NAME

deluser, delgroup - remove a user or group from the system

SYNOPSIS

deluser [options] [--force] [--remove-home] [--remove-all-files] [--backup] [--backup-to DIR] user

deluser --group [options] group
delgroup [options] [--only-if-empty] group

deluser [options] user group

COMMON OPTIONS

[--quiet] [--system] [--help] [--version] [--conf FILE]

DESCRIPTION

deluser and **delgroup** remove users and groups from the system according to command line options and configuration information in */etc/deluser.conf* and */etc/adduser.conf*. They are friendlier front ends to the **userdel** and **groupdel** programs, removing the home directory as option or even all files on the system owned by the user to be removed, running a custom script, and other features. **deluser** and **delgroup** can be run in one of three modes:

Remove a normal user

If called with one non-option argument and without the **--group** option, **deluser** will remove a normal user.

By default, **deluser** will remove the user without removing the home directory, the mail spool or any other files on the system owned by the user. Removing the home directory and mail spool can be achieved using the **--remove-home** option.

The **--remove-all-files** option removes all files on the system owned by the user. Note that if you activate both options **--remove-home** will have no effect because all files including the home directory and mail spool are already covered by the **--remove-all-files** option.

If you want to backup all files before deleting them you can activate the **--backup** option which will create a file username.tar(.gz|.bz2) in the directory specified by the **--backup-to** option (defaulting to the current working directory). Both the remove and backup options can also be activated for default in the configuration file /etc/deluser.conf. See **deluser.conf(5)** for details.

If you want to remove the root account (uid 0), then use the **--force** parameter; this may prevent to remove the root user by accident.

If the file **/usr/local/sbin/deluser.local** exists, it will be executed after the user account has been removed in order to do any local cleanup. The arguments passed to **deluser.local** are: username uid gid home-directory

Remove a group

If **deluser** is called with the **--group** option, or **delgroup** is called, a group will be removed.

Warning: The primary group of an existing user cannot be removed.

If the option **--only-if-empty** is given, the group won't be removed if it has any members left.

Remove a user from a specific group

If called with two non-option arguments, **deluser** will remove a user from a specific group.

OPTIONS

--conf FILE
Use FILE instead of the default files */etc/deluser.conf* and */etc/adduser.conf*

--group
Remove a group. This is the default action if the program is invoked as *delgroup*.

--help Display brief instructions.

--quiet

   Suppress progress messages.

--system

   Only delete if user/group is a system user/group. This avoids accidentally deleting non-system users/groups. Additionally, if the user does not exist, no error value is returned. This option is mainly for use in Debian package maintainer scripts.

--backup

   Backup all files contained in the userhome and the mailspool-file to a file named /$user.tar.bz2 or /$user.tar.gz.

--backup-to

   Place the backup files not in / but in the directory specified by this parameter. This implicitly sets --backup also.

--remove-home

   Remove the home directory of the user and its mailspool. If --backup is specified, the files are deleted after having performed the backup.

--remove-all-files

   Remove all files from the system owned by this user. Note: --remove-home does not have an effect any more. If --backup is specified, the files are deleted after having performed the backup.

--version

   Display version and copyright information.

RETURN VALUE

0   The action was successfully executed.

1   The user to delete was not a system account. No action was performed.

2   There is no such user. No action was performed.

3   There is no such group. No action was performed.

4   Internal error. No action was performed.

5   The group to delete is not empty. No action was performed.

6   The user does not belong to the specified group. No action was performed.

7   You cannot remove a user from its primary group. No action was performed.

8   The required perl-package 'perl modules' is not installed. This package is required to perform the requested actions. No action was performed.

9   For removing the root account the parameter --force is required. No action was performed.

FILES

   /etc/deluser.conf

SEE ALSO

   deluser.conf(5), adduser(8), userdel(8), groupdel(8)

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