



# Operating System II

Malak Chniter

[maleek.chniter@ieee.org](mailto:maleek.chniter@ieee.org)

# Google Classroom: Joining Instructions

1. Access Google Classroom using your **Gmail** account;
2. Click on the '**Join**' button;
3. Enter the class code: **uswy3qp** ;
4. Click '**Join Class**' to become a member;

# Plan

---

## Chapter I: Linux – Users and Access Permissions

1. Introduction
2. Types of User Accounts on Linux
3. Managing Users
4. Managing Groups
5. Permissions
6. Exercises

# 1. Introduction

- Linux System is typically used by **Multiple Users**;
- Each User has an **Identifier (login)**, password, **Unique User Identifier**, **Group Identifier**, **User-info**, **Home Directory**, **Shell**
- Linux System allows **users** to **use files** while **limiting the access permissions for each** to ensure the integrity of their data.
- For organizational purposes, **users** will be **classified** into different **groups**.  
E.g Std1:1<sup>st</sup>-Year GLSI



```
malak@malak-VirtualBox:~$ cat /etc/passwd
root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash
daemon:x:1:1:daemon:/usr/sbin:/usr/sbin/nologin
bin:x:2:2:bin:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
sys:x:3:3:sys:/dev:/usr/sbin/nologin
sync:x:4:65534:sync:/bin:/bin/sync
games:x:5:60:games:/usr/games:/usr/sbin/nologin
man:x:6:12:man:/var/cache/man:/usr/sbin/nologin
lp:x:7:7:lp:/var/spool/lpd:/usr/sbin/nologin
mail:x:8:8:mail:/var/mail:/usr/sbin/nologin
news:x:9:9:news:/var/spool/news:/usr/sbin/nologin
uucp:x:10:10:uucp:/var/spool/uucp:/usr/sbin/nologin
proxy:x:13:13:proxy:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
www-data:x:33:33:www-data:/var/www:/usr/sbin/nologin
backup:x:34:34:backup:/var/backups:/usr/sbin/nologin
list:x:38:38:Mailing List Manager:/var/list:/usr/sbin/nologin
irc:x:39:39:ircd:/var/run/ircd:/usr/sbin/nologin
gnats:x:41:41:Gnats Bug-Reporting System (admin):/var/lib/gnats:/usr/sbin/nologin
nobody:x:65534:65534:nobody:/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
systemd-network:x:100:102:systemd Network Management,,,:/run/systemd/netif:/usr/sbin/nologin
```

# 1. Introduction

Try this command `>>~$ cat /etc/passwd`

The file `/etc/passwd` contains information about all users of the system. Each line in the file pertains to one user

**Login:** the identifier that the user must enter to authenticate themselves

**User Identifier (UID):** Unique identifier of the user, in the form of a numerical value.

The root user has the UID 0.  
UIDs > 100 are used for system accounts

**Group Identifier (GID):** Identifier of the user's group

**Home directory:** directory where files belonging to the user are stored. Typically in the form `"/home/user"`.

```
malak@malak-VirtualBox:~$ cat /etc/passwd
root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash
daemon:x:1:1:daemon:/usr/sbin:/usr/sbin/nologin
bin:x:2:2:bin:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
sys:x:3:3:sys:/dev:/usr/sbin/nologin
sync:x:4:65534:sync:/bin:/bin/sync
games:x:5:60:games:/usr/games:/usr/sbin/nologin
man:x:6:12:man:/var/cache/man:/usr/sbin/nologin
lp:x:7:7:lp:/var/spool/lpd:/usr/sbin/nologin
mail:x:8:8:mail:/var/mail:/usr/sbin/nologin
news:x:9:9:news:/var/spool/news:/usr/sbin/nologin
uucp:x:10:10:uucp:/var/spool/uucp:/usr/sbin/nologin
proxy:x:13:13:proxy:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
www-data:x:33:33:www-data:/var/www:/usr/sbin/nologin
backup:x:34:34:backup:/var/backups:/usr/sbin/nologin
list:x:38:38:Mailing List Manager:/var/list:/usr/sbin/nologin
irc:x:39:39:ircd:/var/run/ircd:/usr/sbin/nologin
gnats:x:41:41:Gnats Bug-Reporting System (admin):/var/lib/gnats:/usr/sbin/nologin
nobody:x:65534:65534:nobody:/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
systemd-network:x:100:102:systemd Network Management,,,:/run/systemd/netif:/usr/sbin/nologin
```

**Password:** encrypted password. It has different significations:

\*: It is impossible to authenticate on the system with this account;  
!!: The account is disabled;  
x or !: The password is in a shadow file;  
Empty field: There is no password for this account.

**User-info:** full name and other information such as the phone number... Each piece of information is separated by a comma “,”

**Shell:** indicates which command interpreter will be launched after authentication

# 1. Introduction

Try this command `>>~$ cat /etc/group`

This file contains information about the groups present on the system.

**Name:** name of group

**\***: linked to older versions of Unix. It is no longer used and may remain empty or contain the characters \* or x.

**GID:** Unique identifier of the group in the form of a numerical value.

**User(s):** This is the list of users belonging to the group. The different users are separated by commas..

```
malak@malak-VirtualBox:~$ cat /etc/group
root:x:0:
daemon:x:1:
bin:x:2:
sys:x:3:
adm:x:4:syslog,malak
tty:x:5:
disk:x:6:
lp:x:7:
mail:x:8:
news:x:9:
uucp:x:10:
man:x:12:
proxy:x:13:
kmem:x:15:
dialout:x:20:
fax:x:21:
voice:x:22:
cdrom:x:24:malak
floppy:x:25:
tape:x:26:
sudo:x:27:malak
audio:x:29:pulse
#...:30:...
```

# 1. Introduction

---

Try this command `>>~$ cat /etc/shadow` **what happened!?**  
passwords are stored in this file, which can only be read by the administrator

**`>>~$ sudo cat /etc/shadow`**

```
malak@malak-VirtualBox:~$ sudo cat /etc/shadow
root!!:19379:0:99999:7:::
daemon*:17647:0:99999:7:::
bin*:17647:0:99999:7:::
sys*:17647:0:99999:7:::
sync*:17647:0:99999:7:::
games*:17647:0:99999:7:::
man*:17647:0:99999:7:::
lp*:17647:0:99999:7:::
mail*:17647:0:99999:7:::
news*:17647:0:99999:7:::
uucp*:17647:0:99999:7:::
proxy*:17647:0:99999:7:::
www-data*:17647:0:99999:7:::
backup*:17647:0:99999:7:::
list*:17647:0:99999:7:::
irc*:17647:0:99999:7:::
gnats*:17647:0:99999:7:::
nobody*:17647:0:99999:7:::
systemd-network*:17647:0:99999:7:::
systemd-resolve*:17647:0:99999:7:::
syslog*:17647:0:99999:7:::
messagebus*:17647:0:99999:7:::
apt*:17647:0:99999:7:::
```

## 2. Types of User Accounts on Linux

1. We can distinguish three types of accounts:

- **Root administration account:** The root account is the superuser account that has full control over the system. It has unrestricted access to all files and commands and can perform any operation. This account is typically used for system administration tasks and making system-wide changes.
- **Application accounts:** These accounts are used by specific applications or services running on the system. They are often created during the installation of software and are used exclusively by those applications to run their processes.
- **Regular user accounts:** These accounts are created for individual users who interact with the system on a regular basis. They have limited privileges and can only perform certain operations on files and directories that they own or have permission to access. Regular user accounts are used for everyday tasks and do not have administrative privileges.

```
malak@malak-VirtualBox:~$ cat /etc/passwd
root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash
daemon:x:1:1:daemon:/usr/sbin:/usr/sbin/nologin
bin:x:2:2:bin:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
sys:x:3:3:sys:/dev:/usr/sbin/nologin
sync:x:4:65534:sync:/bin:/bin/sync
games:x:5:60:games:/usr/games:/usr/sbin/nologin
man:x:6:12:man:/var/cache/man:/usr/sbin/nologin
lp:x:7:7:lp:/var/spool/lpd:/usr/sbin/nologin
mail:x:8:8:mail:/var/mail:/usr/sbin/nologin
news:x:9:9:news:/var/spool/news:/usr/sbin/nologin
uucp:x:10:10:uucp:/var/spool/uucp:/usr/sbin/nologin
proxy:x:13:13:proxy:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
www-data:x:33:33:www-data:/var/www:/usr/sbin/nologin
backup:x:34:34:backup:/var/backups:/usr/sbin/nologin
list:x:38:38:Mailing List Manager:/var/list:/usr/sbin/nologin
irc:x:39:39:ircd:/var/run/ircd:/usr/sbin/nologin
gnats:x:41:41:Gnats Bug-Reporting System (admin):/var/lib/gnats:/usr/sbin/nologin
nobody:x:65534:65534:nobody:/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
systemd-network:x:100:102:systemd Network Management,,,:/run/systemd/netif:/usr/sbin/nologin
malak:x:1000:1000:malak,,,:/home/malak:/bin/bash
```



# 3. Managing Users

## a. Add a User

Command syntax >>~\$ **useradd options login**

E.g : Try>>~\$ **useradd YourName**

To know the different existing options >>~\$ **useradd --help**

```
malak@malak-VirtualBox:~$ useradd -help
Usage: useradd [options] LOGIN
       useradd -D
       useradd -D [options]

Options:
  -b, --base-dir BASE_DIR      base directory for the home directory of the
                               new account
  -c, --comment COMMENT        GECOS field of the new account
  -d, --home-dir HOME_DIR      home directory of the new account
  -D, --defaults                print or change default useradd configuration
  -e, --expiredate EXPIRE_DATE expiration date of the new account
  -f, --inactive INACTIVE      password inactivity period of the new account
  -g, --gid GROUP               name or ID of the primary group of the new
                               account
  -G, --groups GROUPS           list of supplementary groups of the new
                               account
  -h, --help                   display this help message and exit
  -k, --skel SKEL_DIR           use this alternative skeleton directory
  -K, --key KEY=VALUE           override /etc/login.defs defaults
  -l, --no-log-init             do not add the user to the lastlog and
                               faillog databases
  -m, --create-home             create the user's home directory
```

This command is used to display or modify default useradd configuration settings. When you use "useradd -D", it shows the current default settings for creating new user accounts. You can also use additional options with "useradd -D" to modify these default settings. For example, "useradd -D -s /bin/bash" would set the default shell for new user accounts to "/bin/bash".

```
-M, --no-create-home      do not create the user's home directory
-N, --no-user-group        do not create a group with the same name as
                           the user
-o, --non-unique           allow to create users with duplicate
                           (non-unique) UID
-p, --password PASSWORD    encrypted password of the new account
-r, --system              create a system account
-R, --root CHROOT_DIR      directory to chroot into
-s, --shell SHELL          login shell of the new account
-u, --uid UID              user ID of the new account
-U, --user-group           create a group with the same name as the user
-Z, --selinux-user SEUSER  use a specific SEUSER for the SELinux user mapping
--extrausers              Use the extra users database
```

# 3. Managing Users

---

## b. Delete a User

Command syntax >>~\$ **userdel options login**

**E.g :** Try>>~\$ **userdel YourName**

To know the different existing options >>~\$ **userdel -help**

```
malak@malak-VirtualBox:~$ sudo userdel user2
malak@malak-VirtualBox:~$ userdel -help
Usage: userdel [options] LOGIN

Options:
  -f, --force           force removal of files,
                        even if not owned by user
  -h, --help            display this help message and exit
  -r, --remove          remove home directory and mail spool
  -R, --root CHROOT_DIR directory to chroot into
                        --extrausers    Use the extra users database
  -Z, --selinux-user    remove any SELinux user mapping for the user
```

# 3. Managing Users

## c. Modify a User account

Command syntax `>>~$ usermod options login`

**E.g :** Try `>>~$ usermod -d /home/YourName -m user2`

-> change user2's home directory to /home/YourName. This command also copies the contents of the old home directory and adjusts the permissions.

To know the different existing options `>>~$ usermod -help`

```
malak@malak-VirtualBox:~$ sudo usermod -d /home/user2 -m user1
malak@malak-VirtualBox:~$ usermod -help
Usage: usermod [options] LOGIN

Options:
  -c, --comment COMMENT      new value of the GECOS field
  -d, --home HOME_DIR        new home directory for the user account
  -e, --expiredate EXPIRE_DATE set account expiration date to EXPIRE_DATE
  -f, --inactive INACTIVE    set password inactive after expiration
                              to INACTIVE
  -g, --gid GROUP            force use GROUP as new primary group
  -G, --groups GROUPS        new list of supplementary GROUPS
  -a, --append               append the user to the supplemental GROUPS
                              mentioned by the -G option without removing
                              him/her from other groups
  -h, --help                display this help message and exit
  -l, --login NEW_LOGIN      new value of the login name
  -L, --lock                lock the user account
  -m, --move-home            move contents of the home directory to the
                              new location (use only with -d)
  -o, --non-unique           allow using duplicate (non-unique) UID
  -p, --password PASSWORD    use encrypted password for the new password
  -R, --root CHROOT_DIR      directory to chroot into
```

```
-s, --shell SHELL          new login shell for the user account
-U, --uid UID              new UID for the user account
-U, --unlock               unlock the user account
-v, --add-subuids FIRST-LAST add range of subordinate uids
-V, --del-subuids FIRST-LAST remove range of subordinate uids
-W, --add-subgids FIRST-LAST add range of subordinate gids
-W, --del-subgids FIRST-LAST remove range of subordinate gids
-Z, --selinux-user SEUSER  new SELinux user mapping for the user account
```

# 3. Managing Users

---

## d. Manage the password of a user

Command syntax >>~\$ **passwd options login**

**E.g :** Try>>~\$ **passwd YourName**

To know the different existing options >>~\$ **passwd -help**

```
malak@malak-VirtualBox:~$ passwd -help
Usage: passwd [options] [LOGIN]

Options:
  -a, --all                report password status on all accounts
  -d, --delete             delete the password for the named account
  -e, --expire             force expire the password for the named account
  -h, --help              display this help message and exit
  -k, --keep-tokens        change password only if expired
  -i, --inactive INACTIVE set password inactive after expiration
                           to INACTIVE
  -l, --lock               lock the password of the named account
  -n, --mindays MIN_DAYS  set minimum number of days before password
                           change to MIN_DAYS
  -q, --quiet              quiet mode
  -r, --repository REPOSITORY change password in REPOSITORY repository
  -R, --root CHROOT_DIR   directory to chroot into
  -S, --status             report password status on the named account
  -u, --unlock             unlock the password of the named account
  -w, --warndays WARN_DAYS set expiration warning days to WARN_DAYS
  -x, --maxdays MAX_DAYS set maximum number of days before password
                           change to MAX_DAYS
```

# 3. Managing Users

---

## e. Display information about a user

Commands syntax >>~\$ **whoami** , **w** , **who** or **users**

E.g : Try>>~\$ **whoami** , **w** , **who** and **users**

```
malak@malak-VirtualBox:~$ whoami
malak
malak@malak-VirtualBox:~$ w
 06:57:08 up  1:02,  1 user,  load average: 0.04, 0.01, 0.00
USER      TTY      FROM          LOGIN@   IDLE   JCPU   PCPU WHAT
malak     :0        :0             05:54    ?xdm?  33.27s  0.00s /usr/lib/gdm3/g
malak@malak-VirtualBox:~$ users
malak
malak@malak-VirtualBox:~$ who
malak     :0        2024-04-01 05:54 (:0)
malak@malak-VirtualBox:~$
```