

USER MANAGEMENT

Aim

To manage the user accounts of the system through the following operations

1. Users
 - a. Add
 - b. Modify
 - c. Delete
2. Groups
 - a. Add
 - b. Modify
 - c. Delete
3. General user management commands

1. Users

(a) Adding new user accounts

A new user is added or default new user information is updated. It creates a new login and directory for that name using all the default features for a new account. Values as options on the command line, such as the name of a user, to create a user account can be entered

Options

d D e f g m M p s u

Option	Description
-d <i>dir</i>	Sets the home directory of the new user.
-D	Displays defaults for all settings. Can also be used to reset default settings for the home directory (-b), group (-g), shell (-s), expiration date (-e), and password expirations (-f).
-e <i>mm/dd/yy</i>	Sets an expiration date for the account (none, by default). Specified as month/day/year.
-f <i>days</i>	Sets the number of days an account remains active after its password expires.
-g <i>group</i>	Sets a group.
-m	Creates user's home directory, if it does not exist.
-m -k <i>skl-dir</i>	Sets the skeleton directory that holds skeleton files, such as .profile files, which are copied to the user's home directory automatically when it is created; the default is /etc/skel .
-M	Does not create user's home directory.
-p <i>password</i>	Supplies an encrypted password (crypt or MD5). With no argument, the account is immediately disabled.
-s <i>shell</i>	Sets the login shell of the new user. This is /bin/bash by default, the BASH shell.
-u <i>userid</i>	Sets the user ID of the new user. The default is the increment of the highest number used so far.

Syntax

useradd -g <group> -s <shell> -c <comment> -d <home directory> <username>

(b) Modify the existing user accounts

It modifies a user account (i.e.) values for any of these features can be changed

Options

Same as that of the useradd command

Syntax

usermod -g <group> -s <shell> -c <comment> -d <home directory> <username>

(c) Delete the user accounts

It deletes a user account and related files a user from the system.

Options

r

-r User's home directory will also be removed.

Syntax

userdel (-r) <user name>

Related Files

/etc/passwd	-	User account information
/etc/shadow	-	Secure user account information
/etc/group	-	Group account information
/etc/default/useradd	-	Default values for account creation
/etc/skel/	-	Directory containing default files
/etc/login.defs	-	Shadow password suite configuration

2. Groups

(a) Adding new group accounts

It creates new groups. The system places the group's name in the /etc/group file and gives it a group ID number

Syntax

groupadd <group name>

(b) Modifying the existing group accounts

To change the ID of a group

Syntax

groupmod [-g the new ID number] <group name>

To change the name of a group

Syntax

groupmod [-n new name] <current name>

(c) Deleting the existing group accounts

Deletes the group and the files

Syntax

groupdel <groupname>

3. User Account Management Commands

- (a) users - It prints the user names of users currently logged in
- (b) who -It displays the users logged in
- (c) whoami -It prints effective user id