valid command options for the user_adm.sh script are: -adduser, -deluser, -shell, -disable, -enable, -expiry, -passwd, -newgroup, -delgroup, -addgroup, -details, and -usage. When the *) case is matched, it means it is a wrong option and hence, usage () is invoked. For each match case, we have used [\$# -ne 3] && usage. It is used for checking the number of arguments. If the number of command arguments are not equal to the required number, the usage () function is invoked and the script will exit without executing further. In order to run the user management commands, the script needs to be run as root and hence, a check for the user ID 0 (root has user ID 0) is performed.

Let's explain each case one by one:

 -useradd: The useradd command can be used to create a new user. It has the following syntax:

useradd USER -p PASSWORD

- ► The -m option is used to create the home directory. It is also possible to provide the full name of the user by using the -c FULLNAME option.
- → -deluser: The deluser command can be used to remove the user. The syntax is as follows:

deluser USER

- --remove-all-files is used to remove all files associated with the user including the home directory.
- shell: The chsh command is used to change the default shell for the user.The syntax is:

chsh USER -s SHELL

- ► -disable and -enable: The usermod command is used to manipulate several attributes related to user accounts. usermod -L USER locks the user account and usermod -U USER unlocks the user account.
- -expiry: The chage command is used to manipulate user account expiry information. The syntax is:

chage -E DATE

There are additional options as follows:

- -m MIN_DAYS (set the minimum number of days between password changes to MIN DAYS)
- -M MAX_DAYS (set the maximum number of days during which a password is valid)
- -W WARN_DAYS (set the number of days of warning before a password change is required)
- passwd: The passwd command is used to change passwords for the users.
 The syntax is:

passwd USER

The command will prompt to enter a new password.

 -newgroup and addgroup: The addgroup command will add a new user group to the system. The syntax is:

addgroup GROUP

In order to add an existing user to a group use:

addgroup USER GROUP

-delgroup

The delgroup command will remove a user group. The syntax is:

delgroup GROUP

-details: The finger USER command will display the user information for the
user which includes details such as user home directory path, last login time,
default shell, and so on. The chage -1 command will display the user account
expiry information.