NAME

group – group file

DESCRIPTION

The **group** file is a local source of group information. The **group** file can be used in conjunction with other group sources, including the NIS maps **group.byname** and **group.bygid** and the NIS+ table **group**. Programs use the **getgrnam**(3C) routines to access this information.

The **group** file contains a one-line entry for each group recognized by the system, of the form:

groupname:*password*: *gid*:*user-list*

groupname	The name of the group.
gid	The group's unique numerical ID within the system.
user-list	A comma-separated list of users allowed in the group.

If the password field is empty, no password is demanded. During user identification and authentication, the supplementary group access list is initialized sequentially from information in this file. If a user is in more groups than the system is configured for, {NGROUPS_MAX}, a warning will be given and subsequent group specifications will be ignored.

Malformed entries cause routines that read this file to halt, in which case group assignments specified further along are never made. To prevent this from happening, use **grpck**(1B) to check the **/etc/group** database from time to time.

Previous releases used a group entry beginning with a '**+**' (plus sign) or '–' (minus sign) to selectively incorporate entries from NIS maps for group. If still required, this is supported by specifying **group:compat** in **nsswitch.conf**(4). The ''compat'' source may not be supported in future releases. The preferred sources are, ''files'' followed by ''nisplus''. This has the effect of incorporating the entire contents of the NIS+ **group** table after the **group** file.

EXAMPLES

Here is a sample **group** file:

```
root::0:root
stooges:q.mJzTnu8icF.:10:larry,moe,curly
```

and the sample group entry from nsswitch.conf:

```
group: files nisplus
```

With these entries, the group **stooges** will have members **larry**, **moe**, and **curly**, and all groups listed in the NIS+ group table are effectively incorporated after the entry for **stooges**.

If the **group** file was:

root::0:root
stooges:q.mJzTnu8icF.:10:larry,moe,curly
+:

and the group entry from nsswitch.conf:

group: compat

all the groups listed in the NIS **group.bygid** and **group.byname** maps would be effectively incorporated after the entry for stooges.

SEE ALSO

groups(1), **grpck**(1B), **newgrp**(1), **getgrnam**(3C), **initgroups**(3C), **nsswitch.conf**(4), **unistd**(4)