7.3.3 Group Management Facts

This lesson covers the following topic:

- Managing groups

Managing Groups

Groups can be very helpful when managing users. For example, security permissions can be added to a group, which grants these permission to all in the group. If permissions need to be changed, they can be changed on the group instead of needing to change them for each individual user in the group.

The following tables lists the most common commands and options used with managing group accounts and group membership.

Command	Function	Example
groupadd	Creates a new group. The following options override the settings found in /etc/login.defs: • **-g** defines the group ID (GID). • **-p** defines the group password. • **-r** creates a system group.	**groupadd sales** creates the sales group.
groupmod	Modifies a group definition. **groupmod** options include: • **-n** changes the name of a group. • **-A** adds specified users from the group (not available on all distributions) • **-R** removes specified users from the group (not available on all distributions)	**groupmod -n sales2 sales** renames the sales group to sales2. **groupmod -R rsem sales** removes the rsem account from the sales group.
groupdel	Deletes a group.	**groupdel mktg** deletes the mktg group.
gpasswd	Changes a group password. • *groupname* prompts for a new password. • **-r** removes a group password.	**gpasswd sales** prompts for a new group password.
newgrp	Changes your current or real group ID to the group ID specified in the command. As long as the user knows the group password, this lets a user switch to	**newgrp sales** logs the user into the group named sales after

	a different group without being added to the group. Typing **exit** removes the user from the group.	being prompted for the sales group password.
usermod	Modifies group membership for the user account. Be aware of the following options: • **-g** assigns a user to a primary group. • **-G** assigns a user to a secondary group (or groups). Follow the command with a comma-separated list of groups. If the user already belongs to any secondary groups, the user will be removed from those groups if the groups are not in the list. • **-aG** assigns a user to a secondary group (or groups) by appending them to any groups the user already belongs to. Follow the command with a comma-separated list of groups. • **-G ""** removes the user from all secondary group memberships. Do not include a space between the quotes.	**usermod -g pmaxwell pmaxwell** assigns primary group membership for user pmaxwell to the pmaxwell group. **usermod -G sales,mktg pmorril** removes all existing secondary group assignments for pmorril and makes the user account a member of the sales and mktg groups. **usermod -aG acct,prod pmorril** keeps existing secondary group assignments for pmorril intact and makes the user account a member of the acct and prod groups. **usermod -G "" pmaxwell** removes the pmaxwell from all groups.
groups	Displays the primary and secondary group membership for the specified user account.	**groups pmaxwell** displays group membership for the pmaxwell account.

(i) The command options listed here are not applicable to every distribution of Linux. Consult the man pages for the options that are supported by the Linux distribution you are using.