

NAME

adduser, addgroup - add a user or group to the system

SYNOPSIS

adduser [options] [--home DIR] [--shell SHELL] [--no-create-home] [--uid ID] [--firstuid ID] [--lastuid ID] [--ingroup GROUP | --gid ID] [--disabled-password] [--disabled-login] [--gecos GECOS] [--add_extra_groups] user

adduser --system [options] [--home DIR] [--shell SHELL] [--no-create-home] [--uid ID] [--group | --ingroup GROUP | --gid ID] [--disabled-password] [--disabled-login] [--gecos GECOS] user

addgroup [options] [--gid ID] group

addgroup --system [options] [--gid ID] group

adduser [options] user group

COMMON OPTIONS

[-quiet] [-debug] [--force-badname] [--help|-h] [--version] [--conf FILE]

DESCRIPTION

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:

Add a normal user

If called with one non-option argument and without the **--system** or **--group** options, **adduser** will add a normal user.

adduser will choose the first available UID from the range specified for normal users in the configuration file. The UID can be overridden with the **--uid** option.

The range specified in the configuration file may be overridden with the **--firstuid** and **--lastuid** options.

By default, each user in Debian GNU/Linux is given a corresponding group with the same name. Usergroups allow group writable directories to be easily maintained by placing the appropriate users in the new group, setting the set-group-ID bit in the directory, and ensuring that all users use a umask of 002. If this option is turned off by setting **USERGROUPS** to *no*, all users' GIDs are set to **USERS_GID**. Users' primary groups can also be overridden from the command line with the **--gid** or **--ingroup** options to set the group by id or name, respectively. Also, users can be added to one or more groups defined in *adduser.conf* either by setting **ADD_EXTRA_GROUPS** to 1 in *adduser.conf*, or by passing **--add_extra_groups** on the command line.

adduser will create a home directory subject to **DHOME**, **GROUPHOMES**, and **LETTERHOMES**. The home directory can be overridden from the command line with the **--home** option, and the shell with the **--shell** option. The home directory's set-group-ID bit is set if **USERGROUPS** is *yes* so that any files created in the user's home directory will have the correct group.

adduser will copy files from **SKEL** into the home directory and prompt for finger (gecos) information and a password. The gecoss may also be set with the **--gecos** option. With the **--disabled-login** option, the account will be created but will be disabled until a password is set. The **--disabled-password** option will not set a password, but login is still possible (for example with SSH RSA keys).

If the file */usr/local/sbin/adduser.local* exists, it will be executed after the user account has been set up in order to do any local setup. The arguments passed to **adduser.local** are:

username uid gid home-directory

The environment variable `VERBOSE` is set according to the following rule:

0 if `--quiet` is specified

1 if neither `--quiet` nor `--debug` is specified

2 if `--debug` is specified

(The same applies to the variable `DEBUG`, but `DEBUG` is deprecated and will be removed in a later version of `adduser`.)

Add a system user

If called with one non-option argument and the `--system` option, **adduser** will add a system user. If a user with the same name already exists in the system uid range (or, if the uid is specified, if a user with that uid already exists), `adduser` will exit with a warning. This warning can be suppressed by adding `--quiet`.

adduser will choose the first available UID from the range specified for system users in the configuration file (`FIRST_SYSTEM_UID` and `LAST_SYSTEM_UID`). If you want to have a specific UID, you can specify it using the `--uid` option.

By default, system users are placed in the **nogroup** group. To place the new system user in an already existing group, use the `--gid` or `--ingroup` options. To place the new system user in a new group with the same ID, use the `--group` option.

A home directory is created by the same rules as for normal users. The new system user will have the shell `/bin/false` (unless overridden with the `--shell` option), and have logins disabled. Skeletal configuration files are not copied.

Add a user group

If **adduser** is called with the `--group` option and without the `--system` option, or **addgroup** is called respectively, a user group will be added.

A GID will be chosen from the range specified for system GIDS in the configuration file (`FIRST_GID`, `LAST_GID`). To override that mechanism you can give the GID using the `--gid` option.

The group is created with no users.

Add a system group

If **addgroup** is called with the `--system` option, a system group will be added.

A GID will be chosen from the range specified for system GIDS in the configuration file (`FIRST_SYSTEM_GID`, `LAST_SYSTEM_GID`). To override that mechanism you can give the GID using the `--gid` option.

The group is created with no users.

Add an existing user to an existing group

If called with two non-option arguments, **adduser** will add an existing user to an existing group.

OPTIONS

`--conf` FILE

Use FILE instead of `/etc/adduser.conf`.

`--disabled-login`

Do not run `passwd` to set the password. The user won't be able to use her account until the password is set.

`--disabled-password`

Like `--disabled-login`, but logins are still possible (for example using SSH RSA keys) but not using password authentication.

--force-badname

By default, user and group names are checked against the configurable regular expression **NAME_REGEX** specified in the configuration file. This option forces **adduser** and **addgroup** to apply only a weak check for validity of the name.

--gecos GECOS

Set the gecos field for the new entry generated. **adduser** will not ask for finger information if this option is given.

--gid ID

When creating a group, this option forces the new groupid to be the given number. When creating a user, this option will put the user in that group.

--group

When combined with **--system**, a group with the same name and ID as the system user is created. If not combined with **--system**, a group with the given name is created. This is the default action if the program is invoked as **addgroup**.

--help Display brief instructions.

--home DIR

Use DIR as the user's home directory, rather than the default specified by the configuration file. If the directory does not exist, it is created and skeleton files are copied.

--shell SHELL

Use SHELL as the user's login shell, rather than the default specified by the configuration file.

--ingroup GROUP

Add the new user to GROUP instead of a usergroup or the default group defined by **USERS_GID** in the configuration file. This affects the user's primary group. To add additional groups, see the **add_extra_groups** option

--no-create-home

Do not create the home directory, even if it doesn't exist.

--quiet

Suppress informational messages, only show warnings and errors.

--debug

Be verbose, most useful if you want to nail down a problem with adduser.

--system

Create a system user or group.

--uid ID

Force the new userid to be the given number. **adduser** will fail if the userid is already taken.

--firstuid ID

Override the first uid in the range that the uid is chosen from (overrides **FIRST_UID** specified in the configuration file).

--lastuid ID

Override the last uid in the range that the uid is chosen from (**LAST_UID**)

--add_extra_groups

Add new user to extra groups defined in the configuration file.

--version

Display version and copyright information.

EXIT VALUES

- 0** The user exists as specified. This can have 2 causes: The user was created by `adduser` or the user was already present on the system before `adduser` was invoked. If `adduser` was returning 0, invoking `adduser` a second time with the same parameters as before also returns 0.
- 1** Creating the user or group failed because it was already present with other UID/GID than specified. The username or groupname was rejected because of a mismatch with the configured regular expressions, see `adduser.conf(5)`. `Adduser` has been aborted by a signal. Or for many other yet undocumented reasons which are printed to console then. You may then consider to remove `--quiet` to make `adduser` more verbose.

FILES

`/etc/adduser.conf`

Default configuration file for `adduser` and `addgroup`

SEE ALSO

`adduser.conf(5)`, `deluser(8)`, `useradd(8)`, `groupadd(8)`, `usermod(8)`, Debian Policy 9.2.2.

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