

## Understanding /etc/group File

The /etc/group file is world-readable and contains a list of groups, each on a separate line. Each line is a four field, colon delimited list including the following information:

### Group Name:

The name of the group. Used by various utility programs as a human-readable identifier for the group.

### Group password:

Generally password is not used, hence it is empty/blank. It can store encrypted password. This is useful to implement privileged groups. If set, this allows users that are not part of the group to join the group by using the newgrp command and typing the password stored here. If a lower case x is in this field, then shadow group passwords are being used.

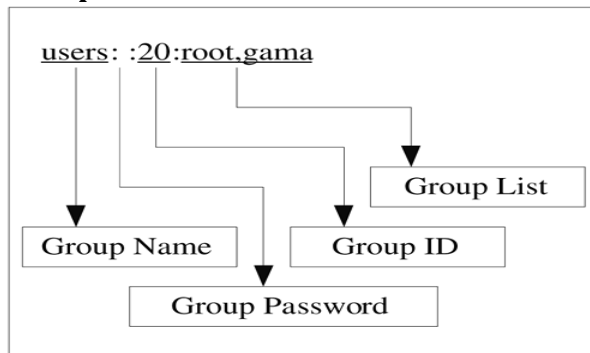
### Group ID (GID):

The numerical equivalent of the group name. It is used by the operating system and applications when determining access privileges.

### Member List:

A comma delimited list of the users belonging to the group.

### Example Picture:



Here is an example line from /etc/group:

**general:x:502:juan,shelley,bob**

This line shows that the general group is using shadow passwords, has a GID of 502, and that juan, shelley, and bob are members.