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Linux / UNIX: Generating random password with mkpasswd

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Q. How do I generate random password to use with my shell script?

A. You can use makepasswd or mkpasswd command to generate random password under Linux / UNIX.

mkpasswd command is overfeatured front end to crypt(3) function. makepasswd command generates true random passwords by using the /dev/random feature of Linux, with the emphasis on security over pronounceability. It can also encrypt plaintext passwords given on the command line.



[1]

Install makepasswd

Type the following command at shell prompt:

```
$ sudo apt-get install makepasswd
```

How do I generate random password with mkpasswd?

Just type mkpasswd and hit enter key:

```
$ mkpasswd
```

Output:

```
Password: type-Your-Password  
/o88/D4SvLix2
```

Store password in a shell variable, enter:

```
RPASS=$(makepasswd --char=10)  
echo $RPASS
```

Above will generate passwords with exactly 10 characters long. To produce encrypted passwords using the MD5 digest (hash), enter:

```
$ makepasswd --char=10 --crypt-md5
```

You can write a script as follows:

```
#!/bin/bash  
# ... do something  
userPassword=$(makepasswd --char=8)  
# ... do with $userPassword  
echo $userPassword  
# ...
```

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