

User Account Security

Objectives:

At the end of this episode, I will be able to:

1. Delete a user and their home directory from macOS.
2. Describe the methods of restoring a user account or its home directory.
3. Describe the methods available for resetting a user's password.

Additional resources used during the episode can be obtained using the download link on the overview episode.

• Deleting a User Account

- Apple Menu -> System Preferences -> Users & Groups
- Select the user and click on -
- Three options
 1. Save the home folder in a disk image
 - User account is deleted and the contents of their home folder are stored in a .dmg file in `/Users/Deleted Users/`
 2. Don't change the home folder
 - The user account is deleted, but their home folder is left in place
 - `(Deleted)` is added to the end of the folder name
 3. Delete the home folder
 - Home folder is deleted, bypassing the trash bin
 - "Erase home folder securely" provides a data scrub to help prevent file recovery with 3rd party tools

• Restoring a deleted user

- There is no direct way to recover a user account
- If the home folder was not backed up, just create a new account
- If the home folder was backed up, follow these steps:
 1. Restore the home folder to the `/Users/` directory
 2. Create a new user account with the same name
 3. When you click "Create" you will be prompted to use the existing home folder

• User Passwords

- Users can change their password themselves
 - Apple Menu -> System Preferences -> Security & Privacy -> General
- An administrator can reset anyone's passwords
 - Apple Menu -> System Preferences -> Users & Groups

• Resetting the Administrator's Password

- If FileVault is not enabled
 1. Boot to Recovery
 2. Utilities -> Terminal
 3. `resetpassword`
- If FileVault is enabled

- iCloud password reset
- Otherwise
 - Format and reinstall
- Keychains
 - Encrypted database that stores user passwords for easy/automated recall
 - Resetting a user's password does not update their keychain
 - User will be prompted to automatically repair their keychain the first time they login after a password change
 - A new Keychain will be generated
 - The old keychain is saved, but will be inaccessible unless the old password can be retrieved