Chapter 25. Users

Red comments made by Ian Hart

1. Create the users Serena Williams, Venus Williams and Justine Henin, all of them with password set to stargate, with username (lower case) as their first name, and their full name in the comment. Verify that the users and their home directory are properly created.

There is no reference to 'stargate' below - is this some sort of system default?

Too much typing for the system to check accurately - suggest that the first question asks students to create the users and the system will assume they have done so correctly for further questions depending on this.

```
useradd -m -c "Serena Williams" serena ; passwd serena
useradd -m -c "Venus Williams" venus ; passwd venus
useradd -m -c "Justine Henin" justine ; passwd justine
tail /etc/passwd ; tail /etc/shadow ; ls /home
```

```
Keep user logon names in lowercase!
```

2. Create a user called **kornuser**, give him the Korn shell (/bin/ksh) as his default shell. Log on with this user (on a command line or in a tty).

```
useradd -s /bin/ksh kornuser ; passwd kornuser
```

3. Create a user named **einstime** without home directory, give him **/bin/date** as his default logon shell.

```
useradd -s /bin/date einstime ; passwd einstime
```

The system can't validate the answer to this so added after the student has answered (whether correct or incorrect). Or we could create further questions e.g. True-False - I would need help with this

What happens when you log on with this user ? Can you think of a useful real world example for changing a user's login shell to an application ?

It can be useful when users need to access only one application on the server. Just logging on opens the application for them, and closing the application automatically logs them off.

4. Try the commands who, whoami, who am i, w, id, echo $USER $UID .

```
who ; whoami ; who am i ; w ; id ; echo $USER $UID
```

5a. Lock the **venus** user account with usermod.

```
usermod -L venus
```

5b. Use **passwd -d** to disable the serena password. Verify the serena line in **/etc/shadow** before and after disabling.

```
grep serena /etc/shadow; passwd -d serena ; grep serena /etc/shadow
```

5c. What is the difference between locking a user account and disabling a user account's password ?

Locking will prevent the user from logging on to the system with his password (by putting a ! in front of the password in /etc/shadow). Disabling with passwd will erase the password from /etc/shadow.

For the above, we used the 'multiple choice' assessment type in the quiz.

6. As **root** change the password of **einstime** to stargate.

There is no reference to 'stargate' below - is this some sort of system default?

```
Log on as root and type: passwd einstime
```

7. Now try changing the password of serena to serena as serena.

Add in as a True-False i.e. 'you were successful in making the change' - True or False

```
log on as serena, then execute: passwd serena... it should fail!
```

8. Make sure every new user needs to change his password every 10 days.

Need help on this one

```
For an existing user: chage -M 10 serena
```

```
For all new users: vi /etc/login.defs (and change PASS_MAX_DAYS to 10)
```

9. Set the warning number of days to four for the kornuser.

```
chage -W 4 kornuser
```

10a. Set the password of two separate users to stargate. Look at the encrypted stargate's in / etc/shadow and explain.

Need help on this one

If you used passwd, then the salt will be different for the two encrypted passwords.

10b. Take a backup as root of /etc/shadow. Use vi to copy an encrypted stargate to another user. Can this other user now log on with stargate as a password ?

Suggestions please

```
Yes.
```

11. Put a file in the skeleton directory and check whether it is copied to user's home directory. When is the skeleton directory copied ?

Suggestions please

```
When you create a user account with a new home directory.
```

12. Why use **vipw** instead of **vi** ? What could be the problem when using **vi** or **vim** ?

Suggestions please

```
vipw will give a warning when someone else is already using that file.
```

13. Use chsh to list all shells, and compare to cat /etc/shells. Change your login shell to the Korn shell, log out and back in. Now change back to bash.

```
On Red Hat Enterprise Linux: chsh -l On Debian/Ubuntu: cat /etc/shells
```

14. Which useradd option allows you to name a home directory ?

```
-d
```

15. How can you see whether the password of user harry is locked or unlocked ? Give a solution with grep and a solution with passwd.

```
grep harry /etc/shadow
```

```
passwd -S harry
```