Robert Carpenter
github.com/robertmcarpenter
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TestOut CompTIA Security + LAB 4.6.4: Create a User account On a Linux System

In this lab, I will be creating a user for the VP of Marketing on a company owned Linux system (hypothetical). The scenario for this lab is as follows:

"The VP of marketing has told you that Paul Denunzio will join the company as a market analyst in two weeks. You need to create a new user account for him.
You are logged in as root, so the **sudo** command is unnecessary.

In this lab, your task is to:

- Create the **pdenunzio** user account.
    - Include the full name, **Paul Denunzio**, as a comment for the user account.
- Set **eye8cereal** as the password for the user account.
- When you are finished, view the **/etc/passwd** file to verify the creation of the account.
- Answer the question: What is Paul Denunzio's User ID (UID) ?"

Since this user does not exist on this system we will need to add them. In order to do that GNU/Linux has a built in core util called "useradd" - which as you guessed, adds users to the system! To see what we can do with that command lets type "man useradd" :

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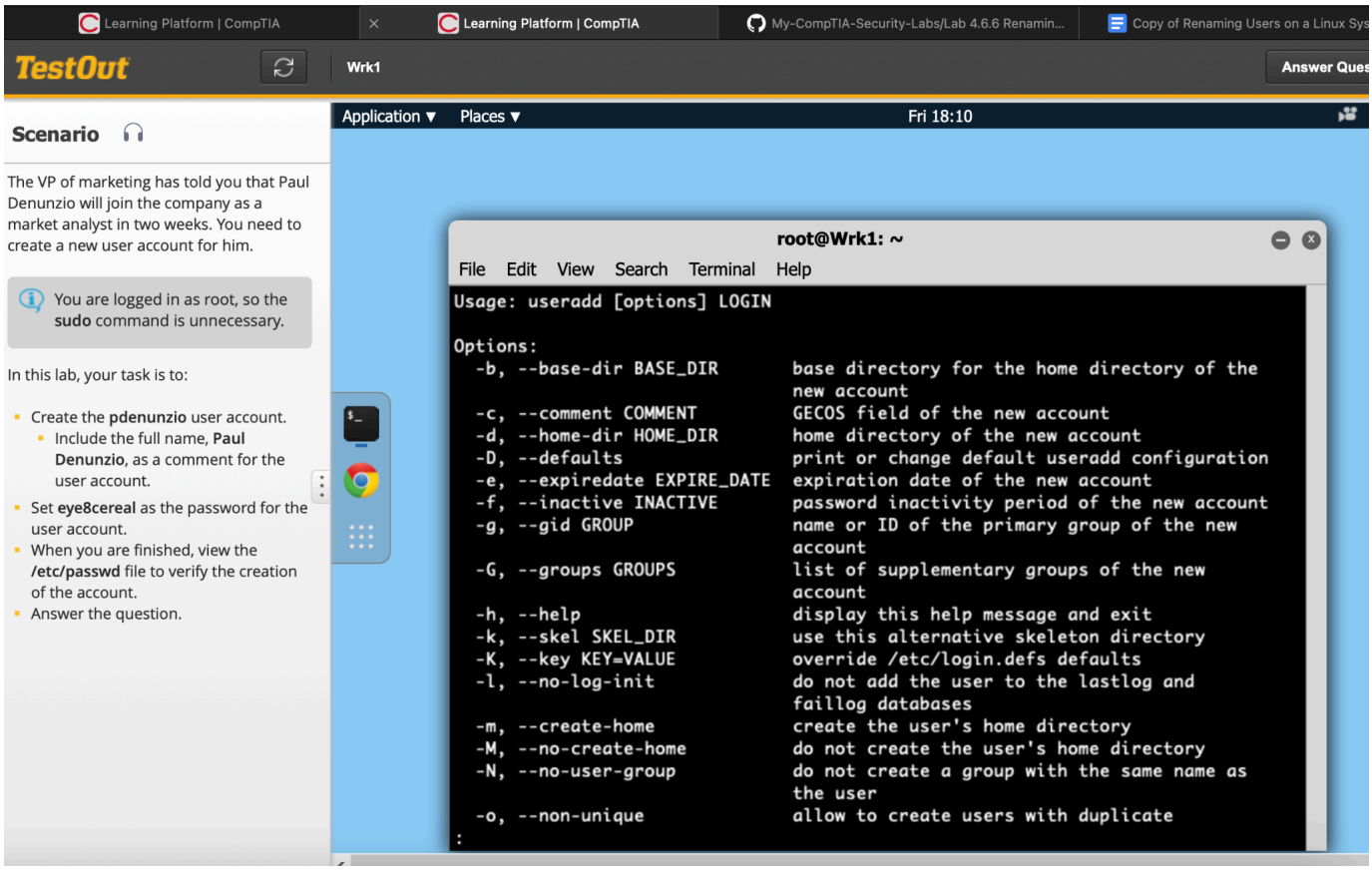

We can see that we can use the “-c” flag to add a comment for this user. In this case we are asked to put their full name in the Comment field.

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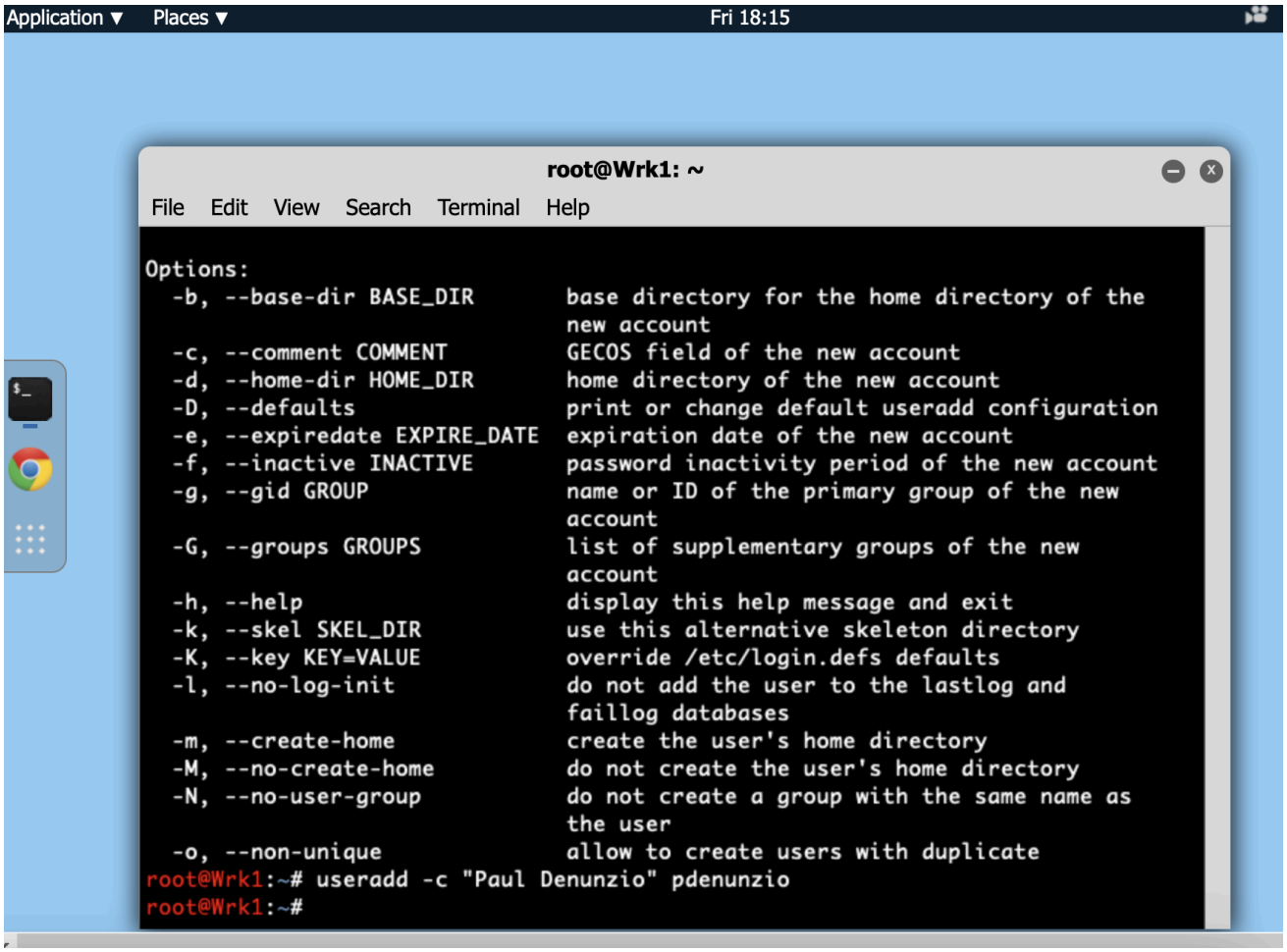

Now that we have set this user up in our system, we will need to give them a password. No passwords = a system thats not secure! Just a friendly reminder to ourselves that sometimes security involves extra steps , and if we forget to do that we are giving an attacker the ability to login to this system without authentication.

To assign a password to the “pdenunzio” user we use the “passwd” command. Notice that it’s spelled differently than the actual word “PASSWORD.”

We call the passwd command and supply the user we would like to set the password for:

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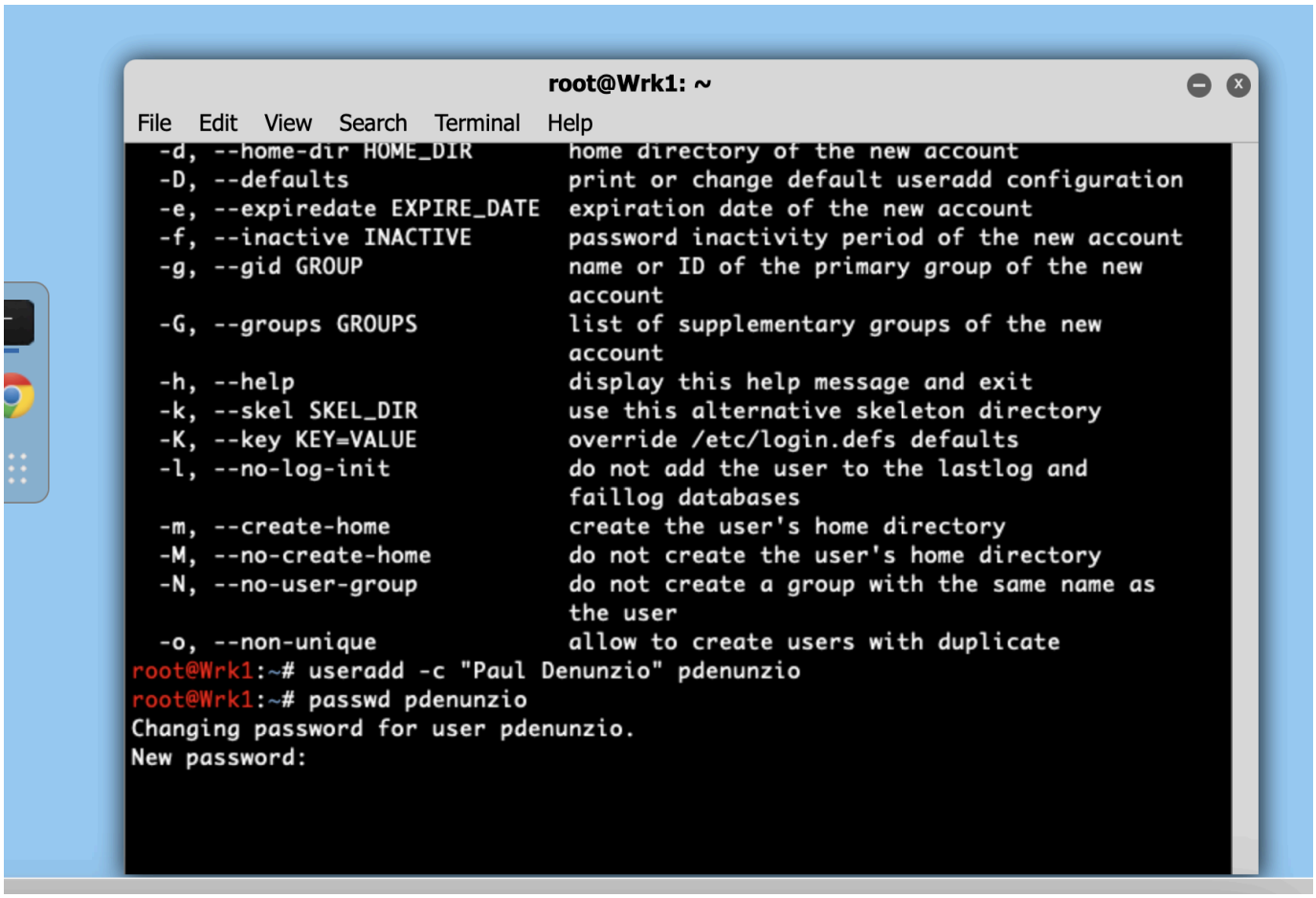
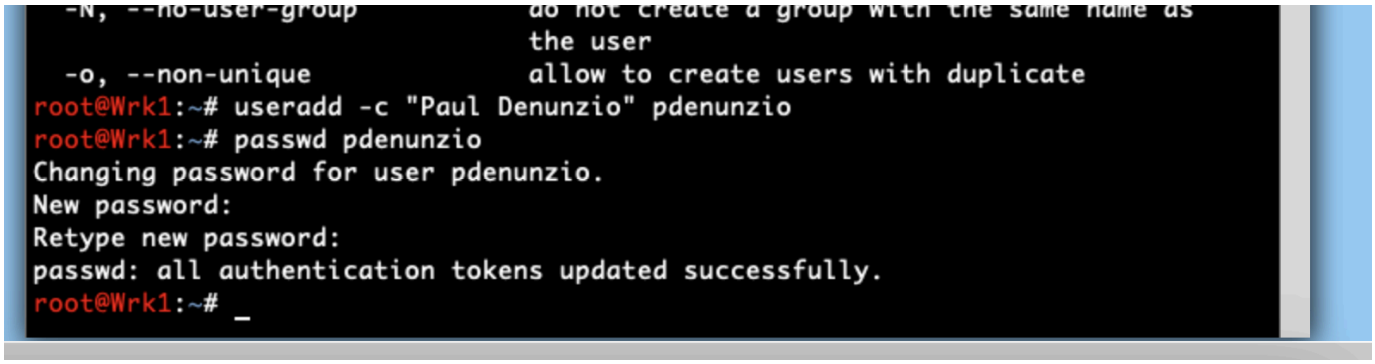


The Lab calls for us to set a password of “eye8cereal.” On a tangent here, this password is not very secure looking so in the real world you will want a more complex password of long length , various characters, and numbers. We will proceed with this password since it’s just for demonstration purposes:



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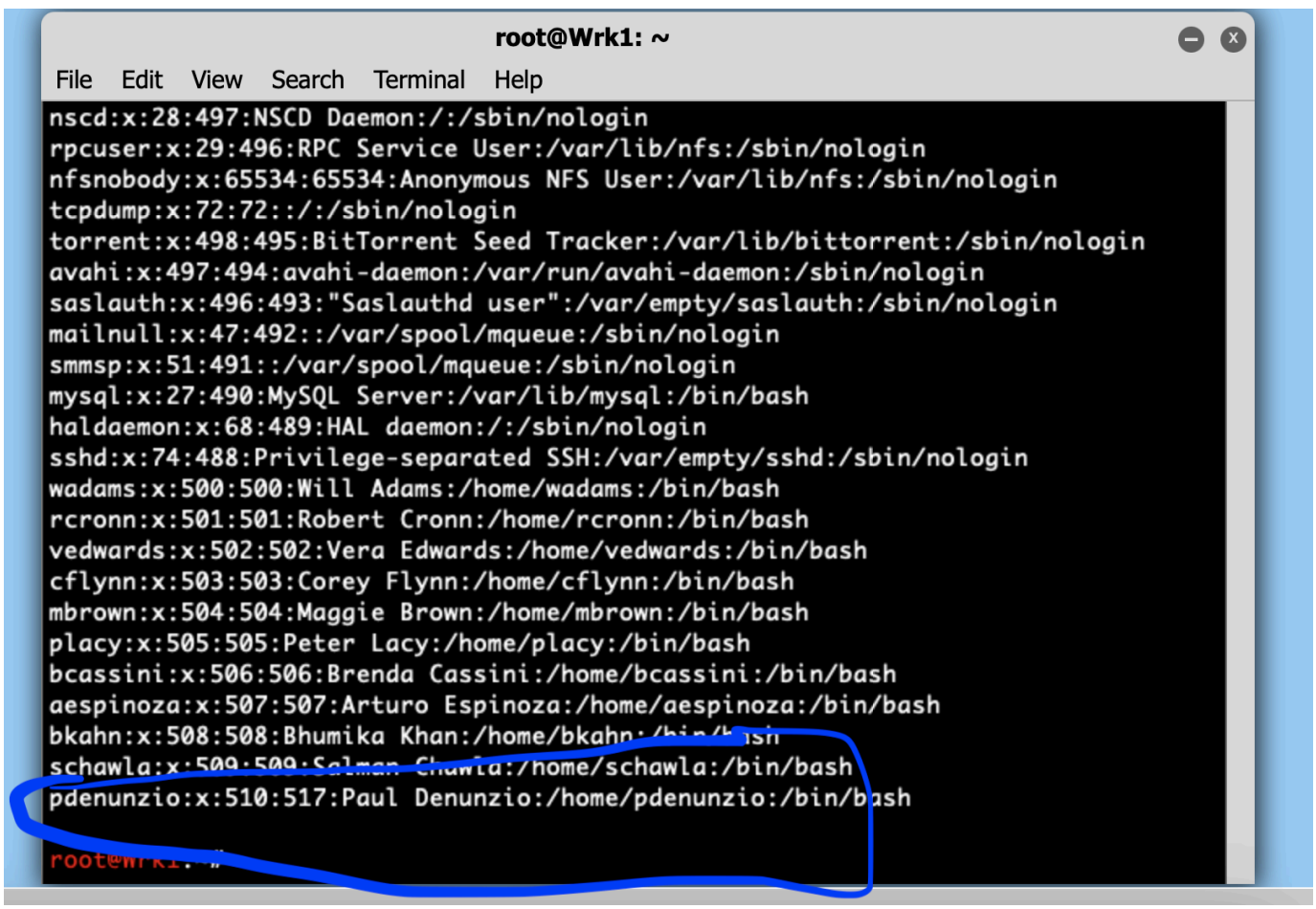
Notice that the password we typed doesn't show up in the terminal. Not even asterisks are present to obscure the password. This is because if an attacker can see the asterisks (*) they can count the length of characters the password is and adjust their attacks accordingly (Example: 8 asterisks would imply a password of 8 characters and the attacker can adjust their Dictionary or Rainbow Tables to a password character length of n = 8). This is secure by design! Praise FOSS!

Now that we're done setting the user and password , we will want to query the "/etc/passwd" file to verify that we have added this user to the system. TO do that , we will use the "cat" command (which I believe is an acronym for Copy At Terminal) to display the contents of that file. Issuing the "cat /etc/passwd" command we see:



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EXCELLENT ! We have added this user to the System. Now we can answer the final question of the lab which asks:

“What is the user ID for the Paul Denunzio?”

We can see from the output that his UID is 510. This is the answer!

This now concludes this Lab on adding a user to a Linux System.