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Linux set or change user password how to

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Q. How do I set or change Linux system password?

A. Both Linux and UNIX use passwd command to change user password.

passwd changes passwords for user and group accounts. A normal user may only change the password for his/her own account, the super user may change the password for any account. The administrator of a group may change the password for the group. passwd also changes account information, such as the full name of the user, user's login shell, or password expiry date and interval.

Task: Set or change user password

Type passwd command as follows>

```
$ passwd
```

Output:

```
Changing password for vivek
(current) UNIX password:
Enter new UNIX password:
Retype new UNIX password:
passwd: password updated successfully
```

The user is first prompted for his/her old password, if one is present. This password is then encrypted and compared against the stored password. The user has only one chance to enter the correct password. The super user is permitted to bypass this step so that forgotten passwords may be changed.

A new password is tested for complexity. As a general guideline, passwords should consist of 6 to 8 characters including one or more from each of following sets:
=> Lower case alphabetics
=> Upper case alphabetics
=> Digits 0 thru 9
=> Punctuation marks

Task: Change for any user

You must login as root user, type the command to change password for user vivek:

```
# passwd vivek
```

Output:

```
Enter new UNIX password:
Retype new UNIX password:
passwd: password updated successfully
```

Where,

- vivek - is username or account name.

Task: Change group password

When the -g option is used, the password for the named group is changed. For example change password for group sales:

```
# passwd -g sales
```

The current group password is not prompted for. The -r option is used with the -g option to remove the current

password from the named group. This allows group access to all members. The -R option is used with the -g option to restrict the named group for all users.

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