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Introduction to Linux & Linux Administration

Fall 2025

**Assignment #5: Password Maintenance**

**Assigned: Tuesday, September 23, 2025**

**Due: Sunday, September 28, 2025 (NLT 23:59)**

**Instructions:**

1. Insert your answers into this document (*text and screenshots*)
2. Highlight your answers in green (*text only*)
3. When finished, rename the document (*please use the naming convention below*)
4. Upload the renamed document to the Moodle assignment

**A5 - Last Name** (e.g., **A5 - Nonnweiler**)

**Part 1: Create a New User** (setting passwords & viewing all user accounts)

Let’s create a new user (csc235student1); an activity a System Admin performs (\*hint, requires sudo).

**sudo -i** *\*to get into root*

**adduser username** *\*where csc235student1 is the new user*

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You can change the new user’s password without root permission by switching users to the non-root account (see below).

**su -l username** \**switching to the username account (-l is the login shell)*

**passwd**  \**changing the password from within the username account*

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To see all user accounts…

**cat /etc/passwd**  *\*this is the password file*

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1.1 Switch to root and create a new user (your choice of username!). Use a generic/default password for the account. Then take a screenshot of your actions

**Screenshot:**

A screenshot of a computer program

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1.2 Switch to the new user account and change its password. Then take a screenshot of your actions.

**Screenshot:**

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1.3 Display all accounts on your Linux distro. (*hint: password file*).

**Screenshot:**

A screenshot of a computer program

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**Part 2: Resetting a (Forgotten) Password**

**Step 1: Boot into recovery mode**

If you’re using Oracle VirtualBox or VMware, you have to hold down the **shift key** when the logo of Oracle or VMware appears. Keep holding it down until the screen below appears. If you have a Linux OS only (not running on a VM), then restart the computer and go to the grub menu. Generally, it appears automatically – if not, then hold down the shift key or press Esc key until the boot menu appears.

This is the Grub menu: select “**Advanced Options for Ubuntu**”

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Then, choose “**recovery mode**”

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**Step 2: Drop to root shell prompt**

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**Step 3: Reset the forgotten user password**

Once you have the command prompt, change the password for the affected username.

**passwd username**

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When complete, return to the normal boot by typing **exit** and then select “**Resume normal boot**”.

*\* The following screenshots show that I was now able to log in to the user account with the updated password!*

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2.1 Boot to recovery mode and change the password for the affected user. Capture your actions with a screenshot as shown in step 3.

**Screenshot:**

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**Part 3: Delete Unneeded User Accounts**

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Use the following command to list all user accounts:

**ls /home**

You can delete a user with the **deluser** command. As shown above, I did not need the user account tonystark, so I deleted it using **deluser username** (note the need for sudo).

3.1 Remove a user. Capture a screenshot that shows the user account to be deleted. Then, create a screenshot that shows the successful removal of the account (*note: if you want to keep all current accounts, then add a new account and then delete it*).

**Screenshot (showing the removal of the account):**

A screenshot of a computer

AI-generated content may be incorrect.