



Managing Users & Groups under GNU/Linux

Serge Y. Stroobandt

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List all users

```
$ cat /etc/passwd
```

List all groups

```
$ cat /etc/group
```

Always use adduser or addgroup

The `useradd`, `userdel` and `usermod` commands are lowlevel utilities which are there for historical reasons, while `adduser/deluser` Do The Right Thing™.

`adduser` and `addgroup` add users and groups to the system according to command line options and configuration information in `/etc/adduser.conf`. They are friendlier front ends to the low level tools like `useradd`, `groupadd` and `usermod` programs, by default choosing Debian policy conformant UID and GID values, creating a home directory with skeletal configuration, running a custom script, and other features. `adduser` and `addgroup` can be run in one of five modes:

Manpage for `useradd` says:

`useradd` is a low level utility for adding users. On Debian, administrators should usually use `adduser(8)` instead.

```
$ sudo adduser username
$ sudo adduser username --uid 1005
$ sudo addgroup groupname --gid 2000
```

Mnemonics

Naughty mnemonics are the ones that are best remembered, so here it goes:

The word "user" rhymes with "loser", and "loser" comes last.

Thus, it is: adduser & deluser.

Create an SSH key pair

```
mkdir $HOME/.ssh
chmod 600 $HOME/.ssh
ssh-keygen -t rsa -b 4096 -f $HOME/.ssh/id_rsa
ssh-add $HOME/.ssh/id_rsa
```

Change a user's finger information

```
$ man chfn
```

Delete an existing user

```
$ sudo deluser --remove-home username
```

List a user's group membership

The `id` command offers much more information than the group names listed by `groups`. UID, primary GID and other group IDs are listed as well.

```
$ id username
$ groups username
```

Add an existing user to an existing group

```
$ sudo adduser username groupname
```

Log out and in again for this group affiliation to take effect.

Delete an existing user from an existing group

```
$ sudo deluser username groupname
```



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