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Rocky Enterprise Linux 9.2 Manual Pages on command 'deluser.8'

\$ man deluser.8

DELUSER(8) System Manager's Manual DELUSER(8)

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 op?

tions 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.

`--only-if-empty`

Only remove if no members are left.

`--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 hav?
ing 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 Default configuration file for deluser and delgroup

/usr/local/sbin/deluser.local

Optional custom add-ons.

SEE ALSO

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

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