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You are reading the **latest** (stable) community version of the Ansible documentation. If you are a Red Hat customer, refer to the [Ansible Automation Platform Life Cycle](#) (<https://access.redhat.com/support/policy/updates/ansible-automation-platform>) page for subscription details.

ansible.builtin.user module – Manage user accounts

❗ Note

This module is part of `ansible-core` and included in all Ansible installations. In most cases, you can use the short module name `user` even without specifying the `collections:` keyword. However, we recommend you use the FQCN for easy linking to the module documentation and to avoid conflicting with other collections that may have the same module name.

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Synopsis

- Manage user accounts and user attributes.

- For Windows targets, use the [ansible.windows.win_user](#) ([../windows/win_user_module.html#ansible-collections-ansible-windows-win-user-module](#)) module instead.

Parameters

append
boolean

If `true`, add the user to the groups specified in `groups`.

If `false`, user will only be added to the groups specified in `groups`, removing them from all other groups.

Choices:

- `false` ← (default)
- `true`

authorization
string
added in Ansible 2.8

Sets the authorization of the user.

Does nothing when used with other platforms.

Can set multiple authorizations using comma separation.

To delete all authorizations, use `authorization=''`.

Currently supported on Illumos/Solaris.

comment
string

Optionally sets the description (aka *GECOS*) of user account.

create_home
aliases: createhome
boolean

Unless set to `false`, a home directory will be made for the user when the account is created or if the home directory does not exist.

Changed from `createhome` to `create_home` in Ansible 2.5.

Choices:

- `false`
- `true` ← (default)

expires
float

An expiry time for the user in epoch, it will be ignored on platforms that do not support this.

Currently supported on GNU/Linux, FreeBSD, and DragonFlyBSD.

Since Ansible 2.6 you can remove the expiry time by specifying a negative value. Currently supported on GNU/Linux and FreeBSD.

force
boolean

This only affects `state=absent`, it forces removal of the user and associated directories on supported platforms.

The behavior is the same as `userdel --force`, check the man page for `userdel` on your system for details and support.

When used with `generate_ssh_key=yes` this forces an existing key to be overwritten.

Choices:

- `false` ← (default)
- `true`

generate_ssh_key
boolean

Whether to generate a SSH key for the user in question.

This will **not** overwrite an existing SSH key unless used with `force=yes`.

Choices:

- `false` ← (default)
- `true`

group
string

Optionally sets the user's primary group (takes a group name).

groups
list / elements=string

List of groups user will be added to.

By default, the user is removed from all other groups. Configure `append` to modify this.

When set to an empty string `''`, the user is removed from all groups except the primary group.

Before Ansible 2.3, the only input format allowed was a comma separated string.

hidden
boolean

macOS only, optionally hide the user from the login window and system preferences.

The default will be `true` if the `system` option is used.

Choices:

- `false`
- `true`

home
path

Optionally set the user's home directory.

local

boolean

Forces the use of “local” command alternatives on platforms that implement it.

This is useful in environments that use centralized authentication when you want to manipulate the local users (in other words, it uses `luseradd` instead of `useradd`).

This will check `/etc/passwd` for an existing account before invoking commands. If the local account database exists somewhere other than `/etc/passwd`, this setting will not work properly.

This requires that the above commands as well as `/etc/passwd` must exist on the target host, otherwise it will be a fatal error.

Choices:

- `false` ← (default)
- `true`

login_class

string

Optionally sets the user’s login class, a feature of most BSD OSs.

move_home

boolean

If set to `true` when used with `home:`, attempt to move the user’s old home directory to the specified directory if it isn’t there already and the old home exists.

Choices:

- `false` ← (default)
- `true`

name

aliases: user

string / required

Name of the user to create, remove or modify.

non_unique

boolean

Optionally when used with the `-u` option, this option allows to change the user ID to a non-unique value.

Choices:

- `false` ← (default)
- `true`

password

string

If provided, set the user's password to the provided encrypted hash (Linux) or plain text password (macOS).

Linux/Unix/POSIX: Enter the hashed password as the value.

See [FAQ entry \(https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/reference_appendices/faq.html#how-do-i-generate-encrypted-passwords-for-the-user-module\)](https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/reference_appendices/faq.html#how-do-i-generate-encrypted-passwords-for-the-user-module) for details on various ways to generate the hash of a password.

To create an account with a locked/disabled password on Linux systems, set this to `'!'` or

`'*'`.

To create an account with a locked/disabled password on OpenBSD, set this to

`'*****'`.

OS X/macOS: Enter the cleartext password as the value. Be sure to take relevant security precautions.

password_expire_max

integer

added in ansible-core 2.11

Maximum number of days between password change.

Supported on Linux only.

password_expire_min

integer

added in ansible-core 2.11

Minimum number of days between password change.

Supported on Linux only.

password_lock

boolean

Lock the password (`usermod -L`, `usermod -U`, `pw lock`).

Implementation differs by platform. This option does not always mean the user cannot login using other methods.

This option does not disable the user, only lock the password.

This must be set to `False` in order to unlock a currently locked password. The absence of this parameter will not unlock a password.

Currently supported on Linux, FreeBSD, DragonFlyBSD, NetBSD, OpenBSD.

Choices:

- `false`
- `true`

profile

string

added in Ansible 2.8

Sets the profile of the user.

Does nothing when used with other platforms.

Can set multiple profiles using comma separation.

To delete all the profiles, use `profile=''`.

Currently supported on Illumos/Solaris.

remove

boolean

This only affects `state=absent`, it attempts to remove directories associated with the user.

The behavior is the same as `userdel --remove`, check the man page for details and support.

Choices:

- `false` ← (default)
- `true`

role

string

added in Ansible 2.8

Sets the role of the user.

Does nothing when used with other platforms.

Can set multiple roles using comma separation.

To delete all roles, use `role=''`.

Currently supported on Illumos/Solaris.

seuser

string

Optionally sets the seuser type (user_u) on selinux enabled systems.

shell

string

Optionally set the user's shell.

On macOS, before Ansible 2.5, the default shell for non-system users was `/usr/bin/false`.

Since Ansible 2.5, the default shell for non-system users on macOS is `/bin/bash`.

See notes for details on how other operating systems determine the default shell by the underlying tool.

skeleton

string

Optionally set a home skeleton directory.

Requires `create_home` option!

ssh_key_bits

integer

Optionally specify number of bits in SSH key to create.

The default value depends on ssh-keygen.

ssh_key_comment

string

Optionally define the comment for the SSH key.

Default: `"ansible-generated on $HOSTNAME"`

ssh_key_file

path

Optionally specify the SSH key filename.

If this is a relative filename then it will be relative to the user's home directory.

This parameter defaults to `.ssh/id_rsa`.

ssh_key_passphrase

string

Set a passphrase for the SSH key.

If no passphrase is provided, the SSH key will default to having no passphrase.

ssh_key_type

string

Optionally specify the type of SSH key to generate.

Available SSH key types will depend on implementation present on target host.

Default: `"rsa"`

state

string

Whether the account should exist or not, taking action if the state is different from what is stated.

See this [FAQ entry](#).

(https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/reference_appendices/faq.html#running-on-macos-as-a-target) for additional requirements when removing users on macOS systems.

Choices:

- `"absent"`
- `"present"` ← (default)

system
boolean

When creating an account `state=present`, setting this to `true` makes the user a system account.

This setting cannot be changed on existing users.

Choices:

- `false` ← (default)
- `true`

uid
integer

Optionally sets the *UID* of the user.

umask
string
added in ansible-core 2.12

Sets the umask of the user.

Does nothing when used with other platforms.

Currently supported on Linux.

Requires `local` is omitted or False.

update_password
string

`always` will update passwords if they differ.

`on_create` will only set the password for newly created users.

Choices:

- `"always"` ← (default)
- `"on_create"`

Attributes

check_mode

Support: full

Can run in `check_mode` and return changed status prediction without modifying target

diff_mode

Support: none

Will return details on what has changed (or possibly needs changing in `check_mode`), when in `diff mode`

Platform: **posix**

Target OS/families that can be operated against

Notes

Note

- There are specific requirements per platform on user management utilities. However they generally come pre-installed with the system and Ansible will require they are present at runtime. If they are not, a descriptive error message will be shown.
- On SunOS platforms, the shadow file is backed up automatically since this module edits it directly. On other platforms, the shadow file is backed up by the underlying tools used by this module.
- On macOS, this module uses `dsc1` to create, modify, and delete accounts. `dseditgroup` is used to modify group membership. Accounts are hidden from the login window by modifying `/Library/Preferences/com.apple.loginwindow.plist`.
- On FreeBSD, this module uses `pw useradd` and `chpass` to create, `pw usermod` and `chpass` to modify, `pw userdel` remove, `pw lock` to lock, and `pw unlock` to unlock accounts.
- On all other platforms, this module uses `useradd` to create, `usermod` to modify, and `userdel` to remove accounts.

See Also

See also

[ansible.posix.authorized_key \(../posix/authorized_key_module.html#ansible-collections-ansible-posix-authorized-key-module\)](#)

Adds or removes an SSH authorized key.

[ansible.builtin.group \(group_module.html#ansible-collections-ansible-builtin-group-module\)](#)

Add or remove groups.

[ansible.windows.win_user \(../windows/win_user_module.html#ansible-collections-ansible-windows-win-user-module\)](#)

Manages local Windows user accounts.

Examples

- **name:** Add the user 'johnd' with a specific uid and a primary group of 'admin'
ansible.builtin.user:
 - name:** johnd
 - comment:** John Doe
 - uid:** 1040
 - group:** admin
- **name:** Add the user 'james' with a bash shell, appending the group 'admins' and 'developers' to the user's groups
ansible.builtin.user:
 - name:** james
 - shell:** /bin/bash
 - groups:** admins,developers
 - append:** yes
- **name:** Remove the user 'johnd'
ansible.builtin.user:
 - name:** johnd
 - state:** absent
 - remove:** yes
- **name:** Create a 2048-bit SSH key for user jsmith in ~jsmith/.ssh/id_rsa
ansible.builtin.user:
 - name:** jsmith
 - generate_ssh_key:** yes
 - ssh_key_bits:** 2048
 - ssh_key_file:** .ssh/id_rsa
- **name:** Added a consultant whose account you want to expire
ansible.builtin.user:
 - name:** james18
 - shell:** /bin/zsh
 - groups:** developers
 - expires:** 1422403387
- **name:** Starting at Ansible 2.6, modify user, remove expiry time
ansible.builtin.user:
 - name:** james18
 - expires:** -1
- **name:** Set maximum expiration date for password
ansible.builtin.user:
 - name:** ram19
 - password_expire_max:** 10
- **name:** Set minimum expiration date for password
ansible.builtin.user:
 - name:** pushkar15
 - password_expire_min:** 5

Return Values

Common return values are documented [here](#)

([../reference/appendices/common_return_values.html#common-return-values](#)), the following are the fields unique to this module:

Search this site

append
boolean

Whether or not to append the user to groups.

Returned: When state is `present` and the user exists

Sample: `true`

comment
string

Comment section from passwd file, usually the user name.

Returned: When user exists

Sample: `"Agent Smith"`

create_home
boolean

Whether or not to create the home directory.

Returned: When user does not exist and not check mode

Sample: `true`

force
boolean

Whether or not a user account was forcibly deleted.

Returned: When *state* is `absent` and user exists

Sample: `false`

group
integer

Primary user group ID

Returned: When user exists

Sample: `1001`

groups
string

List of groups of which the user is a member.

Returned: When *groups* is not empty and *state* is `present`

Sample: `"chrony, apache"`

home
string

Path to user's home directory.

Returned: When *state* is `present`

Sample: `"/home/asmith"`

move_home

boolean

Whether or not to move an existing home directory.

Returned: When *state* is `present` and user exists

Sample: `false`

name

string

User account name.

Returned: always

Sample: `"asmith"`

password

string

Masked value of the password.

Returned: When *state* is `present` and *password* is not empty

Sample: `"NOT_LOGGING_PASSWORD"`

remove

boolean

Whether or not to remove the user account.

Returned: When *state* is `absent` and user exists

Sample: `true`

shell

string

User login shell.

Returned: When *state* is `present`

Sample: `"/bin/bash"`

ssh_fingerprint

string

Fingerprint of generated SSH key.

Returned: When *generate_ssh_key* is `True`

Sample: `"2048 SHA256:aYNHYcyVm87Igh0IMEDMbvW0QDlRQfE0aJugp684ko8 ansible-generated on host (RSA)"`

ssh_key_file

string

Path to generated SSH private key file.

Returned: When *generate_ssh_key* is `True`

Sample: `"/home/asmith/.ssh/id_rsa"`

ssh_public_key

string

Generated SSH public key file.

Returned: When *generate_ssh_key* is `True`

Sample: `"'ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAQAC95opt4SPEC06t0YsJQJIuN23BbLMGmYo8ysVZQc4h2DZE9ugbjWWGS1/pweUGjVstgzMkBEeBCByaEf/RJKNecKRPeGd2Bw9DCj/bn5Z6rGfNENKBmo 618mUJBvd1Egea96QGj0wSB7/gmonduC7gswDMNc0dSE3wJMTim4lddiBx4RgC9yXsJ6Tkz9BHD73MXPPt5ETnse+A3fw3IGVSjaueVnlUyUm0Bf7fzmZbhlFVxf2Zi2rFTXqvbdGHHkzpw1U8eB8xFPP7y d5u1u0e6Acju/8aZ/l17IDFiLke5IzIqIMRTEbDwLNe084YQKW Tm9f0DHzhYe0yvqxqLiK07 ansible-generated on host'\n'"`

stderr

string

Standard error from running commands.

Returned: When *stderr* is returned by a command that is run

Sample: `"Group wheels does not exist"`

stdout

string

Standard output from running commands.

Returned: When standard output is returned by the command that is run

system

boolean

Whether or not the account is a system account.

Returned: When *system* is passed to the module and the account does not exist

Sample: `true`

uid

integer

User ID of the user account.

Returned: When *uid* is passed to the module

Sample: `1044`

Authors

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Collection links

Issue Tracker (<https://github.com/ansible/ansible/issues>)

Repository (Sources) (<https://github.com/ansible/ansible>)

Communication ([./#communication-for-ansible-builtin](https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/community/#communication-for-ansible-builtin))