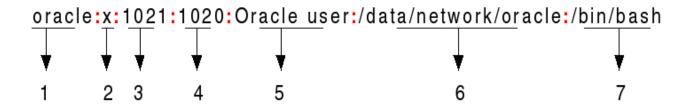


Understanding /etc/passwd File Format

Can you explain /etc/passwd file format for Linux and UNIX operating systems?



(Fig.01: /etc/passwd file format - click to enlarge)

- 1. **Username**: It is used when user logs in. It should be between 1 and 32 characters in length.
- 2. Password: An x character indicates that encrypted password is stored in /etc/shadow file.
- User ID (UID): Each user must be assigned a user ID (UID). UID 0 (zero) is reserved for root and UIDs 1-99
 are reserved for other predefined accounts. Further UID 100-999 are reserved by system for administrative
 and system accounts/groups.
- 4. **Group ID (GID)**: The primary group ID (stored in /etc/group file)
- 5. **User ID Info**: The comment field. It allow you to add extra information about the users such as user's full name, phone number etc. This field use by finger command.
- 6. **Home directory**: The absolute path to the directory the user will be in when they log in. If this directory does not exists then users directory becomes /
- 7. **Command/shell**: The absolute path of a command or shell (/bin/bash). Typically, this is a shell. Please note that it does not have to be a shell.