

STUDY TIME

Try Try Try ... Success

MANAGING LOCAL USERS

A number of command-line tools can be used to manage local user accounts.

Creating Users from the Command Line

- The **useradd** username command creates a new user named username. It sets up the user's home directory and account information, and creates a private group for the user named username. At this point the account does not have a valid password set, and the user cannot log in until a password is set.
- The **useradd --help** command displays the basic options that can be used to override the defaults. In most cases, the same options can be used with the **usermod** command to modify an existing user.
- Some defaults, such as the range of valid UID numbers and default password aging rules, are read from the `/etc/login.defs` file. Values in this file are only used when creating new users.

A change to this file does not affect existing users. Modifying Existing Users from the Command Line

- The **usermod --help** command displays the basic options that can be used to modify an account. Some common options include:

OPTIONS	USAGE
-c	COMMENT Add the user's real name to the comment field.
-g	Specify the primary group for the user account.
-G	Specify a comma-separated list of supplementary groups for the user account.
-a	Used with the -G option to add the supplementary groups to the user's current set of group memberships instead of replacing the set of supplementary groups with a new set.
-d	HOME_DIR Specify a particular home directory for the user account.
-m	Move the user's home directory to a new location. Must be used with the -d option.
-s	SHELL Specify a particular login shell for the user account.
-L	Lock the user account.
-U	Unlock the user account.

Deleting Users from the Command Line

- The **userdel username** command removes the details of username from `/etc/passwd`, but leaves the user's home directory intact.

- The **userdel -r username** command removes the details of username from `/etc/passwd` and also deletes the user's home directory.

Setting Passwords from the Command Line

- The `passwd username` command sets the initial password or changes the existing password of username
- The root user can set a password to any value. A message is displayed if the password does not meet the minimum recommended criteria, but is followed by a prompt to retype the new password and all tokens are updated successfully.

UID Ranges

Specific UID numbers and ranges of numbers are used for specific purposes by Red Hat Enterprise Linux.

- UID **0** is always assigned to the superuser account, root.
- UID **1-200** is a range of "**system users**" assigned statically to system processes by Red Hat.
- UID **201-999** is a range of "system users" used by system processes that do not own files on the file system. They are typically assigned dynamically from the available pool when the software that needs them is installed. Programs run as these "unprivileged" system users in order to limit their access to only the resources they need to function.
- UID **1000+** is the range available for assignment to regular users.