

Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents ..... 1

Task: Change username from tom to jerry ..... 2

Task: Change user tom UID from 5001 to 10000 ..... 2

[Home](#) > [Faq](#) > [Debian / Ubuntu](#)

## Linux change or rename user name and UID (user-id)

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

[1]

**Q.** How do I change user name (rename user name) or UID under Linux operating system?

**A.** Use the `usermod` command to change user name under Linux. it modifies the system account files to reflect the changes that are specified on the command line.

Syntax is as follows

**`usermod -l login-name old-name`**

Where,

=> The name of the user will be changed from old-name to login\_name. Nothing else is changed. In particular, the user's home directory name should probably be changed to reflect the new login name.

**`usermod -u UID username`**

Where,

=> The numerical value of the [user's ID \(UID\)](#) [2]. This value must be unique, unless the `-o` option is used. The value must be non-negative. Values between 0 and 99 are typically reserved for system accounts. Any files which the user owns and which are located in the directory tree rooted at the user's home directory will have the file user ID changed automatically. Files outside of the user's home directory must be altered manually.

### Task: Change username from tom to jerry

Type `usermod` command as follows:

```
# id tom
# usermod -l jerry tom
# id jerry
# id tom
```

### Task: Change user tom UID from 5001 to 10000

Type `usermod` command as follows

```
# id tom
# usermod -u 10000 tom
# id tom
```

Read man page of `usermod` for more information.

4000+ howtos and counting! Want to read more Linux / UNIX howtos, tips and tricks? Subscribe to our [daily email](#) newsletter or [weekly newsletter](#) to make sure you don't miss a single tip/tricks. Alternatively, subscribe via [RSS/XML](#) feed.

Article printed from Frequently Asked Questions About Linux / UNIX: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/>

URL to article: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/howto-change-rename-user-name-id/>

URLs in this post:

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

[2] user's ID (UID): <http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/linux-more-on-user-id-password-and-group-management.html>

---

Copyright © 2006-2010 [nixCraft](http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/copyright). All rights reserved. This print / pdf version is for personal non-commercial use only. More details <http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/copyright>.