

Linux User Commands Tutorial: Administration & Management

As Linux is a multi-user operating system, there is a high need of an administrator, who can manage user accounts, their rights, and the overall system security for User management in Linux.

You should know the basics of Linux admin so that you can handle the user accounts and usergroups for user management in Linux.

Creating a User

In Linux, every user is assigned an individual account which contains all the files, information, and data of the user. You can create multiple users in a Linux operating system using Linux user commands. Next in this Linux admin tutorial, we will learn how to create a user in Linux Administration. The steps for creating a user are:

Using Terminal

Step 1) Use command `sudo adduser`

```
guru99@VirtualBox:~$ sudo adduser mylinux
Adding user `mylinux' ...
Adding new group `mylinux' (1002) ...
Adding new user `mylinux' (1002) with group `mylinux' ...
Creating home directory `/home/mylinux' ...
Copying files from `/etc/skel' ...
Enter new UNIX password:
```

Step 2) Enter password for the new account and confirm

```
Enter new UNIX password:
Retype new UNIX password:
passwd: password updated successfully
Changing the user information for mylinux
Enter the new value, or press ENTER for the default
  Full Name []:
```

Step 3) Enter details of the new user and press Y

```
Full Name []: Linux
Room Number []: 000
Work Phone []: 234-456
Home Phone []: 123-234
Other []:
Is the information correct? [Y/n] y
guru99@VirtualBox:~$
```

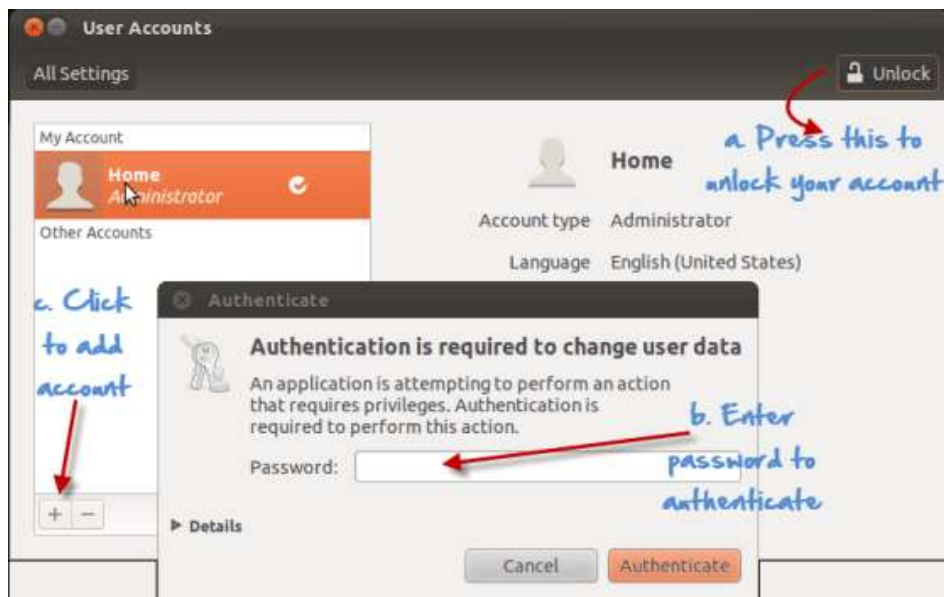
New account is created.

Using GUI

Step 1) Go to the system settings look for an icon which says 'User Accounts'.



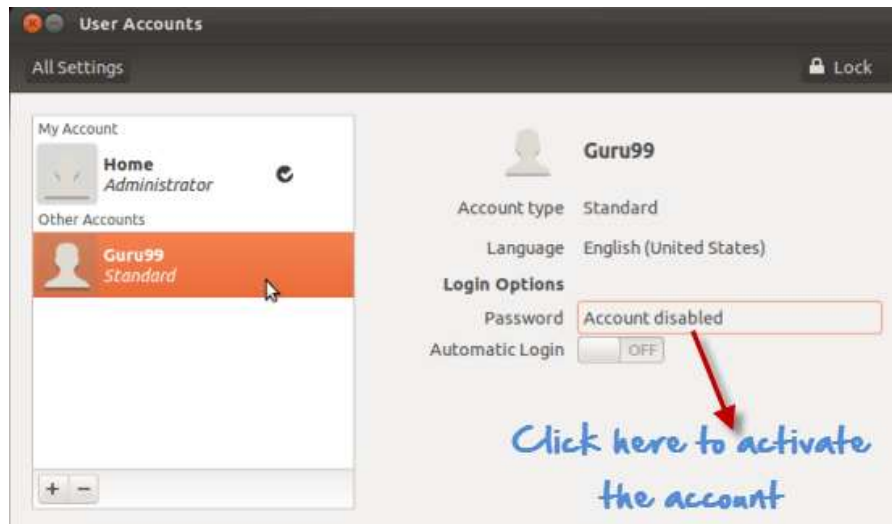
Step 2) Click on the unlock icon and enter a password when prompted, then click the plus sign.



Step 3) A new window would pop up, asking you for adding information to the new user account. The account type offers two choices - standard and administration (Ubuntu Limitation). If you want the new user to have administrative access to the computer, select Administrator as the account type. Administrators can do things like add and delete users, install software and drivers, and change the date and time. Otherwise, choose standard. Fill in the full name, username and click on create.



Step 4) The new account would show, but would be disabled by default.



To activate it, click the password option and add a new password. Click change to enable the account.



Deleting, disabling account

Terminal

For disabling an account using Terminal, remove the password set on the account.

```
sudo passwd -l 'username'
```

```
guru99@VirtualBox:~$ sudo passwd -l ubuntu
[sudo] password for guru99:
passwd: password expiry information changed.
guru99@VirtualBox:~$
```

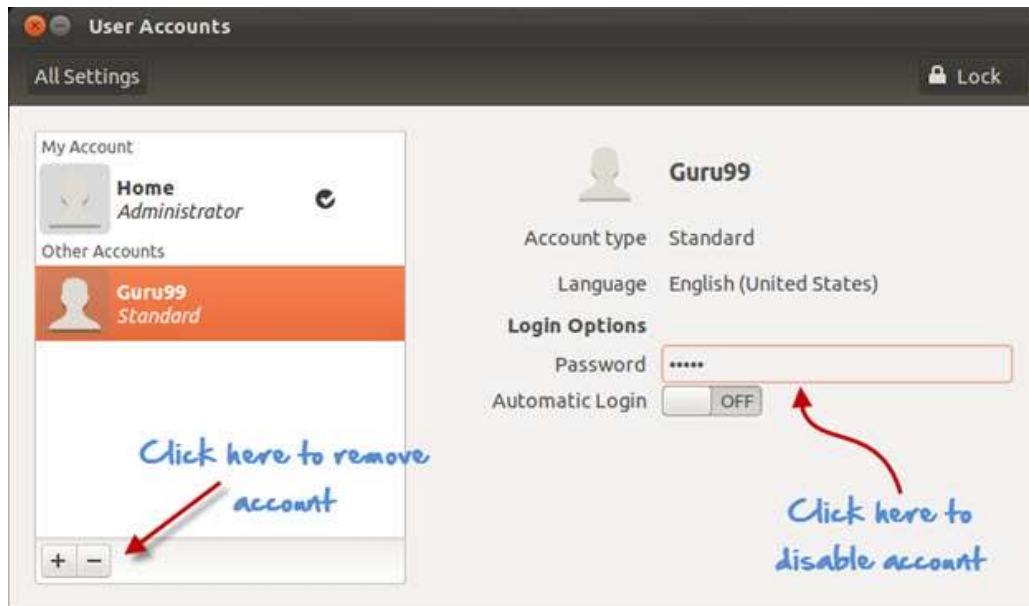
To delete an account, use the command -

```
sudo userdel -r 'username'
```

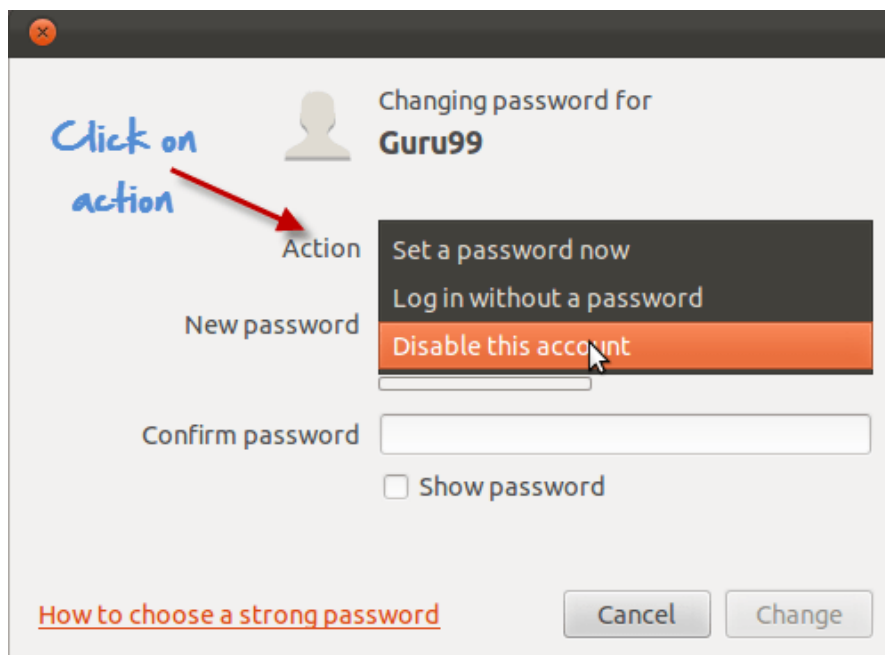
```
guru99@VirtualBox:~$ sudo userdel -r ubuntu
```

GUI

Step 1) Highlight the user account and click the minus sign to delete.



Step 2) For disabling click on the area where the password is stored, and you would get the following prompt. Select disable this account and click on change.



Adding users to the usergroups

You can view the existing groups on your [Linux operating system](#) by entering the following Linux user commands:

```
groupmod "Press Tab key twice"
```

```
home@VirtualBox:~$ groupmod
adm      disk  list      pulse     sys
admin    fax   lp        pulse-access syslog
audio    floppy lpadmin   root      tape
avahi    fuse  mail      rtkit     tty
avahi-autoipd games man      sambashare users
backup   gnats messagebus saned      utempter
bin      guest-05frøf mlocate  sasl      utmp
bluetooth guru  netdev   scanner   uucp
cdrom    guru99 news     shadow    video
colord   home  nogroup  src        voice
crontab  irc   nopasswdlogin ssh        winbindd_priv
daemon   kmem  operator ssl-cert   www-data
dialout  libuuid plugdev  staff
dip      lightdm proxy    sudo
```

Now to add a user to a group, use the following syntax:

```
sudo usermod -a -G GROUPNAME USERNAME
```

```
home@VirtualBox:~$ sudo usermod -a -G home guru99
```

The system would ask for authentication and then it would add the user to the group. You can check whether the user is in a group by this command.

```
home@VirtualBox:~$ cat /etc/group
```

And it would show it as

```
home:x:1000:guru99
```

Removing a user from Usergroup

Use the following syntax for removing a user.

```
sudo deluser USER GROUPNAME
```

```
home@VirtualBox:~$ sudo deluser guru99 home
Removing user `guru99' from group `home' ...
Done.
```

Linux/Unix user management commands

User management in Linux is done by using Linux administration commands. Here is a list of user management commands in Linux:

Command	Description
sudo adduser username	Adds a user
sudo passwd -l 'username'	Disable a user
sudo userdel -r 'username'	Delete a user
sudo usermod -a -G GROUPNAME USERNAME	Add user a to a usergroup
sudo deluser USER GROUPNAME	Remove user from a user group