

Creating a Restricted Monitoring User on RHEL/Oracle Linux

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Objective: Create a limited shell user (limiteduser) with access to only basic system monitoring commands (top, sar, df, free) while preventing access to other tools and commands.

Brief Overview of Steps:

- Create the user account.
- Set up a private cmds directory to hold only allowed commands.
- Use symbolic links to expose only necessary monitoring tools.
- Set a custom PATH in the .bash_profile.
- Secure permissions to limit modifications.

Commands Used:

1. Create the User

```
adduser limiteduser
```

2. Create Directory for Commands

```
sudo mkdir /home/limiteduser/cmds  
chown limiteduser:limiteduser /home/limiteduser/cmds
```

3. Copy Required Monitoring Commands

```
cp -r /usr/bin/top /usr/bin/sar /bin/df /usr/bin/free /home/limiteduser/cmds
```

4. Check User Entry

```
cat /etc/passwd | grep limiteduser
```

5. Set PATH in .bash_profile

```
echo 'PATH=$HOME/cmds' > /home/limiteduser/.bash_profile  
echo 'export PATH' >> /home/limiteduser/.bash_profile
```

6. Secure .bash_profile

```
sudo chown root:root /home/limiteduser/.bash_profile  
sudo chmod 644 /home/limiteduser/.bash_profile
```

7. Switch to User for Verification

```
su - limiteduser
```

Result: The limiteduser account is now set up to access only the specified monitoring tools (top, sar, df, free) and is restricted from using other commands by limiting the executable PATH to a controlled directory.