

Ubuntu Tutorials

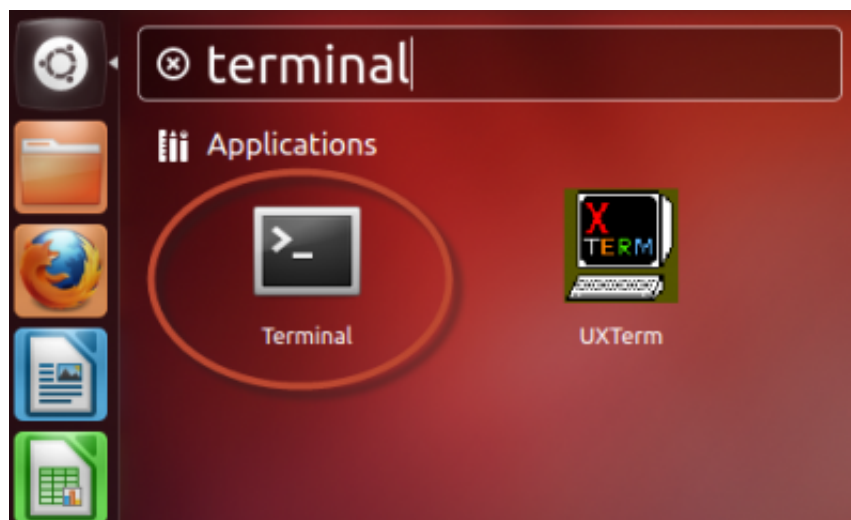
Ubuntu Linux Tutorials Tips Howtos Oneiric Precise

Change username in ubuntu 12.04



Below tutorial will show you how to change username in ubuntu 12.04 precise. First, we need login as root then change the username, then restart the enable this changing, here we go.

1. Open a terminal by Pressing **Ctrl+Alt+t** or search terminal in Dash



2.Unlock account root and enable login as root using below command

```
sudo passwd root  
sudo sh -c 'echo "greeter-show-manual-login=true" &gt;&gt; /etc/lightdm/lightdm.conf'
```

3.Reboot your computer and login as root

4.Open a terminal and Use blow command to change your username

```
usermod -l newname oldname
```

5.(Optional)Now you already changed your username,but your home folder name still are "/home/oldname",if you also want to change /home/oldname to /home/newname just run below command

```
usermod -m -d /home/newname newname
```

Note:Of course you can combine step 4 and step 5 using below command

```
usermod -m -d /home/newname -l newname oldname
```

6.All done,use below command to lock your root again,then you can reboot and login as your new username

```
passwd -l root
```

This entry was posted in Tutorials and tagged username on May 29, 2012

[<http://www.ubuntututorials.com/change-username-ubuntu-12-04/>].

16 thoughts on "Change username in ubuntu 12.04"



Hien Truong

June 4, 2012 at 7:06 am

thanks, it works for me

**apm**

July 27, 2012 at 3:43 am

not working. i can't log in then using new name into X

**Admin**

Post author

July 27, 2012 at 8:46 am

Hi,
Is there any error?
Did you change your home directory name?

**apm**

July 29, 2012 at 1:04 am

Hi. Yes, i followed all steps above and after reboot tried to login using standard GUI way. System just turns screen off (to the black) and then returns back to the login screen. In result, I decided to rename everything back, so working under old username..

**boomer**

September 29, 2012 at 2:51 pm

I had the same problem as you. In my case it was caused by the fact that I was using an encrypted home directory, and the ecryptfs stuff wasn't getting updated properly. I see your post is a bit old, but maybe you're still interested in the solution I found. The following steps fixed the problem for me.

1. At the login screen, press CTRL + ALT + F1 to get a console. Login at this console with your new user credentials.

2. Ensure that you are in the new user's home directory by doing a "pwd" command, which should yield "/home/newuser". Now do an "ls -al" to see all the files in the directory. Don't leave out the "-a" flag, or you won't see the hidden files.

3. You should see two symlinks called ".ecryptfs" and ".Private", which still point to their old respective subfolders in "/home/.ecryptfs/oldname". Delete these two symlinks (sudo needed), then create new symlinks using "sudo ln -s" for the paths "/home/.ecryptfs/newname/.ecryptfs/" and "/home/.ecryptfs/newname/.Private/".

4. Ensure that the above worked by doing another "ls -al" and checking the targets of the symlinks. You should see the following files (hope the layout will be readable, don't know how to do code tags on this board):

Access-Your-Private-Data.desktop -> /usr/share/ecryptfs-utils/ecryptfs-mount-private.desktop

.ecryptfs -> /home/.ecryptfs/newname/.ecryptfs/

.Private -> /home/.ecryptfs/newname/.Private/

README.txt -> /usr/share/ecryptfs-utils/ecryptfs-mount-private.txt

5. If you see the above files, and the symlinks point to the right places, all that's left is to edit the file "/home/.ecryptfs/newname/.ecryptfs/Private.mnt" (with sudo privileges). It should contain a single line with the path to the old username's directory. Change this to the new username's directory.

6. You're done. Reboot the system, and you should be able to do a GUI login again.

7. (optional) After you're logged in again, you may want to also change the old groupname to a new one by doing "groupmod -n newgroup oldgroup", where oldgroup is probably equal to your old username. Also, you may want to do "usermod -c "Real Name" newname" to also update the real name of your new user (which is shown at the login screen etc.).

Hope this helps, even if it is a little late.



2ls

August 12, 2012 at 12:42 am

Hi

Excuse my English it is not very good

I noticed that this an old post but I'm having trouble with downloading software from ubuntu it just says querying software sources nad when I try to use apt-get it says I have to be logged in as "super user". I'm using Ubuntu 12.04 for amd64. I followed the steps you showed above and when I restart my computer it logs me in as it usually does, no log in screen to choose if I want to login as root or as normal user. What other method is there to get root control over my system?

**Admin** Post author

August 12, 2012 at 7:27 pm

Hi,

Seems your problem is permission related,nothing to do with changing username.
You can use command "groups" to verify if you have joined the "sudo" group.
If you already joined group sudo ,please let me know the detail error messages,thanks

**menahem**

August 15, 2012 at 7:33 pm

works great. 10q very much!

**annie**

November 7, 2012 at 2:26 am

Hi, i followed the instructions, but after the "usermod -m -d /home/newname -l newname oldname" command i see "usermod: cannot lock /etc/passwd; try again later." what should i do?

**piero**

December 21, 2012 at 12:15 am

@annie: use "sudo usermod -m -d /home/newname -l newname oldname", it works!



shamutz

March 19, 2013 at 8:27 pm

Did you unlock account root ?



Frederico Figo

March 9, 2013 at 2:40 am

Good!

It works for me too!

Thanks!



shamutz

March 19, 2013 at 8:22 pm

Thanks, 100% working. 0 error.



Mohammad Tufail

April 30, 2013 at 3:00 am

Good work...!!!

makara



June 7, 2013 at 11:43 am

So I did this.

```
sudo sh -c 'echo "greeter-show-manual-login=true" >> /etc/lightdm/lightdm.conf'
```

did nothing. If you've got autologin, just restart, and when it logs in as old, log out and log in as root.

What broke:

- Desktop background.
 - Clementine library paths and xspf playlists broke. RhythmBox also broke, but will accept "file:///~/Music".
 - Dropbox needs relinking.
 - Transmission torrents broke. Need to 'set location' for all files and change the default directory.
 - My pinned PDF on Docky disappear and also custom .desktop files need fixing.
 - VirtualBox forgot my machines.
 - Calibre library.
 - LibreOffice history.
- locate db index
custom eXistdb install

Histories and pinned documents lost.

The rest are fixed fairly easily.



Rajkumar

February 21, 2014 at 2:07 pm

It works me
