

Exercise 05 - Deleting Local Users - Script 4

Goal:

The goal of this exercise is to create a shell script that allows for a local Linux account to be disabled, deleted, and optionally archived.

Scenario:

Today the help desk team received a request to delete an account for a person who has changed departments. This person doesn't have time to log into Linux systems -- they're in management now!

The help desk team also wants to save the contents of this person's home directory just in case this person returns to their original department and job.

They realize this is just going to be the first of these types of requests. They know they're eventually going to receive requests to disable accounts for when people are on extended leave.

Of you course you know it's going to be way easier to write a script and hand it off than it is for you to do all the work.

Shell Script Requirements:

You think about what the shell script must do and how you would like it operate. You come up with the following list.

The script:

- Is named "disable-local-user.sh".
- Enforces that it be executed with superuser (root) privileges. If the script is not executed with superuser privileges it will not attempt to create a user and returns an exit status of 1. All messages associated with this event will be displayed on standard error.
- Provides a usage statement much like you would find in a man page if the user does not supply an account name on the command line and returns an exit status of 1. All messages associated with this event will be displayed on standard error.
- Disables (expires/locks) accounts by default.
- Allows the user to specify the following options:
 - -d Deletes accounts instead of disabling them.
 - -r Removes the home directory associated with the account(s).

- -a Creates an archive of the home directory associated with the accounts(s) and stores the archive in the /archives directory. (NOTE: /archives is not a directory that exists by default on a Linux system. The script will need to create this directory if it does not exist.)
 - Any other option will cause the script to display a usage statement and exit with an exit status of 1.
- Accepts a list of usernames as arguments. At least one username is required or the script will display a usage statement much like you would find in a man page and return an exit status of 1. All messages associated with this event will be displayed on standard error.
- Refuses to disable or delete any accounts that have a UID less than 1,000.
 - Only system accounts should be modified by system administrators. Only allow the help desk team to change user accounts.
- Informs the user if the account was not able to be disabled, deleted, or archived for some reason.
- Displays the username and any actions performed against the account.