

IT2654

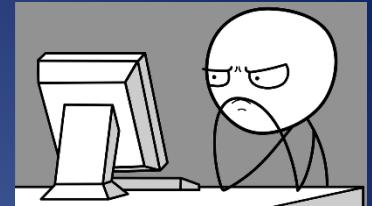
SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATION & SECURITY

**Linux Topic 2: User Account & Group
Management**

Objectives

- Managing user account
- Managing group
- Password policy

What is a User?



- Every process on the system runs as a particular user
- Every file is owned by a particular user
- Access to files and directories are restricted by user
- View user and associated processes – ps aux
- View user associate with file or directory – ls –l
- Linux users defined in databases - /etc/passwd

User Processes

- \$ ps aux
- See ps command details – man ps

```
[student@server ~]$ ps ux
USER        PID %CPU %MEM    VSZ   RSS TTY      STAT START  TIME COMMAND
student      6175  0.0  0.1 108332  1792 pts/0      S    00:22  0:00 -bash
student      6248  0.0  0.1 108332  1788 pts/0      S    00:26  0:00 -bash
student      6277  0.0  0.1 110232  1140 pts/0     R+   00:28  0:00 ps ux
[student@server ~]$ █
```

User Files & Directories

- `$ ls -l`

```
[student@server ~]$ ls -l
total 40
drwxrwxr-x. 2 student student 4096 Jun  6 00:29 apple
drwxr-xr-x. 2 student student 4096 Jun  5 18:00 Desktop
drwxr-xr-x. 2 student student 4096 May 11 2015 Documents
drwxr-xr-x. 2 student student 4096 May 11 2015 Downloads
-rw-rw-r--. 1 student student    12 Jun  7 06:26 file
-rw-rw-r--. 1 student student     0 Jun  6 00:28 file two.txt
drwxr-xr-x. 2 student student 4096 May 11 2015 Music
-rw-rw-r--. 1 student student     0 Jun  6 00:27 one.txt
drwxr-xr-x. 2 student student 4096 May 11 2015 Pictures
drwxr-xr-x. 2 student student 4096 May 11 2015 Public
drwxr-xr-x. 2 student student 4096 May 11 2015 Templates
drwxr-xr-x. 2 student student 4096 May 11 2015 Videos
[student@server ~]$ █
```

Unix File Attributes

```
$ ls -l  
-rw-rw-r-- 1 jason users 10400 Sep 27 08:52 sales.data
```

Permissions	-rw-rw-r--
Number of links	1
Owner name	jason
Group name	users
Number of bytes in the file	10400
Last modification time	Sep 27 08:52
File name	sales.data

Adding a New User Account

- **useradd [options] username**
- Set account password using **passwd**
 - The command-line utility **useradd** provides a simple method for adding new users to the system
 - [root@stationX ~] # **useradd anthony**
 - [root@stationX ~] # **passwd anthony**
 - When adding an account with **useradd**, you should consider using the **-m** option to create the user's home folder.

Adding a New User Account

- When you need to add several users, you can use the newusers command with a simple script file .
 - [root@stationX ~] # cat myusers
 - Alice:password:500:500:Alice:/home/alice:/bin/bash
 - Bob:dooow0rd:501:501:Bob:/ home/bob:/bin/bash
 - [root@stationX ~] # **newusers myusers**
- To configure whether or not use SHA or MD5 to generate password:
 - /etc/login.defs needs an entry like this:
 - **ENCRYPT_METHODSHA512**

Add User

- ❑ Create user – `useradd`

Example: `# useradd prince`

- ❑ No valid password by default – cannot log in

Example: `# passwd prince`

- ❑ sets password

- ❑ Creates home directory - `/home/prince`

Delete User

- ❑ **userdel** deletes a user from the system. It may be prudent to lock the user's account first with **usermod -L**, and to delay deletion of the user's account until you are sure that none of the files in the user's home directory are still needed.
- ❑ When deleting an account with **userdel**, you should consider using the **-r** option to remove home directory.

Example: `userdel bob`

- ❑ Removes user from /etc/passwd file but home directory is intact

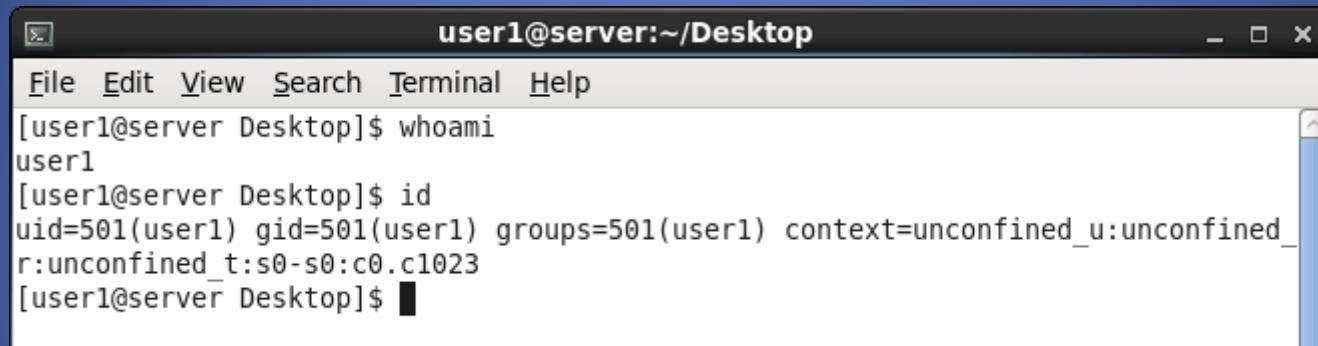
Example: `userdel -r prince`

- ❑ Removes user and home directory

id

- Displays user information

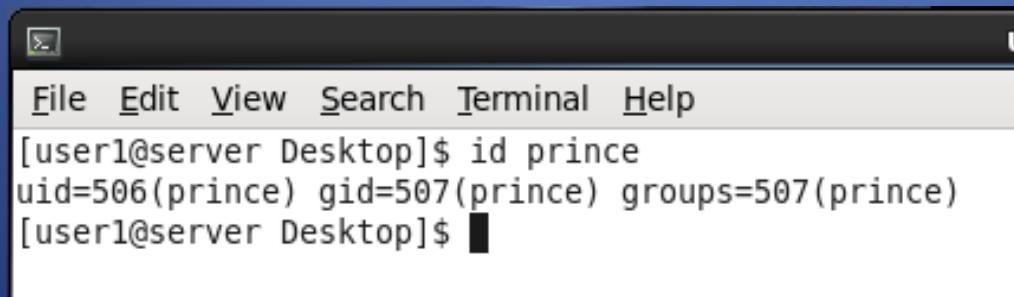
Example: id



A screenshot of a terminal window titled "user1@server:~/Desktop". The window has a standard title bar with icons for close, minimize, and maximize. The menu bar includes "File", "Edit", "View", "Search", "Terminal", and "Help". The main pane displays the following text:

```
[user1@server Desktop]$ whoami  
user1  
[user1@server Desktop]$ id  
uid=501(user1) gid=501(user1) groups=501(user1) context=unconfined_u:unconfined_r:unconfined_t:s0-s0:c0.c1023  
[user1@server Desktop]$
```

Example: id prince

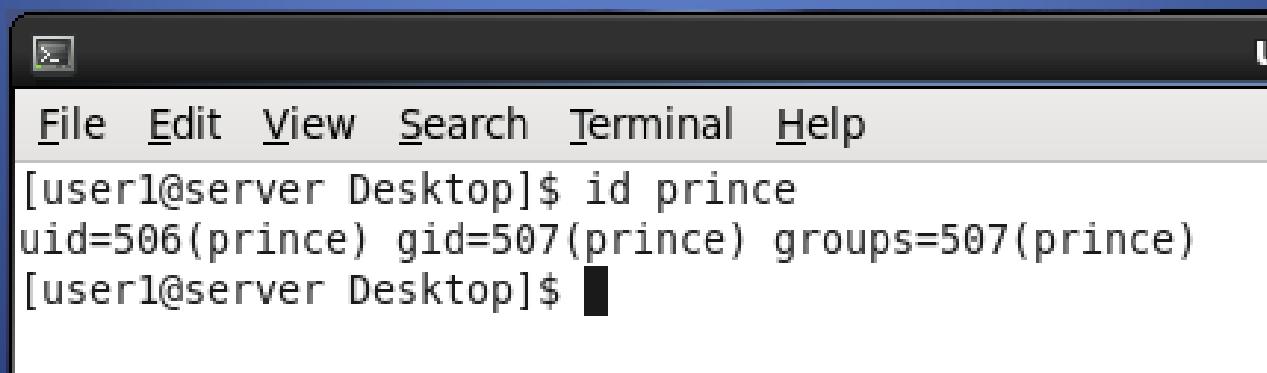


A screenshot of a terminal window with a title bar containing a small 'u' icon. The menu bar includes "File", "Edit", "View", "Search", "Terminal", and "Help". The main pane displays the following text:

```
[user1@server Desktop]$ id prince  
uid=506(prince) gid=507(prince) groups=507(prince)  
[user1@server Desktop]$
```

UID Ranges

- UID 0 : root, has special privileges
- UID 1 – 499 : system users, non-interactive service accounts
- UID 500 and above : regular users with interactive access to machine

A screenshot of a Linux desktop environment. At the top, there is a dark blue header bar with a window icon on the left and a user icon on the right. Below the header is a menu bar with options: File, Edit, View, Search, Terminal, and Help. The main area is a terminal window showing the command 'id prince' and its output. The output shows the user 'prince' has a UID of 506, a GID of 507, and belongs to the group 'prince'.

```
[user1@server Desktop]$ id prince
uid=506(prince) gid=507(prince) groups=507(prince)
[user1@server Desktop]$ █
```

Password File

- Passwords stored in /etc/passwd which is a text file
- Passwords migrated to /etc/shadow which supports different password encryption algorithms
- The /etc/passwd file contains seven fields.
- man 5 passwd – see password file format details

/etc/passwd

Terminal

```
File Edit View Terminal Tabs Help  
/bin/bash  
uucp:x:10:14:Unix-to-Unix CoPy system:/etc/uucp:/bin/bash  
wwwrun:x:30:8:WWW daemon apache:/var/lib/wwwrun:/bin/false  
adm20:x:1021:100::/home/adm20:/bin/bash  
adm28:x:1013:100::/home/adm28:/bin/bash  
ctrl20:x:1022:100::/home/ctrl20:/bin/bash  
ctrl28:x:1014:100::/home/ctrl28:/bin/bash  
dasusr1:x:1002:106::/home/dasusr1:/bin/bash  
dba20:x:1024:100::/home/dba20:/bin/bash  
dba28:x:1016:100::/home/dba28:/bin/bash  
fenced00:x:1004:1001::/home/fenced00:/bin/bash  
fenced28:x:1018:1004::/home/fenced28:/bin/bash  
inst00:x:1003:1000::/home/inst00:/bin/bash  
inst28:x:1019:1003::/home/inst28:/bin/bash  
inst481:x:1000:1005:inst481:/home/inst481:/bin/bash  
maint20:x:1023:100::/home/maint20:/bin/bash  
maint28:x:1015:100::/home/maint28:/bin/bash  
student:x:1001:100:student:/home/student:/bin/bash  
sysadmin:x:1011:100::/home/sysadmin:/bin/bash  
user00:x:1005:1002::/home/user00:/bin/bash  
user20:x:1020:100::/home/user20:/bin/bash  
user28:x:1012:100::/home/user28:/bin/bash  
roman:x:1025:100::/home/roman:/bin/bash  
/etc/passwd lines 18-40/40 (END)
```

roman:x:1025:100::/home/roman:/bin/bash

x indicates an encrypted password is stored in the /etc/shadow file

Group ID (GID) – is the primary group ID, found in the /etc/group file

The shell used for executing commands

User ID (UID) - User identification number

Home Directory of the user.

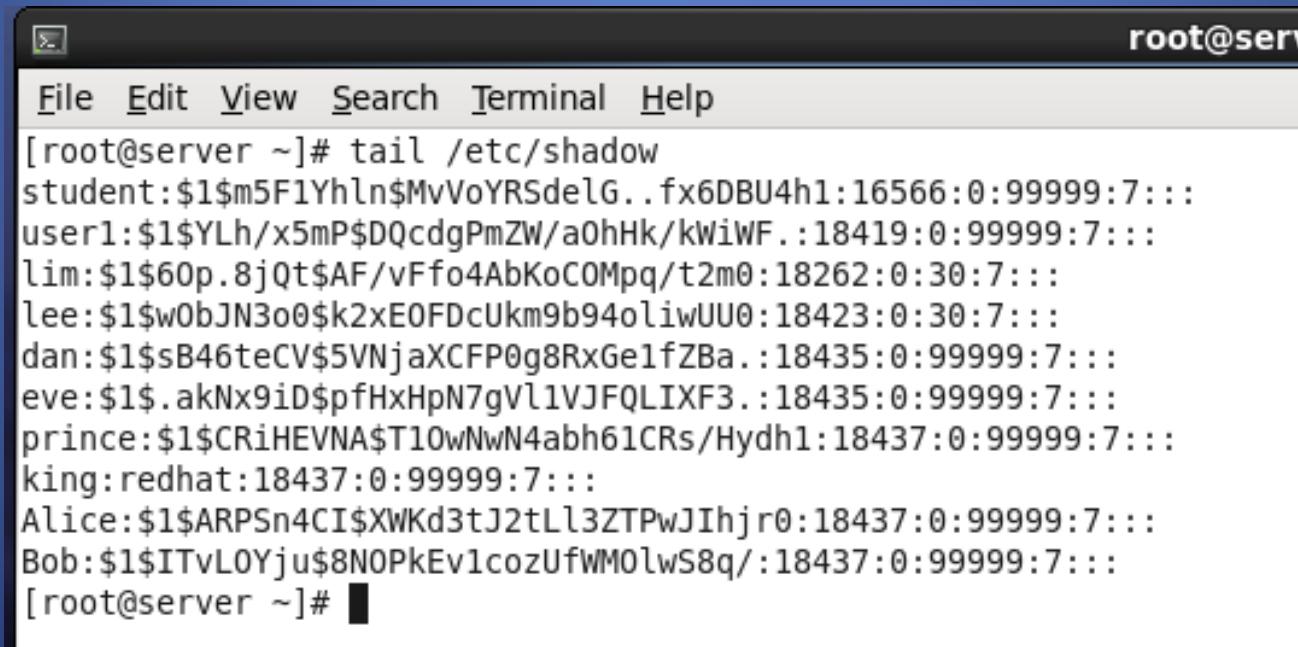
File containing user accounts - /etc/passwd

oracle	:	x	:	1021	:	1020	:	Oracle user	:	/data/network/oracle	:	/bin/bash
1	2	3	4	5				6		7		

- 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. You need to use the passwd command to computes the hash of a password typed at the CLI or to store/update the hash of the password in /etc/shadow file.
- 3 **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 allows 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.

/etc/shadow

- The /etc/shadow file is referenced when someone logs in. The file contains a mapping of a user name to a password. For example list of the fields, see the man page: shadow(5)



The screenshot shows a terminal window with a dark blue background and a light gray title bar. The title bar displays "root@server". The menu bar includes "File", "Edit", "View", "Search", "Terminal", and "Help". The main window area contains the output of the command "tail /etc/shadow". The output lists various user entries, each consisting of a username followed by a hashed password and several numerical fields. The users listed are student, user1, lim, lee, dan, eve, prince, king, Alice, and Bob.

```
[root@server ~]# tail /etc/shadow
student:$1$m5F1Yhln$MvVoYRSdelG..fx6DBU4h1:16566:0:99999:7:::
user1:$1$YLh/x5mP$DQcdgPmZW/a0hHk/kWiWF.:18419:0:99999:7:::
lim:$1$60p.8jQt$AF/vFFo4AbKoCOMpq/t2m0:18262:0:30:7:::
lee:$1$w0bJN3o$0k2xE0FDcUkm9b94oliwUU0:18423:0:30:7:::
dan:$1$sB46teCV$5VNjaXCFP0g8RxGe1fZBa.:18435:0:99999:7:::
eve:$1$.akNx9iD$pfHxHpN7gVl1VJFQLIXF3.:18435:0:99999:7:::
prince:$1$CRiHEVNA$T10wNwN4abh61CRs/Hydh1:18437:0:99999:7:::
king:redhat:18437:0:99999:7:::
Alice:$1$ARPSn4CI$XWKd3tJ2tLl3ZTPwJIhjr0:18437:0:99999:7:::
Bob:$1$ITvL0Yju$8N0PkEv1cozUfWM0lwS8q/:18437:0:99999:7:::
[root@server ~]#
```

/etc/shadow

username:passwd:last:may:must:warn:expire:disable:reserved

- User login name
- salt and hashed password OR a status exception value
 - "\$id\$salt\$encrypted", where "\$id" is the hashing algorithm used (On linux, "\$1\$" stands for MD5, "\$2\$" is Blowfish, "\$5\$" is SHA-256 and "\$6\$" is SHA-512, etc. Other Unix may have different values).
 - "NP" or "!" or null - No password, the account has no password.
 - "LK" or "*" - the account is Locked, user will be unable to log-in
 - "!!" - the password has expired
- Days since epoch (since Jan 1, 1970) of last password change
- Days until password may be changed
- Days before password must be changed
- Days to warn users for password expiration
- Days since Jan 1, 1970 that the account has been disabled

Password Aging Policies

- The **chage** command is used to modify password aging. It can:
 - Modify user password expiry information
 - View user account aging information
 - Change no. of days between password changes and the date of the last password change.

chage

```
chage [-m mindays] [-M maxdays] [-d lastday] [-I inactive] [-E expiredate] [-W warndays]
user
```

- [root@stationX~] # chage [options] username
- Common options used with the **chage** command:

- **-m** days minimum days between password changes
- **-M** days maximum days between password changes
- **-d** days set the day when the password was last changed.
- **-E**date expire the account on this date (yyyy- mm- dd format)

Examples:

chage -d 0 <username> force a password update on next login

chage -l <username> list username current settings

Default Password Policy

- Stored in `/etc/login.defs` file
- Affect every user that registered in the system
- If you want to setup different rule for different user, use `chage` command

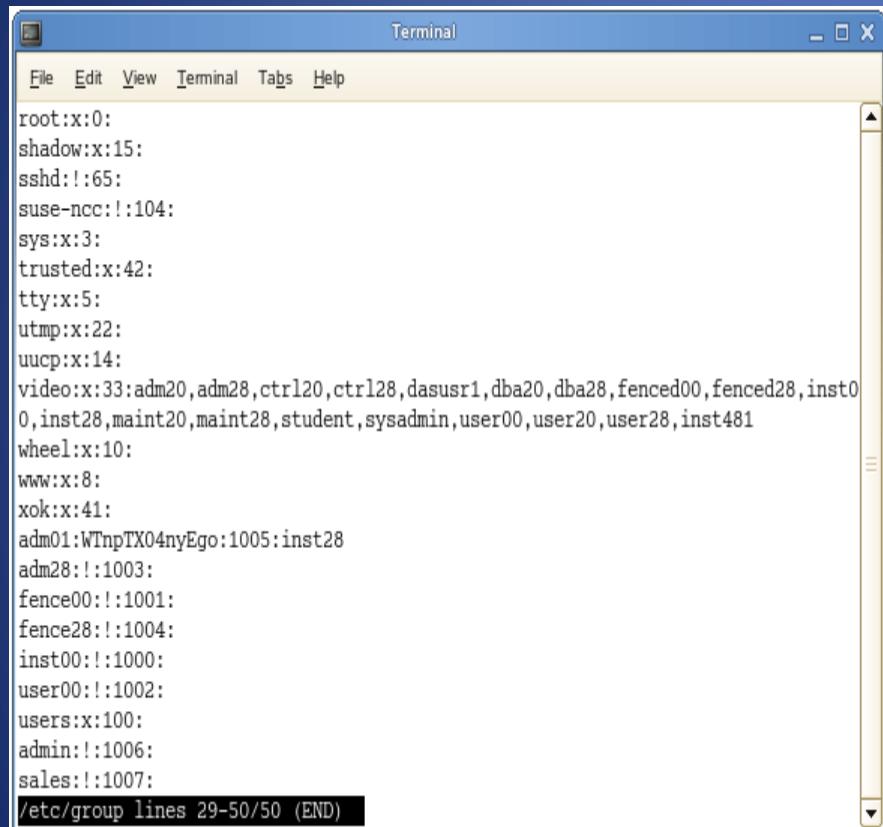
```
# Password aging controls:  
#  
# PASS_MAX_DAYS Maximum number of days a password may be used.  
# PASS_MIN_DAYS Minimum number of days allowed between password changes.  
# PASS_MIN_LEN Minimum acceptable password length.  
# PASS_WARN_AGE Number of days warning given before a password expires.  
#  
PASS_MAX_DAYS 99999  
PASS_MIN_DAYS 0  
PASS_MIN_LEN 5  
PASS_WARN_AGE 7
```

Managing Groups

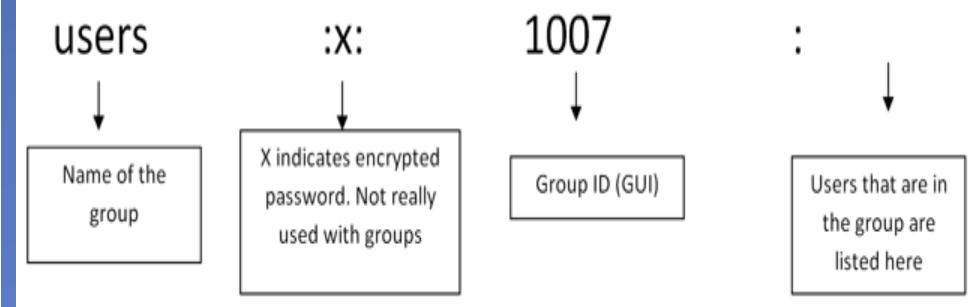
- A **group** is a collection of users. The main purpose of the **group** is to define a set of privileges like read, write, or execute permission for a given resource that can be shared among the users within the **group**
- Group have name and number (GID)
- Defined in **/etc/group**
- Every user has one Primary Group
- Normally primary group owns new files created by user
- Normally new user Primary Group name is same as user name and user is the only member.
- The **/etc/group** file contains four fields.

sales:x:506:dan,eve

/etc/group



```
Terminal
File Edit View Terminal Tabs Help
root:x:0:
shadow:x:15:
sshd:!:65:
suse-ncc:!:104:
sys:x:3:
trusted:x:42:
tty:x:5:
utmp:x:22:
uucp:x:14:
video:x:33:adm20,adm28,ctrl20,ctrl28,dasusr1,dba20,dba28,fenced00,fenced28,inst0
0,inst28,maint20,maint28,student,sysadmin,user00,user20,user28,inst481
wheel:x:10:
www:x:8:
xok:x:41:
adm01:WTnpTX04nyEgo:1005:inst28
adm28:!:1003:
fence00:!:1001:
fence28:!:1004:
inst00:!:1000:
user00:!:1002:
users:x:100:
admin:!:1006:
sales:!:1007:
/etc/group lines 29-50/50 (END)
```



- 1. group_name:** It is the name of group.
- 2. Password:** Generally password is not used, hence it is empty/blank. It can store encrypted password. This is useful to implement privileged groups.
- 3. Group ID (GID):** Each user must be assigned a group ID. You can see this number in your /etc/passwd file.
- 4. Group List:** It is a list of user names of users who are members of the group. The user names, must be separated by commas.

Supplementary Groups

- Users may be member of zero or more supplementary groups
- Listed in the last field of the group's entry in /etc/group file
- Help users access other files and resources on the system

Example:

/etc/group → sales:x:506:dan,eve

sales group has 2 members – dan & eve

Group Add/Delete

- Creation Group
 - **groupadd [-g uid] auxgroup**
- Add users to group (either):
 - # usermod –a G auxgroup username
 - # gpasswd –a username auxgroup
 - # vigr
- Rename – **groupmod**
- Delete group - **groupdel**

Group Add

- ❑ New groups may be created by editing the file **/etc/group** with vi or vi (editor) or by using **groupadd**. The basic syntax for **groupadd** is very simple :

```
# groupadd groupname  
# groupadd -g 201 groupname
```

Example: `groupadd -g 505 finance`

- ❑ GID 0 (zero) is reserved for the root group.
- ❑ GID 1– 499 are reserved for the system and application use.
- ❑ GID 500+ allocated for the user's group.

Modifying User/Group Account

- To change fields in a user's /etc/passwd entry you can:
 - Edit the file by hand with text editor (eg. nano)
 - Use **usermod** [option] username

Graphical User Interface (GUI)

- **system-config-users** is a graphical tool that can manage both users and groups in these databases.

usermod Command

- Command: usermod options
 - **-e** date
Set date on which the account will expire and be disabled.
 - **-g** group
Change the primary group
 - **-G** group,[. . .]
A comma separated list of All supplementary groups for the user.
 - **-a -G** group
Append the group to the user's list if auxiliary groups.
- When adding user access to a supplementary group with the **-G** option, you must list all groups to which a user belongs, or include the **-a** option to append the user

system-config-users



Typical User Login Process

- UNIX stores hashed passwords in a password files `/etc/shadow` and allows only root to have read access
 - *Each user can change his/her password through `/etc/passwd` program through using setuid*
- When a user logs in through the login process, login process asks for a login name and a password.
- It then hashed the user-entered password and compare it with the respective hashed passwords stored in `/etc/shadow`.
- Storing hashed passwords is to prevent exposure of the original password.

Command Summary

groupadd - create a new group.

groupdel - delete a group.

groupmod - modify a group.

useradd - create a new user or update default new user information.

userdel - delete a user account and related files.

usermod - modify a user account.

chgrp - changes the group ownership of files.

chown - change the owner of file(s) to another user.

passwd - set a user's pass word.

chage - used to change the time the user's password will expire.

Summary

- Manage user and group accounts in Linux
- Manage password policy