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Linux add a user using command line tools

Posted by [Vivek Gite](#) <vivek@nixcraft.com>

Q. How do I add a new user using command line tools? What are command line option recommended.

A. You need to use `useradd` command, which is responsible for creating a new user or update default new user information

The `useradd` command creates a new user account using the values specified on the command line and the default values from the system. The new user account will be entered into the system files (`/etc/passwd`) as needed, the home directory (`/home/username`) will be created, and initial files copied, depending on the command line options.

Task: Add a user to the system

Syntax is as follows for `useradd` command:

`useradd <username>`

By default user account is locked, you need to setup a new password:

`passwd <username>`

For example add a new user called tom and set password to jerry:

```
# adduser tom
# passwd tom
```

If you want to add a user to group read how to [add a user user to group](#) ^[1]

List of common options:

- **-c comment**: Add a comment for the user
- **-d home-directory**: Create a new home-directory
- **-e yyyy-mm-dd**: Date for the account to be disabled
- **-f days**: 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.)
- **-g group-name**: Primary Group name or group number for the user's default group (group name must exist)
- **-G group-list**: List of secondary additional (other than default) group names or group numbers, separated by commas, of which the user is a member (group name must exist)
- **-m**: Create the home directory
- **-M**: Do not create the home directory
- **-s**: User's login shell (default `/bin/bash`)

To read all command line option type following command:

```
$ man adduser
```

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[1] add a user user to group: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/howto-linux-add-user-to-group/>

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