

8.10.2 Linux Group Commands

Use the following commands to manage group accounts and group membership:

Command	Function	Example
groupadd	Creates a new group. The following options override the settings as found in /etc/login.defs : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ -g defines the group ID (GID). ▪ -p defines the group password. ▪ -r creates a system group. 	groupadd sales creates the sales group.
groupmod	Modifies the existing group. Be aware of the following options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ -A adds specified users from the group (SUSE distribution). ▪ -R removes specified users from the group (SUSE distribution). ▪ -n changes the name of a group. 	groupmod -R rsem sales removes the rsem account from the Sales group. groupmod -n sales2 sales renames the Sales group sales2.
groupdel	Deletes a group.	groupdel mktg deletes the mktg group.
gpasswd	Changes a group password. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ groupname prompts for a new password. ▪ -r removes a group password. 	gpasswd sales prompts for a new group password.
newgrp	Logs in to a new group with the group password.	newgrp sales prompts for the password for the sales group before logging in.
usermod	Modifies group membership for the user account. Be aware of the following options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ -g assigns a user to a primary group. ▪ -G assigns a user to a secondary group (or groups). Follow the command with a comma-separated list of groups. ▪ -aG assigns a user to a secondary group (or groups) by appending them to any groups the user already belongs to. Follow the command with a comma-separated list of groups. ▪ -G "" Remove the user from all secondary group memberships. (Do not include a space between the quotes.) <p>When you assign a user to one or more secondary groups, remove all existing secondary group memberships before assigning the user account to new groups.</p>	useradd -g pmaxwell pmaxwell assigns primary group membership for user pmaxwell to the pmaxwell group. usermod -G sales,mktg pmorril removes all existing secondary group assignments for pmorril and makes the user account a member of the sales and mktg groups. usermod -G "" pmaxwell removes the pmaxwell from all groups.
groups	Displays the primary and secondary group membership for the specified user account.	groups pmaxwell displays group membership for the pmaxwell account.

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