

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. User-groups 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 commandline.

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 gecos 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 `/usr/sbin/nologin` (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. `NAME_REGEX` is described in [adduser.conf\(5\)](#).

- 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 users 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

/usr/local/sbin/adduser.local

Optional custom add-ons.

SEE ALSO

[adduser.conf\(5\)](#), [deluser\(8\)](#), [groupadd\(8\)](#), [useradd\(8\)](#), [usermod\(8\)](#), Debian Policy 9.2.2.

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