

CS 447/647

User Management

Goals

What is a user?

How is account information found?

How do you add, modify and delete users?

What are some common authentication backends?

What is the role of `/etc/passwd`, `/etc/group` and `/etc/shadow`?

What are the parts of an encrypted password in `/etc/shadow`?

User Management

- Modern Systems

- ☐ Physical
- ☐ Virtual
- ☐ Cloud

- Account Models

- ☐ Classic?
- ☐ Network-based (>1990's)

- Security

Account Mechanics

● What is a user?

- A UID, unsigned 32 bit integer
- Companion GID, also an unsigned 32 bit integer

● System API for users

- `getpwuid` (man 3 `getpwuid`), get password file entry
- `getpwnam` (man 3 `getpwnam`), get password file entry by username
- Traditionally uses `/etc/passwd`

● How does the OS find users?

- Modern systems use Name Service Switch (`/etc/nsswitch.conf`)
 - ordered, `/etc/passwd` & `/etc/group` first
 - `getent passwd $USER`

nsswitch.conf

- Many backend databases for:
 - passwd
 - group
 - shadow
 - services
- Why is your UNR login called a NETID?
 - NETID_AUTHORITATIVE = TRUE|FALSE

Pluggable Authentication Modules (PAM)

- Provides an interface to authentication
 - Login utility calls the pam library
 - Iterates over a stack composed of modules
- Configuration in `/etc/pam.d/*`
- Log information in `/var/log/auth.log`

Example:

```
module-type control-flag module-path [arguments]
```

pam_unix.so - /etc/passwd file

- List of local users
- Traditionally contained passwords
 - Now in /etc/shadow

File Format:

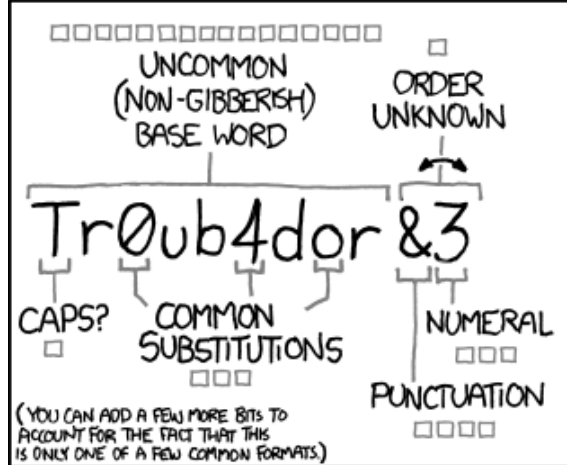
1. Login name
2. Hashed password placeholder (x = /etc/shadow)
3. User ID
4. Group ID
5. GECOS - Full name, office, phone number
6. Home directory
7. Login Shell (/bin/bash)

/etc/passwd - Login Name

- Must be unique
- Limited to 32 characters
- Lowercase
 - Case-sensitive
 - Email RFC5321 - everything before the @ should be case sensitive.
 - ben@🐞.ws - <https://tinyprojects.dev/projects/mailoji>
- Easy to remember
 - Traditionally initials, IE: rms (Richard M Stallman)
- Generating usernames often creates duplicates
 - newellz2
- Should be the same across machines
 - More difficult than you think, IE: eadmin
 - Often requires orchestration. Ansible

/etc/passwd - Encrypted Password

- Originally DES
 - Cracked with brute-force in 1998
- MD5 for while
- SHA-512 for a while
- Currently salted yescrypt
- Changing algorithm does not update existing passwords
 - `chage -d 0 $USER`
- Algorithm in `/etc/pam.d/common-password`
 - `password` [success=1 default=ignore] `pam_unix.so` **obscure yescrypt**
 - `md5`, `bigcrypt`, `sha256`, `sha512`, `blowfish`
 - `rounds=n`
 - `obscure` - `palindrome`, `similar`, `case`, `simple`, `rotated`
 - `man 8 pam_unix`
- Moved to `/etc/shadow`



~28 BITS OF ENTROPY

$2^{28} = 3 \text{ DAYS AT } 1000 \text{ GUESSES/SEC}$

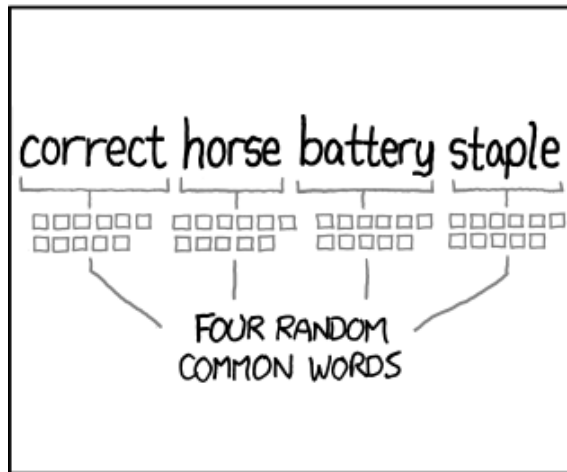
(PLAUSIBLE ATTACK ON A WEAK REMOTE WEB SERVICE. YES, CRACKING A STOLEN HASH IS FASTER, BUT IT'S NOT WHAT THE AVERAGE USER SHOULD WORRY ABOUT.)

DIFFICULTY TO GUESS: **EASY**

WAS IT TROMBONE? NO, TROUBADOR. AND ONE OF THE 0s WAS A ZERO?

AND THERE WAS SOME SYMBOL...

DIFFICULTY TO REMEMBER: **HARD**



~44 BITS OF ENTROPY

$2^{44} = 550 \text{ YEARS AT } 1000 \text{ GUESSES/SEC}$

DIFFICULTY TO GUESS: **HARD**

THAT'S A BATTERY STAPLE.

CORRECT!

DIFFICULTY TO REMEMBER: YOU'VE ALREADY MEMORIZED IT

THROUGH 20 YEARS OF EFFORT, WE'VE SUCCESSFULLY TRAINED EVERYONE TO USE PASSWORDS THAT ARE HARD FOR HUMANS TO REMEMBER, BUT EASY FOR COMPUTERS TO GUESS.

Requirements

System	Default requirements	Where set
Red Hat CentOS	8+ characters, complexity enforced	/etc/login.defs /etc/security/pwquality.conf /etc/pam.d/system-auth
Debian Ubuntu	6+ characters, complexity enforced	/etc/login.defs /etc/pam.d/common-password
FreeBSD	No constraints	/etc/login.conf

/etc/shadow - Encrypted Password

testuser:\$6\$YaimArFO\$Irky4U6vstXuRs3vm.:

\$1\$ - MD5

\$2\$ - Blowfish

\$5\$ - SHA-256

\$6\$ - SHA-512

\$y\$ - yescrypt

/etc/passwd - UID

- UID 0 for root
- System users < 1000
 - /bin/false shell
- Real users >= 1000
 - We use 5000+ for orchestration accounts
 - 3,000,000+ for AD users
- Do not recycle UIDs
 - Backups
- Should be globally unique
 - Assign ranges to groups, IE CSE = 100,000 - 200,000
 - Directory Server - LDAP, AD, FreeIPA (All LDAP)

/etc/passwd - GID

- GID 0 for root
- System < 1000
- No consistencies across OS or distros
 - bin
 - GID1 on Redhat\CentOS
 - GID2 on Debian\Ubuntu
 - GID7 on BSD
- Often used for accounting and access control
 - files, quotas, SLURM partitions, CPU resources
- Group information stored in /etc/group

/etc/passwd - GECOS

```
Changing the user information for testuser1
Enter the new value, or press ENTER for the default
    Full Name []:
    Room Number []:
    Work Phone []:
    Home Phone []:
    Other []:
Is the information correct? [Y/n]
```

- General Electric Comprehensive Operating System
 - 1962 GE Operating System
 - Printing
- Stored as comma separated value
 - chfn - allows users to modify
- Users can modify
 - chfn - /etc/passwd only
 - usermod -c "Zach Newell SEM245B" newellz2

/etc/passwd - Home directory

- Default directory at login

- ☐ echo \$HOME
- ☐ ~

- Stores dotfiles

- ☐ .bashrc
- ☐ .bash_profile
- ☐ .ssh/authorized_keys, .ssh/config
- ☐ .xfce4 or .gnome

- Created as part of adduser

- ☐ Network users home directory not automatically created
 - Solved with pam_mkhomedir.so

- Large organizations often use Network File System (NFS) home directories

- ☐ automount can mount home directories at login.

/etc/passwd - Login shell

- Often an interpreter

- bash - Bourne Again SHell

- Most common

- sh - Shell

- Widely support and simplest

- ksh - Korn Shell

- "a standard/restricted command and programming language"

- zsh

- Newest shell

- Fancy - <https://ohmyz.sh/>

- Changed with chsh

- /bin/false - do nothing, unsuccessfully

- /bin/nologin - Stops login and displays "This account is currently not available."

zsh

```
~> cd testproject
~/testproject master gco detached-head-state -q
~/testproject fdffaf6 touch dirty-working-directory
~/testproject fdffaf6± cd
~> ssh milly
Welcome to Ubuntu 11.04 (GNU/Linux 2.6.18-308.8.2.el5.028stab101.1 x86_64)
Last login: Wed Sep 26 03:42:49 2012 from 71-215-222-90.mpls.qwest.net
agnoster@milly ~>
Connection to milly.agnoster.net closed.
~> sudo -s
Password:
~ root@Arya ~> top &
[1] 34523
[1] + 34523 suspended (tty output) top
~ root@Arya ~> rm no-such-file
rm: no-such-file: No such file or directory
~ root@Arya ~> kill %1
[1] + 34523 terminated top
~ root@Arya ~>
```

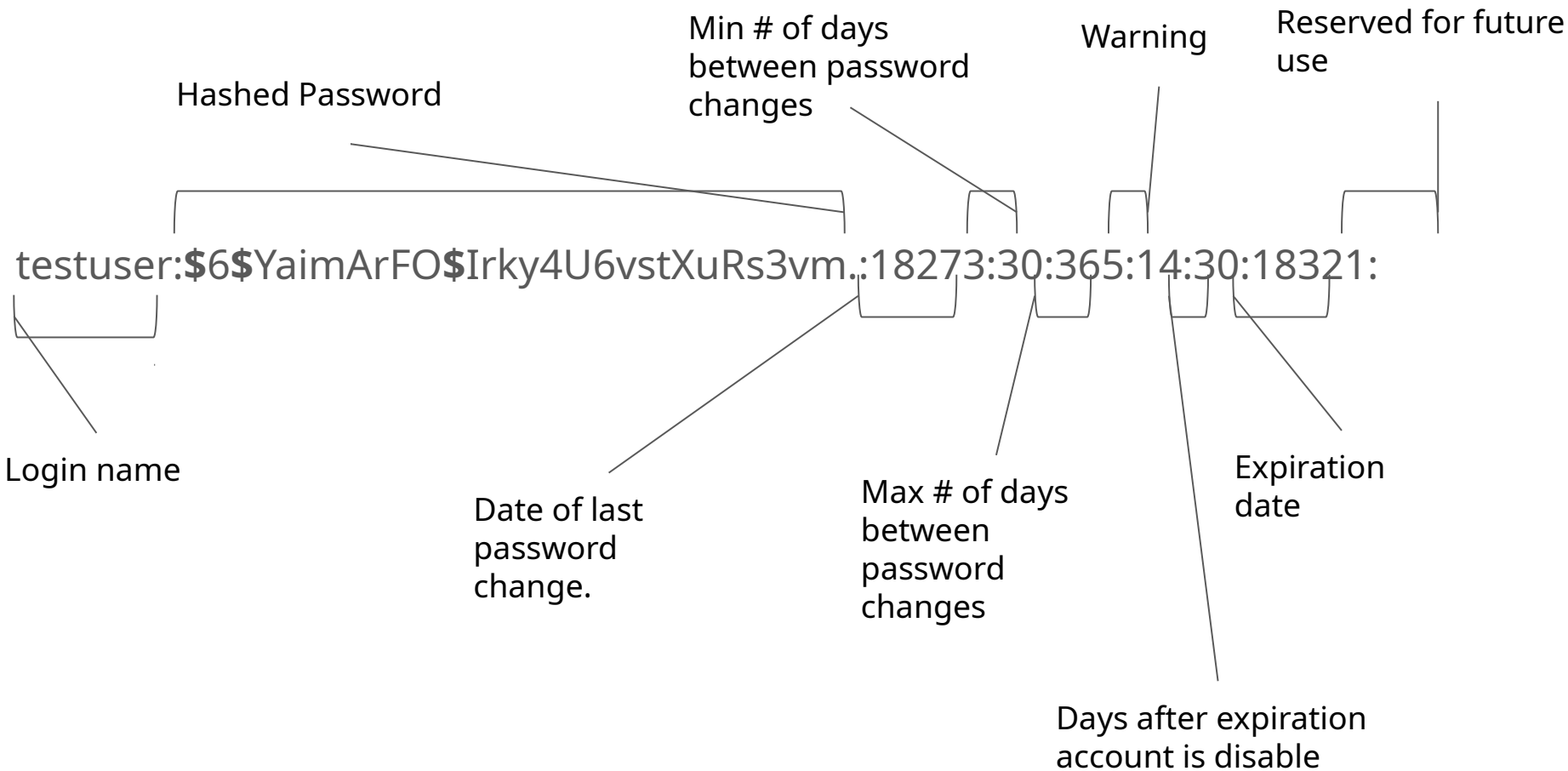
<https://github.com/agnoster/agnoster-zsh-theme>

/etc/shadow

- RW only by root, R by shadow group
- Date field are days (*not* seconds) since Jan 1, 1970
- Stores encrypted passwords
 - "x" /etc/passwd entries

9 fields:

1. Login name
2. Encrypted password
3. Date of last password change
4. Minimum number of days between password changes
5. Maximum number of days between password changes
6. Number of days in advance to warn users about password expiration
7. Days after password expiration that account is disabled
8. Account expiration date
9. A field reserved for future use which is currently always empty



Managing password age and expiry

NAME

chage - change user password expiry information

SYNOPSIS

chage [options] LOGIN

DESCRIPTION

The chage command changes the number of days between password changes and the date of the last password change. This information is used by the system to determine when a user must change his/her password.

```
chage \ #  
-m 30 \ #Min days before  
password change  
-M 365 \ #Max days for valid  
password  
-W 14 \ #Warn 14 days before  
-I 30 \ #Inactivity disable in  
days  
-E 2020-02-29 \ #Expiry date  
testuser
```

/etc/groups

- Stores UNIX groups
- Can be password protected
 - gpasswd
 - newgrp - User joins a group with a password
- adduser creates a private group
 - adduser \$USER \$GROUP
- Default Privileges
 - Audio - sound
 - Serial Ports - dialout
 - Display - vga
 - Sudo - wheel or sudo

/etc/groups

```
root:x:0:
daemon:x:1:
bin:x:2:
sys:x:3:
adm:x:4:syslog,zach
tty:x:5:
disk:x:6:
lp:x:7:
mail:x:8:
dialout:x:20:zach
```

1. Group name
2. Encrypted password or a placeholder
3. GID number
4. List of members, separated by commas (be careful not to add spaces)

Groups

- **sudo**
 - `/etc/sudoers` gives sudo permissions
- **dialout**
 - `/dev/ttyS{0..10}` permissions. Serial ports.
- **audio**
 - Audio permissions
- **lpadmin**
 - Printer permissions
- **libvirtd**
 - `virt-manager` permissions

Adding a group

```
addgroup [options] [--gid ID] group
```

```
addgroup --gid 5000 engr-admins
```

```
adduser someuser engr-admins #Debian\Ubuntu
```

```
usermod -G dialout -a zestreito #RHEL\CentOS
```

```
groupadd, groupmod, and groupdel #Universal
```

Adding users

1. Define account
 - a. Add /etc/passwd entry
 - i. vipw(1) - Why? lock files.
 1. Does not check syntax
2. Add private group
 - a. /etc/group
 - i. vigr(1)
3. Set password
 - a. passwd
4. Create home directory
 - a. mkdir /home/\$USER
5. chown \$USER:\$USER home directory
6. Configure roles and permissions

Adding users

```
adduser --home /home/someuser --shell --uid 6000 \  
--gecos "Some User" --gid 6000 someuser
```

```
passwd someuser #interactive change
```

```
echo "someuser:${PW}" | chpasswd # Batch mode password  
change
```

```
adduser someuser somegroup
```

```
chage -d 0 testuser1 #force password change at next login
```

```
echo "umask 077" >> ~someuser/.bash_profile # 700  
permissions
```

umask

- /etc/login.defs
 - UMASK 022
- libpam_mkhomedir.so
 - Essential for network users.

```
grep mkhomedir /etc/pam.d/*
```

```
common-session:session optional pam_mkhomedir.so  
umask=077
```

```
#skel=/path/to/skel/directory
```

```
#Indicate an alternative skel directory to override the default /etc/skel.
```

Adding users

Target	Filename	Typical uses
<i>all shells</i>	.login_conf	Sets user-specific login defaults (FreeBSD)
sh	.profile	Sets search path, terminal type, and environment
bash^a	.bashrc	Sets the terminal type (if needed) Sets biff and mesg switches
	.bash_profile	Sets up environment variables Sets command aliases Sets the search path Sets the umask value to control permissions Sets CDPATH for filename searches Sets the PS1 (prompt) and HISTCONTROL variables
csh/tcsh	.login	Read by "login" instances of csh
	.cshrc	Read by all instances of csh
vi/vim	.vimrc/.viminfo	Sets vi/vim editor options
emacs	.emacs	Sets emacs editor options and key bindings
git	.gitconfig	Sets user, editor, color, and alias options for Git
GNOME	.gconf	GNOME user configuration via gconf
	.gconfpath	Path for additional user configuration via gconf
KDE	.kde/	Directory of configuration files

a. **bash** also reads **.profile** or **/etc/profile** in emulation of **sh**. The **.bash_profile** file is read by login shells, and the **.bashrc** file is read by interactive, non-login shells.

/etc/skel & /usr/local/etc/skel

```
ls -lha /etc/skel
```

```
total 12K
```

drwxr-xr-x	1	root	root	512	Jan	12	08:49	.
drwxr-xr-x	1	root	root	512	Jan	12	09:17	..
-rw-r--r--	1	root	root	220	Apr	4	2018	.bash_logout
-rw-r--r--	1	root	root	3.7K	Apr	4	2018	.bashrc
-rw-r--r--	1	root	root	2.2K	May	31	2017	.kshrc
-rw-r--r--	1	root	root	807	Apr	4	2018	.profile

Scripting Local Accounts

System	Commands	Configuration files
All Linux	useradd, usermod, userdel	/etc/login.defs /etc/default/useradd
Debian/Ubuntu ^a	adduser, deluser	/etc/adduser.conf /etc/deluser.conf
FreeBSD	adduser, rmuser	/etc/login.conf

a. This suite wraps the standard Linux version and includes a few more features.

Disabling and removing accounts

```
usermod -L someuser # Lock
```

```
usermod -U someuser # Unlock
```

```
deluser someuser      # Delete user
```

Centralized Account Management

- `rsync /etc/passwd, /etc/group, /etc/shadow`
 - Ansible
- NIS - Networking Information Server
 - Network access based authentication and authorization
- LDAP
 - Lightweight Directory Access Protocol
 - Most popular option
- LDAP+KRB5 (Kerberos)
 - SSO
 - Ticket-based



Ansible

- name: Create cadmin user

tags:

- server-auth

user: name=cadmin state=present

uid=8000

shell=/bin/bash

groups="sudo"

home='/usr/local/home/cadmin'

password='\$6\$9dcUsI0p\$siuhsd.ffewg3dss8

Centralized Account Management - NIS

- Network Information Service (NIS)
- Originally developed by Sun Microsystems in the 1980's
- Used to be named Yellow Pages
 - Renamed due to trademark
 - Services retain the yp*
 - ypbind - finds the NIS master
 - ypserv - Primary NIS master service
- Exports
 - Groups
 - Users
 - Hostnames

Setting up NIS

```
time apt install nis #Wait forever
```

```
nano /etc/default/nis #master
```

```
nano /etc/yp.conf #client
```

```
systemctl restart nis #wait...
```

```
cd /var/yp && make
```

```
ypcat passwd
```

```
zcat /usr/share/doc/nis/nis.debian.howto.gz | less #2003!
```

Centralized Account Management - LDAP

- Lightweight Directory Access Protocol
 - Small to large organizations
- Enforces unique UIDs and GIDs
- Largely replaced NIS
- Mixed *nix and Windows infrastructure means AD
 - Kerberos
 - NIS additions not default

Attribute	Stands for	What it is
o	Organization	Often identifies a site's top-level entry ^a
ou	Organizational unit	A logical subdivision, e.g., "marketing"
cn	Common name	The most natural name to represent the entry
dc	Domain component	Used at sites that model their hierarchy on DNS
objectClass	Object class	Schema to which this entry's attributes conform

a. Typically not used by sites that model their LDAP hierarchy on DNS

Searching LDAP

```
ldapsearch(1) -h 10.0.100.58 -p 389 -x -b "dc=newellz2" "(uid=*)"
```

LDAP search tool

-h ldaphost

Specify an alternate host on which the ldap server is running. Deprecated in favor of **-H**.

-p ldapport

Specify an alternate TCP port where the ldap server is listening. Deprecated in favor of **-H**.

-x Use simple authentication instead of SASL.

-b searchbase

Use searchbase as the starting point for the search instead of the default.


```
# rhyolite, users, newellz2
dn: uid=rhyolite,ou=users,dc=newellz2
objectClass: top
objectClass: posixAccount
objectClass: shadowAccount
objectClass: inetOrgPerson
cn: rhyolite
sn: Amargosa
uid: rhyolite
uidNumber: 1000000
gidNumber: 1000000
homeDirectory: /home/rhyolite
loginShell: /bin/bash
gecos: Rhyolite Amargosa

# search result
search: 2
result: 0 Success
```

Searching UNR LDAP

```
ldapsearch \
-W \
-h unrdc04.unr.edu \
-p 389 -x -D "CN=Zachary A
Newell,ou=Employees,ou=Users,ou=IT,dc=unr,dc=edu" \
-b "dc=unr,dc=edu" \
"sAMAccountName=newellz2*"
```

CN=**\$NAME**,ou=**\$FLETTER**,ou=NetID,ou=IT,dc=unr,dc=edu

Adding a user the hard way...

```
ldapadd -x -w "qwerty" -D "cn=newellz2,dc=cs447" -f rhyolite.ldif
```

```
dn: uid=rhyolite,  
objectClass: top  
objectClass: posixAccount  
objectClass: shadowAccount  
objectClass: inetOrgPerson  
cn: rhyolite  
sn: Amargosa  
uid: rhyolite  
uidNumber: 1000000  
gidNumber: 1000000  
homeDirectory: /home/rhyolite  
loginShell: /bin/bash  
gecos: Rhyolite Amargosa  
userPassword: {SSHA}xAOqDys+VX3wbjsF6C0xZ6lomLNAIRyJ
```

Centralized Account Management - SSO

- **Shibboleth** - Open-source
 - UNR uses Shib
- JOSSO - SSO Server
- CAS - Central Authentication Service
- **Keycloak**

The screenshot shows a web page for NetID Login. At the top left is the University of Nevada, Reno logo. At the top right is a blue button labeled "O'Reilly Online Learning". The main heading is "NetID Login" in large blue and grey text. Below this is a red banner with the text "Do Not Bookmark This Page!". The main content area is a light grey box with the text "O'Reilly Online Learning requires you to log in with your NetID." followed by two input fields: "NetID" and "Password". Below the fields is a "Sign In" button. At the bottom of the box are links for "Forgot your password?" and "Forgotten your NetID?". The O'Reilly logo is in the bottom left corner of the page.

University of Nevada, Reno

O'Reilly Online Learning

NetID Login

Do Not Bookmark This Page!

O'Reilly Online Learning requires you to log in with your NetID.

NetID

Password

Sign In

[Forgot your password?](#)
[Forgotten your NetID?](#)

O'REILLY

Centralized Account Management - IAM

- Identity Management Systems\Identity Access Management
 - Authentication
 - Granting Privileges
- Largely Commercial
 - Microsoft
 - Oracle
 - Redhat
- Web-based Management Interface
- Role-based provisioning
- *Offboarding*
 - Removing users from groups and access.

Centralized Account Management - IAM

● Account Management

- Unique login names, UIDs and GIDs
- CRUD across an organization
 - Regardless of OS
- Approval workflows
- Reporting
- Logging of all administrative actions

● Ease of use

- Users can update their own information and password
- Global password changes
- <https://security.unr.edu/>

Centralized Account Management - FreeIPA

- Open-source version of Redhat IdM

- Manages

- Users
 - Groups
 - Machine Accounts
 - SSO

- Uses

- LDAP - Directory Server 389
 - Kerberos - MIT Kerberos 5
 - WWW - Python-based Web Application
 - Certificates - dogtag
 - DNS - bind9
 - Sudo

[Active users](#) » admin

✓ User: admin

admin is a member of:

Settings

User Groups

Netgroups

Roles

HBAC Rules

Sudo Rules

Refresh

Revert

Save

Actions ▾

Reset Password

Enable

Disable

Delete

Unlock

Add OTP Token

Rebuild auto membership

New Certificate

Identity Settings

Job Title

First name

Last name

Full name

Display name

Initials

GECOS

Class

Account Settings

User login admin

Password *****

Password expiration 2016-11-01 23:17:22Z

UID 890200000

GID 890200000

Kerberos principal admin@EXAMPLE.ORG

Kerberos principal expiration YYYY-MM-DD hh : mn UTC

Login shell /bin/bash

Home directory /home/admin

SSH public keys Add