### Setting up a NIS Client

The following packages are required for setting up a client

* ypbind
* yp-tools

Perform the following steps to configure the NIS client:

1. On RHEL 3,4 and 5 run the command:
2. # system-config-authentication
3. On RHEL 6 run the command:
4. # authconfig --update --nisdomain=aciww --nisserver=your-server --enablenis
5. authconfig --update --nisdomain=aciww --nisserver=nrc3a015l01 --enablenis
6. authconfig --update --nisdomain=aciww --nisserver=oma3s007c3 --enablenis
   1. This adds the line “NISDOMAIN=aciww” to the /etc/sysconfig/network file
7. This lets you specify the NIS domain and the NIS server. Enter the domain name as the one which is used previously and localhost as the NIS server.
8. **Note:** If you are not using DNS you will need to use the IP address when specifying the nisserver.
9. Start the ypbind services by executing the following commands:
10. # chkconfig ypbind on  
    # service ypbind start

The above procedure is a simple example of setting up an NIS Server and Client. More information can be found at: <http://www.linux-nis.org/>

### Check the user information from NIS Server

Execute the command:

# ypcat passwd

### Changing your user password

When you're using NIS you will need to use the yppasswd command to change your password. Note that the normal passwd command does not change your NIS password.

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## 7.2. Setting up a NIS Client using Traditional NIS

For host lookups you must set (or add) "nis" to the lookup order line in your /etc/host.conf file. Please read the manpage "resolv+.8" for more details.

Add the following line to /etc/passwd on your NIS clients:

|  |
| --- |
| +:::::: |

You can also use the + and - characters to include/exclude or change users. If you want to exclude the user guest just add -guest to your /etc/passwd file. You want to use a different shell (e.g. ksh) for the user "linux"? No problem, just add "+linux::::::/bin/ksh" (without the quotes) to your /etc/passwd. Fields that you don't want to change have to be left empty. You could also use Netgroups for user control.

For example, to allow login-access only to miquels, dth and ed, and all members of the sysadmin netgroup, but to have the account data of all other users available use:

|  |
| --- |
| +miquels:::::::  +ed:::::::  +dth:::::::  +@sysadmins:::::::  -ftp  +:\*::::::/etc/NoShell |

Note that in Linux you can also override the password field, as we did in this example. We also remove the login "ftp", so it isn't known any longer, and anonymous ftp will not work.

The netgroup would look like

|  |
| --- |
| sysadmins (-,software,) (-,kukuk,) |

IMPORTANT: The netgroup feature is implemented starting from libc 4.5.26. If you have a version of libc earlier than 4.5.26, every user in the NIS password database can access your linux machine if you run "ypbind" !

## .5. The nsswitch.conf File

The Network Services switch file /etc/nsswitch.conf determines the order of lookups performed when a certain piece of information is requested, just like the /etc/host.conf file which determines the way host lookups are performed. For example, the line

|  |
| --- |
| hosts: files nis dns |

specifies that host lookup functions should first look in the local /etc/hosts file, followed by a NIS lookup and finally through the domain name service (/etc/resolv.conf and named), at which point if no match is found an error is returned. This file must be readable for every user! You can find more information in the man-page nsswitch.5 or nsswitch.conf.5.