NAME

useradd – administer a new user login on the system

SYNOPSIS

useradd [**–c** *comment*] [**–d** *dir*] [**–e** *expire*] [**–f** *inactive*] [**–g** *group*]
[**–G** *group* [, *group* . . .]] [**–m** [**–k** *skel_dir*]] [**–u** *uid* [**–o**]] [**–s** *shell*] *login*

useradd **–D** [**–b** *base_dir*] [**–e** *expire*] [**–f** *inactive*] [**–g** *group*]

AVAILABILITY

SUNWcsu

DESCRIPTION

useradd adds a new user entry to the **/etc/passwd** and **/etc/shadow** files. It also creates supplementary group memberships for the user (**–G** option) and creates the home directory (**–m** option) for the user if requested. The new login remains locked until the **passwd**(1) command is executed.

Specifying **useradd** **–D** with the **–g**, **–b**, **–f**, or **–e** options (or any combination of these) sets the default values for the respective fields. See the **–D** option below. Subsequent **useradd** commands without the **–D** option use these arguments.

The system file entries created with this command have a limit of 512 characters per line. Specifying long arguments to several options may exceed this limit.

login is a string of printable characters that specifies the new login name of the user. It may not contain a colon (**:**) or a newline (**\n**).

OPTIONS

–c *comment* Any text string. It is generally a short description of the login, and is currently used as the field for the user's full name. This information is stored in the user's **/etc/passwd** entry.

–d *dir* The home directory of the new user. It defaults to *base_dir* / *login*, where *base_dir* is the base directory for new login home directories and *login* is the new login name.

–e *expire* Specify the expiration date for a login. After this date, no user will be able to access this login. *expire* is a date entered in any format you like (except a Julian date). If the date format that you choose includes spaces, it must be quoted. For example, you may enter **10/6/90** or **"October 6, 1990"**. A null value (**" "**) defeats the status of the expired date. This option is useful for creating temporary logins.

–f *inactive* The maximum number of days allowed between uses of a login ID before that login ID is declared invalid. Normal values are positive integers. A value of **0** defeats the status.

–g *group* An existing group's integer ID or character-string name. Without the **–D** option, it defines the new user's primary group membership and defaults to the default group. You can reset this default value by invoking **useradd** **–D** **–g** *group*.

−G *group* An existing group's integer ID or character-string name. It defines the new user's supplementary group membership. Duplicates between *group* with the **−g** and **−G** options are ignored. No more than **NGROUPS_MAX** groups may be specified.

−k *skel_dir* A directory that contains skeleton information (such as **.profile**) that can be copied into a new user's home directory. This directory must already exist. The system provides the **/etc/skel** directory that can be used for this purpose.

−m Create the new user's home directory if it does not already exist. If the directory already exists, it must have read, write, and execute permissions by *group*, where *group* is the user's primary group.

−s *shell* Full pathname of the program used as the user's shell on login. It defaults to an empty field causing the system to use **/sbin/sh** as the default. The value of *shell* must be a valid executable file.

−u *uid* The UID of the new user. This UID must be a non-negative decimal integer below **MAXUID** as defined in **<sys/param.h>**. The UID defaults to the next available (unique) number above the highest number currently assigned. For example, if UIDs 100, 105, and 200 are assigned, the next default UID number will be 201. (UIDs from 0-99 are reserved by SunOS for future applications.)

−o This option allows a UID to be duplicated (non-unique).

−D Display the default values for *group*, *base_dir*, *skel_dir*, *shell*, *inactive*, and *expire*. When used with the **−g**, **−b**, **−f**, or **−e** options, the **−D** option sets the default values for the specified fields. The default values are:

group	**other** (GID of 1)
base_dir	**/home**
skel_dir	**/etc/skel**
shell	**/sbin/sh**
inactive	**0**
expire	Null (unset).

−b *base_dir* The default base directory for the system if **−d** *dir* is not specified. *base_dir* is concatenated with the user's login to define the home directory. If the **−m** option is not used, *base_dir* must exist.

FILES

/etc/passwd
/etc/shadow
/etc/group
/etc/skel

SEE ALSO

passwd(1), **users**(1B), **groupadd**(1M), **groupdel**(1M), **groupmod**(1M), **logins**(1M), **userdel**(1M), **usermod**(1M), **passwd**(4)

DIAGNOSTICS

In case of an error, **useradd** prints an error message and exits with a non-zero status.

UX: useradd: ERROR: *login* **is already in use. Choose another.**
The *login* specified is already in use.

UX: useradd: ERROR: uid *uid* **is already in use. Choose another.**
The *uid* specified with the −**u** option is not unique.

UX: useradd: ERROR: group *group* **does not exist. Choose another.**
The *group* specified with the −**g** option is already in use.

UX: useradd: WARNING: uid *uid* **is reserved.**
The *uid* specified with the −**u** option is in the range of reserved UIDs (from 0-99).

UX: useradd: ERROR: uid *uid* **is too big. Choose another.**
The *uid* specified with the −**u** option exceeds **MAXUID** as defined in **<sys/param.h>**.

UX: useradd: ERROR: Cannot update system files - login cannot be created.
The **/etc/passwd** or **/etc/shadow** files do not exist.

NOTES

useradd only adds a user definition to the local system. If a network nameservice such as NIS or NIS+ is being used to supplement the local **/etc/passwd** file with additional entries, **useradd** cannot change information supplied by the network nameservice. However **useradd** will verify the uniqueness of the user name and user id and the existence of any group names specified against the external nameservice.