



MODIFYING & DELETING USER ACCOUNTS IN LINUX

AGENDA

- Revisiting User Creation
- /etc/passwd Explanation
- /etc/shadow Explanation
- Usermod Command
- Userdel Command
- Quick Recap

Revisiting User Creation

- Creating users
- The Home Directory
- `useradd` command & arguments

/etc/passwd Explanation

oracle:x:1021:1020:Oracle user:/data/network/oracle:/bin/bash

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7

1. **Username:** It is used when user logs in. It should be between 1 and 32 characters.
2. **Password:** An x character indicates that encrypted password is stored in /etc/shadow
3. **User ID (UID):** Each user must be assigned a user ID (UID). UID 0 (zero) is reserved for root and UIDs 1-99 are reserved for other predefined accounts. Further UID 100-999 are reserved by system for administrative and system accounts/groups.

/etc/passwd Explanation

Group ID (GID): The primary group ID (stored in /etc/group file)

User ID Info: The comment field. It allow you to add extra information about the users such as user's full name, phone number etc. This field use by finger command.

Home directory: The absolute path to the directory the user will be in when they log in. If this directory does not exists then users directory becomes /

Command/shell: The absolute path of a command or shell (/bin/bash).

Typically, this is a shell. Please note that it does not have to be a shell.

vivek:\$1\$fnfflc\$pgteyHdicpGOffXX4ow#5:13064:0:99999:7:::

1. **Username** : It is your login name.
2. **Password** : It is your encrypted password. The password should be minimum 6-8 characters long including special characters/digits and more.
3. **Last password change** : Days since Jan 1, 1970 that password was last changed
4. **Minimum** : The minimum number of days required between password changes
i.e. the number of days left before the user is allowed to change his/her password

/etc/passwd Explanation

Maximum : The maximum number of days the password is valid (after that user is forced to change his/her password)

Warn : The number of days before password is to expire that user is warned that his/her password must be changed

Inactive : The number of days after password expires that account is disabled

Expire : days since Jan 1, 1970 that account is disabled

'usermod' command

Changing the home directory of user "test"

```
#usermod -d /home/testnew test
```

Adding groups to a user

```
#usermod -G developer test
```

Changing the primary group of a user

```
#usermod -g developer test
```

Locking and Unlocking users

```
#usermod -L test      # usermod -U test
```

Changing login and password using usermod

```
# usermod -l newtest test    # usermod -p newpass newtest
```

Changing shell of a user

```
# usermod -s /bin/bash newtest
```


`userdel command`

To remove the user tom account from the local system / server / workstation, enter:

```
# userdel tom
```

To remove the user's home directory pass the -r option to userdel, enter:

```
# userdel -r tom
```

userdel command will not allow you to remove an account if the user is currently logged in.

You must kill any running processes which belong to an account that you are deleting, enter:

```
# pgrep -u tom
```

```
# ps -fp $(pgrep -u tom)
```

```
# killall -KILL -u tom
```

Thank You

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