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# Linux and UNIX Man Pages

## Linux 2.6 - man page for adduser (linux section 8)

ADDUSER(8)  
Manual

System Manager's  
ADDUSER(8)

**NAME**  
  
adduser, addgroup - add a user or group to the system

**SYNOPSIS**  
  
adduser [options] [--home DIR] [--shell SHELL] [--no-create-home] [--uid ID] [--firstuid ID] [--lastuid ID] [--ingroup GROUP] [--gid ID] [--disabled-password] [--disabled-login] [--gecos GECOS] [--add\_extra\_groups] [--encrypt-home] user  
  
adduser --system [options] [--home DIR] [--shell SHELL] [--no-create-home] [--uid ID] [--group | --ingroup GROUP | --gid ID] [--disabled-password] [--disabled-login] [--gecos GECOS] user  
  
addgroup [options] [--gid ID] group  
  
addgroup --system [options] [--gid ID] group  
  
adduser [options] user group

**COMMON OPTIONS**  
[--quiet] [--debug] [--force-badname] [--help|-h] [--version] [--conf FILE]

**DESCRIPTION**  
  
adduser and addgroup add users and groups to the system according to command line options and configuration information in /etc/adduser.conf. They are friendlier front ends to the low level tools like useradd, groupadd and usermod programs, by default choosing Debian policy conformant UID and GID values, creating a home directory with skeletal configuration, running a custom script, and other features. adduser and addgroup can be run in one of five modes:  
  
Add a normal user  
If called with one non-option argument and without the --system or --group options, adduser will add a normal user.  
  
adduser will choose the first available UID from the range specified for normal users in the configuration file. The UID can be overridden with the --uid option.  
  
The range specified in the configuration file may be overridden with the --firstuid and --lastuid options.

By default, each user in Debian GNU/Linux is given a corresponding group with the same name. Usergroups allow group writable directories to be easily maintained by placing the appropriate users in the new group, setting the set-group-ID bit in the directory, and ensuring that all users use a umask of 002. If this option is turned off by setting `USERGROUPS` to no, all users' GIDs are set to `USERS_GID`. Users' primary groups can also be overridden from the command line with the **--gid** or **--ingroup** options to set the group by id or name, respectively. Also, users can be added to one or more groups defined in `adduser.conf` either by setting `ADD_EXTRA_GROUPS` to 1 in `adduser.conf`, or by passing **--add-extra-groups** on the commandline.

`adduser` will create a home directory subject to `DHOME`, `GROUPHOMES`, and `LETTERHOMES`. The home directory can be overridden from the command line with the **--home** option, and the shell with the **--shell** option. The home directory's set-group-ID bit is set if `USERGROUPS` is yes so that any files created in the user's home directory will have the correct group.

`adduser` will copy files from `SKEL` into the home directory and prompt for finger (gecos) information and a password. The geccos may also be set with the **--gecos** option. With the **--disabled-login** option, the account will be created but will be disabled until a password is set.

The **--disabled-password** option will not set a password, but login is still possible (for example with SSH RSA keys). To set up an encrypted home directory for the new user, add the **--encrypt-home** option. For more information, refer to the **-b** option of `ecryptfs-setup-private(1)`.

If the file `/usr/local/sbin/adduser.local` exists, it will be executed after the user account has been set up in order to do any local set-up. The arguments passed to `adduser.local` are:

username uid gid home-directory

The environment variable `VERBOSE` is set according to the following rule:

0 if **--quiet** is specified

1 if neither **--quiet** nor **--debug** is specified

2 if **--debug** is specified

(The same applies to the variable `DEBUG`, but `DEBUG` is deprecated and will be removed in a later version of `adduser`.)

#### Add a system user

If called with one non-option argument and the **--system** option, `adduser` will add a system user. If a user with the same name already exists in the system uid range (or, if the uid is specified, if a user with that uid already exists), `adduser` will exit with a warning. This warning can be suppressed by adding **--quiet**.

`adduser` will choose the first available UID from the range specified for system users in the configuration file (`FIRST_SYSTEM_UID` and `LAST_SYSTEM_UID`). If you want to have a specific UID, you can specify it using the **--uid** option.

By default, system users are placed in the `nogroup` group. To place the new system user in an already existing group, use the **--gid** or **--ingroup** options. To place the new system user in a new group with the same ID, use the **--group** option.

A home directory is created by the same rules as for normal users. The new system user will have the shell `/bin/false` (unless overridden with the **--shell** option), and have logins disabled. Skeletal configuration files are not copied.

#### Add a user group

If `adduser` is called with the **--group** option and without the **--system** option, or `addgroup` is called respectively, a user group will be added.

A GID will be chosen from the range specified for system GIDS in the configuration file (`FIRST_GID`, `LAST_GID`). To override that mechanism you can give the GID using the **--gid** option.

The group is created with no users.

Add a system group

If addgroup is called with the **--system** option, a system group will be added.

A GID will be chosen from the range specified for system GIDS in the configuration file (FIRST\_SYSTEM\_GID, LAST\_SYSTEM\_GID). To override that mechanism you can give the GID using the **--gid** option.

The group is created with no users.

Add an existing user to an existing group

If called with two non-option arguments, adduser will add an existing user to an existing group.

## OPTIONS

**--conf** FILE

Use FILE instead of /etc/adduser.conf.

**--disabled-login**

Do not run passwd to set the password. The user won't be able to use her account until the password is set.

**--disabled-password**

Like **--disabled-login**, but logins are still possible (for example using SSH RSA keys) but not using password authentication.

**--force-badname**

By default, user and group names are checked against the configurable regular expression NAME\_REGEX (or NAME\_REGEX\_SYSTEM if **--system** is specified) specified in the configuration file. This option forces adduser and addgroup to apply only a weak check for validity of the name.

**--gecos** GECOS

Set the geccos field for the new entry generated. adduser will not ask for finger information if this option is given.

**--gid** ID

When creating a group, this option forces the new groupid to be the given number. When creating a user, this option will put the user in that group.

**--group**

When combined with **--system**, a group with the same name and ID as the system user is created. If not combined with **--system**, a group with the given name is created. This is the default action if the program is invoked as addgroup.

**--help** Display brief instructions.

**--home** DIR

Use DIR as the user's home directory, rather than the default specified by the configuration file. If the directory does not exist, it is created and skeleton files are copied.

**--shell** SHELL

Use SHELL as the user's login shell, rather than the default specified by the configuration file.

**--ingroup** GROUP

Add the new user to GROUP instead of a usergroup or the default group defined by USERS\_GID in the configuration file. This affects the user's primary group. To add additional groups, see the add\_extra\_groups option

**--no-create-home**

Do not create the home directory, even if it doesn't exist.

**--quiet**

Suppress informational messages, only show warnings and errors.

**--debug**

Be verbose, most useful if you want to nail down a problem with adduser.

**--system**

Create a system user or group.

**--uid ID**

Force the new userid to be the given number. adduser will fail if the userid is already taken.

**--firstuid ID**

Override the first uid in the range that the uid is chosen from (overrides FIRST\_UID specified in the configuration file).

**--lastuid ID**

Override the last uid in the range that the uid is chosen from (LAST\_UID )

**--add\_extra\_groups**

Add new user to extra groups defined in the configuration file.

**--version**

Display version and copyright information.

**EXIT VALUES**

0 The user exists as specified. This can have 2 causes: The user was created by adduser or the user was already present on the system before adduser was invoked. If adduser was returning 0 , invoking adduser a second time with the same parameters as before also returns 0.

1 Creating the user or group failed because it was already present with other UID/GID than specified. The username or groupname was rejected because of a mismatch with the configured regular expressions, see [adduser.conf\(5\)](#). Adduser has been aborted by a signal. Or for many other yet undocumented reasons which are printed to console then. You may then consider to remove **--quiet** to make adduser more verbose.

**FILES**

/etc/adduser.conf

Default configuration file for adduser and addgroup

**SEE ALSO**

[adduser.conf\(5\)](#), [deluser\(8\)](#), [useradd\(8\)](#), [groupadd\(8\)](#), [usermod\(8\)](#), Debian Policy 9.2.2.

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Debian GNU/Linux  
3.112+nmu1ubuntu5  
[ADDUSER\(8\)](#)

Version

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