

GROUPMOD(8)

System Management Commands

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## NAME

**groupmod - modify a group definition on the system**

## SYNOPSIS

**groupmod [options] GROUP**

## DESCRIPTION

The **groupmod** command modifies the definition of the specified **GROUP** by modifying the appropriate entry in the group database.

## OPTIONS

The options which apply to the **groupmod** command are:

**-a, --append GID**

If group members are specified with **-U**, append them to the existing member list, rather than replacing it.

**-g, --gid GID**

The group ID of the given **GROUP** will be changed to **GID**.

The value of **GID** must be a non-negative decimal integer. This value

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Users who use the group as primary group will be updated to keep the group as their primary group.

Any files that have the old group ID and must continue to belong to GROUP, must have their group ID changed manually.

No checks will be performed with regard to the GID\_MIN, GID\_MAX, SYS\_GID\_MIN, or SYS\_GID\_MAX from /etc/login.defs.

**-h, --help**

Display help message and exit.

**-n, --new-name NEW\_GROUP**

The name of the group will be changed from GROUP to NEW\_GROUP name.

**-o, --non-unique**

When used with the -g option, allow to change the group GID to a non-unique value.

**-p, --password PASSWORD**

The encrypted password, as returned by crypt(3).

**Note:** This option is not recommended because the password (or

You should make sure the password respects the system's password policy.

**-R, --root CHROOT\_DIR**

Apply changes in the CHROOT\_DIR directory and use the configuration files from the CHROOT\_DIR directory. Only absolute paths are supported.

**-P, --prefix PREFIX\_DIR**

Apply changes in the PREFIX\_DIR directory and use the configuration files from the PREFIX\_DIR directory. This option does not chroot and is intended for preparing a cross-compilation target. Some limitations: NIS and LDAP users/groups are not verified. PAM authentication is using the host files. No SELINUX support.

**-U, --users**

A list of usernames to add as members of the group.

The default behavior (if the -g, -N, and -U options are not specified) is defined by the USERGROUPS\_ENAB variable in /etc/login.defs.

behavior of this tool:

## **MAX\_MEMBERS\_PER\_GROUP (number)**

Maximum members per group entry. When the maximum is reached, a new group entry (line) is started in `/etc/group` (with the same name, same password, and same GID).

The default value is 0, meaning that there are no limits in the number of members in a group.

This feature (split group) permits to limit the length of lines in the group file. This is useful to make sure that lines for NIS groups are not larger than 1024 characters.

If you need to enforce such limit, you can use 25.

**Note:** split groups may not be supported by all tools (even in the Shadow toolsuite). You should not use this variable unless you really need it.

## **FILES**

`/etc/group`

Group account information.

Secure group account information.

**/etc/login.defs**

Shadow password suite configuration.

**/etc/passwd**

User account information.

## EXIT VALUES

The `groupmod` command exits with the following values:

0

**E\_SUCCESS:** success

2

**E\_USAGE:** invalid command syntax

3

**E\_BAD\_ARG:** invalid argument to option

4

**E\_GID\_IN\_USE:** group id already in use

6

9

**E\_NAME\_IN\_USE: group name already in use**

10

**E\_GRP\_UPDATE: can't update group file**

11

**E\_CLEANUP\_SERVICE: can't setup cleanup service**

12

**E\_PAM\_USERNAME: can't determine your username for use with pam**

13

**E\_PAM\_ERROR: pam returned an error, see syslog facility id groupmod  
for the PAM error message**

## SEE ALSO

**chfn(1), chsh(1), passwd(1), gpasswd(8), groupadd(8), groupdel(8),  
login.defs(5), useradd(8), userdel(8), usermod(8).**