



8. Linux Users & Groups Management



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Linux Users

User management includes everything from creating a user to deleting a user on your system. User management can be done in two ways on a Linux system.

Graphical tools are easy and suitable for new users, as it makes sure you'll not run into any trouble.

Command line tools includes commands like useradd, userdel, passwd, etc. These are mostly used by the server administrators.

1. useradd username
2. passwd username

```
ubuntu:x:1000:1000:Ubuntu:/home/ubuntu:/bin/bash
lxd:x:999:100::/var/snap/lxd/common/lxd:/bin/false
```

Accessing a user configuration file-

```
cat /etc/passwd
```

Command to Modify the group ID of a user-

```
usermod -g new_group_id username
```

```
root@ip-172-31-8-13:~# usermod -g 1002 Ram
root@ip-172-31-8-13:~#
lxd:x:999:100::/var/snap/lxd/common/lxd:/bin/false
Ram:x:1001:1002::/home/Ram:/bin/sh
Shyam:x:1002:1002::/home/Shyam:/bin/sh
root@ip-172-31-8-13:~#
```

Delete User-

```
root@ip-172-31-8-13:/# userdel Shyam
root@ip-172-31-8-13:/# cat /etc/passwd
ubuntu:x:1000:1000:Ubuntu:/home/ubuntu:/bin/bash
lxd:x:999:100::/var/snap/lxd/common/lxd:/bin/false
```

User is deleted hence no reference found for the user Shyam

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Linux Groups-

The groupadd command creates or add a group in our system.

```
groupadd <groupName>
```

```
groupadd DevOps
```

```
lxd:x:999:100:./var/snap/lxd/common/lxd:/bin/false
Ram:x:1001:1002:./home/Ram:/bin/sh
Shyam:x:1002:1002:./home/Shyam:/bin/sh
root@ip-172-31-8-13:~#
```

Group File-

The /etc/group file defines the group membership. A user can be a member of more than one group.

```
root@ip-172-31-8-13:~# tail -4 /etc/passwd
_chrony:x:113:120:Chrony daemon,,,:/var/lib/chrony:/usr/sbin/nologin
ubuntu:x:1000:1000:Ubuntu:/home/ubuntu:/bin/bash
lxd:x:999:100:./var/snap/lxd/common/lxd:/bin/false
RAM:x:1001:1003:./home/RAM:/bin/sh
root@ip-172-31-8-13:~#
```

Gruopdel –

The command groupdel will delete a group permanently from the system.

```
groupdel <group>
```

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root@ip-172-31-8-13: ~

```
root@ip-172-31-8-13:~# tail -6 /etc/group
ubuntu:x:1000:
Ram:x:1001:
DevOps:x:1002:
RAM:x:1003:
suraj:x:1004:
Radha:x:1005:
root@ip-172-31-8-13:~# groupdel Radha
groupdel: cannot remove the primary group of user 'Radha'
root@ip-172-31-8-13:~# groupdel -f Radha
root@ip-172-31-8-13:~# tail -6 /etc/group
_chrony:x:120:
ubuntu:x:1000:
Ram:x:1001:
DevOps:x:1002:
RAM:x:1003:
suraj:x:1004:
root@ip-172-31-8-13:~#
```

File `/etc/gshadow` keeps the information about the group administrators as shown in below snapshot.

root@ip-172-31-8-13: ~

```
root@ip-172-31-8-13:~# tail -4 /etc/gshadow
Ram:::
DevOps:::
RAM:::
suraj:::
root@ip-172-31-8-13:~#
```