



Ubuntu Linux Add a User To Group www-data (Apache Group)

last updated August 15, 2019 in [Apache](#), [Ubuntu Linux](#), [User Management](#)

How do I add a user to the Apache group called www-data under Ubuntu or Debian Linux server operating systems using the command line option?



You need to use the `useradd` command to add a user to the group called www-data under Ubuntu or Debian Linux system. This page shows how to add a user to an existing group named www-data.

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Ubuntu Linux add a user to group command

The procedure is as follows:

1. Open the terminal application.
2. Login to Ubuntu server using `ssh`.
3. Add a new user named foo to www-data group by running `useradd -g www-data foo` command.
4. Add an existing user bar to Apache's www-data group on Ubuntu using `usermod -a -G www-data bar` command.
5. Verify new modification on Linux by using the [id command](#).

Let us see all commands in details.

How to see a list of www-data members

To [see list of all members of a group named www-data](#), run the following [grep command](#) on [/etc/group](#) file:

```
grep ^www-data /etc/group
```

Sample outputs:

```
www-data:x:33:
```

How do I add an existing user named vivek to group Apache group www-data?

Simply run the following command to add an existing user to an existing group:

```
sudo adduser {USER-NAME-HERE} {GROUP-NAME-HERE}
sudo adduser vivek www-data
```

Verify it with the help of [id command](#):

```
id vivek
```



```
vivek@nixcraft-nuc02:~$ grep ^www-data /etc/group
www-data:x:33:
vivek@nixcraft-nuc02:~$ sudo adduser vivek www-data
Adding user `vivek' to group `www-data' ...
Adding user vivek to group www-data
Done.
vivek@nixcraft-nuc02:~$ id vivek
uid=1000(vivek) gid=1000(vivek) groups=1000(vivek),4(adm),24(cdrom),27(s
dip),33(www-data),46(plugdev),116(lpadmin),126(sambashare),132(libvirt)
vivek@nixcraft-nuc02:~$
vivek@nixcraft-nuc02:~$ grep ^www-data /etc/group
www-data:x:33:vivek
vivek@nixcraft-nuc02:~$
```

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Add a new user to the www-data group

In this example, add a new user called vivek to the www-data group, enter:

```
sudo useradd -g www-data vivek

### set the password for vivek user ###
sudo passwd vivek
```

To verify new settings, enter:

```
id vivek
groups vivek
```

The group name www-data is the user's initial login group i.e. vivek has been added to www-data **primary group** only.

www-data supplementary groups membership

To add a new user called vivek to **supplementary groups** called www-data and ftp, enter:

```
sudo groupadd vivek
sudo useradd -g vivek -G www-data,ftp vivek
sudo passwd vivek
```

To verify new settings, enter:

```
id vivek
groups vivek
```

Add a existing user to www-data group

Type the following command to add an existing user called vgite to the www-data group, enter:

```
sudo usermod -a -G www-data vgite
id vgite
groups vgite
```

Above command will add the user vgite to the supplementary group called www-data. Use -a option only with the -G option.

Conclusion

You learned how to add a user to group www-data on Ubuntu Linux using command-line option. For more information see useradd, and usermod man pages online [here](#) or by typing the following man command:

```
man usermod
man useradd
```

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The author is the creator of nixCraft and a seasoned sysadmin, DevOps engineer, and a trainer for the Linux operating system/Unix shell scripting. Get the **latest tutorials on SysAdmin, Linux/Unix and open source topics** via [RSS/XML feed](#) or [weekly email newsletter](#).

Historical Comment Archive

 7 comment**msound** June 23, 2014 at 2:46 pm

When adding an existing user to www-data group, you might have to logout and login for the new group privileges to take effect.

Melroy April 26, 2015 at 8:18 pm

Thats a good tip >< Is there no command for that?

samizdam October 2, 2015 at 1:28 pm

Yes... I'm spent some time with chmod / chown manipulation, before understand it =)

baljit kumar October 9, 2014 at 11:19 am

it's working i try

Barry Docherty May 24, 2016 at 3:44 am

Rubbish... complete and utter rubbish.

to add a user to www-data group with Ubuntu at least that is:

```
sudo adduser 'NameOfUserYouWantAdded' www-data
```

and done!

fagner July 19, 2016 at 7:42 pm

not exist “ftp” group

AndreaEM September 14, 2016 at 7:12 am

Maybe It's cause you don't have/don't need an ftp group (eg. you don't have an ftp service installed or misconfigured)

Still, have a question? Get help on our forum!

Tagged as: [Linux](#), [linux server](#), [passwd command](#), [ubuntu](#), [useradd command](#), [usermod command](#), [Easy](#)



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