NAME

/etc/hosts.equiv - list of hosts and users that are granted trusted **r** command access to your system

DESCRIPTION

The **hosts.equiv** file allows or denies hosts and users to use the **r**-commands (e.g., **rlogin**, **rsh**, or **rcp**) without supplying a password.

The file uses the following format:

[+ | -] [hostname] [username]

The *hostname* is the name of a host which is logically equivalent to the local host. Users logged into that host are allowed to access like-named user accounts on the local host without supplying a password. The*hostname* ma y be (optionally) preceded by a plus (+) sign. If the plus sign is used alone, it allows any host to access your system. You can explicitly deny access to a host by preceding the *hostname* by a minus (-) sign. Users from that host must always supply a password. For security reasons you should always use the FQDN of the hostname and not the short hostname.

The *username* entry grants a specific user access to all user accounts (except root) without supplying a password. That means the user is NOT restricted to like-named accounts. The*username* may be (optionally) preceded by a plus (+) sign. You can also explicitly deny access to a specific user by preceding the *username* with a minus (-) sign. This says that the user is not trusted no matter what other entries for that host exist.

Netgroups can be specified by preceding the netgroup by an @ sign.

Be extremely careful when using the plus (+) sign. A simple typographical error could result in a standalone plus sign. A standalone plus sign is a wildcard character that means any host!

FILES

/etc/hosts.equiv

NOTES

Some systems will honor the contents of this file only when it has owner root and no write permission for anybody else. Some exceptionally paranoid systems even require that there be no other hard links to the file.

Modern systems use the Pluggable Authentication Modules library (PAM). With PAM a standalone plus sign is considered a wildcard character which means any host only when the word *promiscuous* is added to the auth component line in your PAM file for the particular service (e.g., **rlogin**).

SEE ALSO

rhosts(5), rlogind(8), rshd(8)

COLOPHON

This page is part of release 3.74 of the Linux *man-pages* project. A description of the project, information about reporting bugs, and the latest version of this page, can be found at http://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/.