**Usermod Command**

(http://www.tecmint.com/usermod-command-examples/)

#### Options of Usermod :

1. **-c** = We can add comment field for the useraccount.
2. **-d** = To modify the directory for any existing user account.
3. **-e** = Using this option we can make the account expiry in specific period.
4. **-g** = Change the primary group for a User.
5. **-G** = To add a supplementary groups.
6. **-a** = To add anyone of the group to a secondary group.
7. **-l** = To change the login name from tecmint to tecmint\_admin.
8. **-L** = To lock the user account. This will lock the password so we can’t use the account.
9. **-m** = moving the contents of the home directory from existing home dir to new dir.
10. **-p** = To Use un-encrypted password for the new password. (NOT Secured).
11. **-s** = Create a Specified shell for new accounts.
12. **-u** = Used to Assigned UID for the user account between 0 to 999.
13. **-U** = To unlock the user accounts. This will remove the password lock and allow us to use the user account.

**1. Adding Information to User Account (comment)**

The ‘-c‘ option is used to set a brief comment (information) about the user account. For example, let’s add information on ‘tecmint‘ user, using the following command.

# usermod -c "This is Tecmint" tecmint

After adding information on user, the same comment can be viewed in /etc/passwd file.

# grep -E --color 'tecmint' /etc/passwd

tecmint:x:500:500:This is Tecmint:/home/tecmint:/bin/sh

**2. Change User Home Directory**

# grep -E --color '/home/tecmint' /etc/passwd

tecmint:x:500:500:This is Tecmint:**/home/tecmint**:/bin/sh

# usermod -d /var/www/ tecmint

# grep -E --color '/var/www/' /etc/passwd

tecmint:x:500:500:This is Tecmint:**/var/www**:/bin/sh

**3. Set User Account Expiry Date**

# chage -l tecmint

# usermod -e 2014-11-01 tecmint

# chage -l tecmint

**4. Change User Primary Group**

To set or change a user primary group, we use option ‘**-g**‘ with usermod command. Before, changing user primary group, first make sure to check the current group for the user **tecmint\_test**.

# id tecmint\_test

uid=501(tecmint\_test) gid=502(**tecmint\_test**) groups=502(tecmint\_test)

Now, set the **babin** group as a primary group to user **tecmint\_test** and confirm the changes.

# usermod -g babin tecmint\_test

# id tecmint\_test

uid=501(tecmint\_test) gid=502(**babin**) groups=502(tecmint\_test)

**5. Adding Group to an Existing User**

If you want to add a new group called ‘**tecmint\_test0**‘ to ‘**tecmint**‘ user, you can use option ‘**-G**‘ with usermod command as shown below.

# usermod -G tecmint\_test0 tecmint

# id tecmint

**6. Adding Supplementary and Primary Group to User**

If you need to add a user to any one of the supplementary group, you can use the options ‘**-a**‘ and ‘**-G**‘. For example, here we going to add a user account **tecmint\_test0** with the **wheel** user.

# usermod -a -G wheel tecmint\_test0

# id tecmint\_test0

So, user **tecmint\_test0** remains in its primary group and also in secondary group (**wheel**). This will make my normal user account to execute any root privileged commands in Linux box.

eg : sudo service httpd restart

**7. Change User Login Name**

To change any existing user login name, we can use ‘**-l**‘ (new login) option. In the example below, we changing login name **tecmint** to **tecmint\_admin**. So the username **tecmint** has been renamed with the new name **tecmint\_admin**.

# usermod -l tecmint\_admin tecmint

Now check for the **tecmint** user, It will not be present because we have changed it to **tecmint\_admin**.

# id tecmint

Check for the **tecmint\_admin** account it will be there with same **UID** and with existing group what we have added before.

# id tecmint\_admin

**8. Lock User Account**

To Lock any system user account, we can use ‘**-L**‘ (lock) option, After the account is locked we can’t login by using the password and you will see a **!** added before the encrypted password in **/etc/shadow** file, means password disabled.

# usermod -L babin

Check for the locked account.

# grep -E --color 'babin' cat /etc/shadow

**9. Unlock User Account**

The ‘**-U**‘ option is used to unlock any locked user, this will remove the **!** before the encrypted password.

# grep -E --color 'babin' /etc/shadow

# usermod -U babin

Verify the user after unlock.

# grep -E --color 'babin' /etc/shadow

**10. Move User Home Directory to New location**

Let’s say you’ve a user account as ‘**pinky**‘ with home directory ‘**/home/pinky**‘, you want to move to new location say ‘**/var/pinky**‘. You can use the options ‘**-d**‘ and ‘**-m**‘ to move the existing user files from current home directory to a new home directory.

Check for the account and it’s current home directory.

# grep -E --color 'pinky' /etc/passwd

Then list the files which is owned by user pinky.

# ls -l /home/pinky/

Now we have to move the home directory from **/home/pinky** to **/var/pinky**.

# usermod -d /var/pinky/ -m pinky

Next, verify the directory change.

# grep -E --color 'pinky' /etc/passwd

Check for the files under ‘**/home/pinky**‘. Here we have moved the files using **-m** option so there will be no files. The pinky user files will be now under **/var/pinky**.

# ls -l /home/pinky/

# ls -l /var/pinky/

**11. Create Un-encrypted Password for User**

To create an un-encrypted password, we use option ‘**-p**‘ (password). For demonstration purpose, I’m setting a new password say ‘**redha**t’ on a user **pinky**.

# usermod -p redhat pinky

After setting password, now check the shadow file to see whether its in encrypted format or un-encrypted.

# grep -E --color 'pinky' /etc/shadow

**12. Change User Shell**

The user login shell can be changed or defined during user creation with useradd command or changed with ‘usermod‘ command using option ‘-s‘ (shell). For example, the user ‘babin‘ has the /bin/bash shell by default, now I want to change it to /bin/sh.

# grep -E --color 'babin' /etc/passwd

# usermod -s /bin/sh babin

After changing user shell, verify the user shell using the following command.

# grep -E --color 'babin' /etc/passwd

**13. Change User ID (UID)**

In the example below, you can see that my user account ‘**babin**‘ holds the UID of **502**, now I want to change it to **888** as my UID. We can assign UID between **0** to **999**.

# grep -E --color 'babin' /etc/passwd

OR

# id babin

Now, let’s change the UID for user **babin** using ‘**-u**‘ (uid) option and verify the changes.

# usermod -u 888 babin

# id babin

**14. Modifying User Account with Multiple Options**

Here we have a user **jack** and now I want to modify his home directory, shell, expiry date, label, UID and group at once using one single command with all options as we discussed above.

The user **Jack** has the default home directory **/home/jack**, Now I want to change it to **/var/www/html** and assign his shell as **bash**, set expiry date as December 10th 2014, add new label as **This is jack**, change UID to 555 and he will be member of apple group.

Let we see how to modify the jack account using multiple option now.

# usermod -d /var/www/html/ -s /bin/bash -e 2014-12-10 -c "This is Jack" -u 555 -aG apple jack

Then check for the UID & home directory changes.

# grep -E --color 'jack' /etc/passwd

Account expire check.

# chage -l jack

Check for the group which all jack have been member.

# grep -E --color 'jack' /etc/group

**15. Change UID and GID of a User**

We can change UID and GID of a current user. For changing to a New GID we need an existing group. Here already there is an account named as **orange** with GID of **777**.

Now my jack user account want to be assigned with UID of **666** and GID of Orange (**777**).

Check for the current UID and GID before modifying.

# id jack

Modify the UID and GID.

# usermod -u 666 -g 777 jack

Check for the changes.

# id jack