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Remove Linux User From a Secondary Group (Supplementary Groups)

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Q. User tom is a member of a group called sales and printer. I'd like to remove tom from a group called printer without editing any user configuration text files stored at /etc/ directory?

A. /etc/groups [2] file defines group membership for each user. usermod command has -G option to set a list of supplementary groups which the user is also a member of. Each group is separated from the next by a comma, with no intervening whitespace. If the user is currently a member of a group **which is not listed, the user will be removed from the group**.

[1]

Step # 1: Find out user group identity

Use id command:

```
# id -nG {user-name}
# id -nG tom
```

Output:

```
sales printer
```

Step # 2: Remove user from printer group

Use the following syntax:

```
# usermod -G {groupname1,groupname2,...} {username}
```

To keep membership for sales only group (remove user tom from printer group), enter:

```
# usermod -G sales tom
# id -nG tom
```

Output:

```
sales
```

The following example remove user vivek from all groups except admin, audio, video and powerdev group:

```
# id -nG vivek
```

Output:

```
vivek adm dialout cdrom floppy audio dip video plugdev scanner netdev lpadmin powerdev admi
```
◄ ||| ►

Modify group membership, enter:

```
# usermod -G admin, audio, video, powerdev vivek
# id -nG tom
```

Sample output:

```
vivek audio video powerdev admin
```

For more information, read usermod(8) command man page:

```
$ man usermod
```

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