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Linux Create User Account

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Q. How do I create a new Linux user account? How do update or modify default Linux new user information? Using the command prompt (shell) tools, how do I add a user to the system? What are command line options for adding a user?

A. To create a new user account under any Linux distribution use command called `useradd`. The system administrator is responsible for creating account. Login as root user (or use `sudo` command).



[1]

useradd command syntax

```
useradd [options] {username}
```

Depending on command line options, the `useradd` command will update system files ([/etc/passwd](#) ^[2] and [/etc/shadow](#) ^[3] file with password) and may also create the new user's home directory and copy initial files.

Linux add a new user called rakhi

Type the command as follows:

```
useradd rakhi
```

Set a password for rakhi:

```
passwd rakhi
```

Without password user account will be in locked status. To unlock the account, you need to use above `passwd` command. Use `passwd` command to assign a password and set password aging guidelines.

Set account disable date

You can set date for the account to be disabled in the format YYYY-MM-DD with `-e` option while creating account itself:

```
useradd -e {yyyy-mm-dd} {username}  
useradd -e 2008-12-31 jerry
```

Set default password expiry

The `-f{days}` option set number of days after the password expires until the account is disabled. (If 0 is specified, the account is disabled immediately after the password expires. If -1 is specified, the account is not be disabled after the password expires.)

```
useradd -f {days} {username}  
useradd -e 2009-12-31 -f 30 jerry
```

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[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/linux/>

[2] /etc/passwd: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/understanding-etcpasswd-file-format/>

[3] /etc/shadow: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/understanding-etcsshadow-file/>

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