

NAME

groupdel – delete a group

SYNOPSIS

groupdel [*options*] *GROUP*

DESCRIPTION

The **groupdel** command modifies the system account files, deleting all entries that refer to *GROUP*. The named group must exist.

OPTIONS

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

-f, --force

This option forces the removal of the group, even if there's some user having the group as the primary one.

-h, --help

Display help message and exit.

-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.

CAVEATS

You may not remove the primary group of any existing user. You must remove the user before you remove the group.

You should manually check all file systems to ensure that no files remain owned by this group.

CONFIGURATION

The following configuration variables in */etc/login.defs* change the 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.

/etc/gshadow

Secure group account information.

EXIT VALUES

The **groupdel** command exits with the following values:

- 0*
success
- 2*
invalid command syntax
- 6*
specified group doesn't exist
- 8*
can't remove user's primary group
- 10*
can't update group file

SEE ALSO

chfn(1), chsh(1), passwd(1), gpasswd(8), groupadd(8), groupmod(8), useradd(8), userdel(8), usermod(8).