NAME
runuser − run a command with substitute user and group ID

SYNOPSIS
runuser [options] **−u** *user* [[−−] *command* [*argument*...]]

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DESCRIPTION
runuser allows to run commands with a substitute user and group ID. If the option **−u** is not given, it falls back to **su**-compatible semantics and a shell is executed. The difference between the commands **runuser** and **su** is that **runuser** does not ask for a password (because it may be executed by the root user only) and it uses a different PAM configuration. The command **runuser** does not have to be installed with set-user-ID permissions.

If the PAM session is not required then recommended solution is to use setpriv(1) command.

When called without arguments, **runuser** defaults to running an interactive shell as *root*.

For backward compatibility, **runuser** defaults to not change the current directory and to only set the environment variables **HOME** and **SHELL** (plus **USER** and **LOGNAME** if the target *user* is not root). This version of **runuser** uses PAM for session management.

OPTIONS
−c, **−−command**=*command*
>   Pass *command* to the shell with the **−c** option.

−f, **−−fast**
>   Pass **−f** to the shell, which may or may not be useful depending on the shell.

−g, **−−group**=*group*
>   The primary group to be used. This option is allowed for the root user only.

−G, **−−supp−group**=*group*
>   Specify a supplemental group. This option is available to the root user only. The first specified supplementary group is also used as a primary group if the option **−−group** is unspecified.

−, **−l**, **−−login**
>   Start the shell as a login shell with an environment similar to a real login:

>> o   clears all the environment variables except for **TERM** and variables specified by **−−whitelist−environment**

>> o   initializes the environment variables **HOME**, **SHELL**, **USER**, **LOGNAME**, **PATH**

>> o   changes to the target user's home directory

>> o   sets argv[0] of the shell to '**−**' in order to make the shell a login shell

−m, **−p**, **−−preserve−environment**
>   Preserve the entire environment, i.e. it does not set **HOME**, **SHELL**, **USER** nor **LOGNAME**. The option is ignored if the option **−−login** is specified.

−s, **−−shell**=*shell*
>   Run the specified *shell* instead of the default. The shell to run is selected according to the following rules, in order:

>> o   the shell specified with **−−shell**

>> o   the shell specified in the environment variable **SHELL** if the **−−preserve−environment** option is used

>> o   the shell listed in the passwd entry of the target user

>> o   /bin/sh

>   If the target user has a restricted shell (i.e. not listed in /etc/shells) the **−−shell** option and the **SHELL** environment variables are ignored unless the calling user is root.

−−session−command=*command*
>   Same as **−c ,** but do not create a new session. (Discouraged.)

−w, **−−whitelist−environment=***list*
>   Don't reset environment variables specified in comma separated *list* when clears environment for
>   **−−login**. The whitelist is ignored for the environment variables **HOME**, **SHELL**, **USER**, **LOG-
>   NAME**, and **PATH**.

−V, **−−version**
>   Display version information and exit.

−h, **−−help**
>   Display help text and exit.

CONFIG FILES
runuser reads the */etc/default/runuser* and */etc/login.defs* configuration files. The following configuration
items are relevant for **runuser**:

ENV_PATH (string)
>   Defines the PATH environment variable for a regular user. The default value is */usr/local/bin:/bin:*
>   */usr/bin*.

ENV_ROOTPATH (string)
ENV_SUPATH (string)
>   Defines the PATH environment variable for root. The default value is */usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:*
>   */sbin:/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin*.

ALWAYS_SET_PATH (boolean)
>   If set to *yes* and −−login and −−preserve−environment were not specified **runuser** initializes **PATH**.

The environment variable PATH may be different on systems where /bin and /sbin are merged into /usr.

EXIT STATUS
runuser normally returns the exit status of the command it executed. If the command was killed by a sig-
nal, **runuser** returns the number of the signal plus 128.

Exit status generated by **runuser** itself:

1	Generic error before executing the requested command
126	The requested command could not be executed
127	The requested command was not found

FILES
/etc/pam.d/runuser	default PAM configuration file
/etc/pam.d/runuser-l	
	PAM configuration file if −−login is specified
/etc/default/runuser	runuser specific logindef config file
/etc/login.defs	global logindef config file

SEE ALSO
setpriv(1), su(1), login.defs(5), shells(5), **pam(8)**

HISTORY
This **runuser** command was derived from coreutils' **su**, which was based on an implementation by David
MacKenzie, and the Fedora **runuser** command by Dan Walsh.

AVAILABILITY
The runuser command is part of the util-linux package and is available from Linux Kernel Archive.