

**NAME**

**pam\_tally** – The login counter (tallying) module

**SYNOPSIS**

**pam\_tally.so** [file=/path/to/counter] [onerr=[fail|succeed]] [magic\_root] [even\_deny\_root\_account] [deny=*n*] [lock\_time=*n*] [unlock\_time=*n*] [per\_user] [no\_lock\_time] [no\_reset] [audit] [silent] [no\_log\_info]

**pam\_tally** [--file /path/to/counter] [--user *username*] [--reset[=*n*]] [--quiet]

**DESCRIPTION**

This module maintains a count of attempted accesses, can reset count on success, can deny access if too many attempts fail.

**pam\_tally** has several limitations, which are solved with **pam\_tally2**. For this reason **pam\_tally** is deprecated and will be removed in a future release.

**pam\_tally** comes in two parts: **pam\_tally.so** and **pam\_tally**. The former is the PAM module and the latter, a stand-alone program. **pam\_tally** is an (optional) application which can be used to interrogate and manipulate the counter file. It can display user counts, set individual counts, or clear all counts. Setting artificially high counts may be useful for blocking users without changing their passwords. For example, one might find it useful to clear all counts every midnight from a cron job. The **faillog(8)** command can be used instead of **pam\_tally** to maintain the counter file.

Normally, failed attempts to access *root* will **not** cause the root account to become blocked, to prevent denial-of-service: if your users aren't given shell accounts and root may only login via **su** or at the machine console (not telnet/rsh, etc), this is safe.

**OPTIONS****GLOBAL OPTIONS**

This can be used for *auth* and *account* module types.

**onerr=[fail|succeed]**

If something weird happens (like unable to open the file), return with **PAM\_SUCCESS** if **onerr=succeed** is given, else with the corresponding PAM error code.

**file=/path/to/counter**

File where to keep counts. Default is /var/log/faillog.

**audit**

Will log the user name into the system log if the user is not found.

**silent**

Don't print informative messages.

**no\_log\_info**

Don't log informative messages via **syslog(3)**.

**AUTH OPTIONS**

Authentication phase first checks if user should be denied access and if not it increments attempted login counter. Then on call to **pam\_setcred(3)** it resets the attempts counter.

**deny=*n***

Deny access if tally for this user exceeds *n*.

**lock\_time=*n***

Always deny for *n* seconds after failed attempt.

**unlock\_time=*n***

Allow access after *n* seconds after failed attempt. If this option is used the user will be locked out for the specified amount of time after he exceeded his maximum allowed attempts. Otherwise the account is locked until the lock is removed by a manual intervention of the system administrator.

**magic\_root**

If the module is invoked by a user with uid=0 the counter is not incremented. The sysadmin

should use this for user launched services, like **su**, otherwise this argument should be omitted.

**no\_lock\_time**

Do not use the .fail\_locktime field in /var/log/faillog for this user.

**no\_reset**

Don't reset count on successful entry, only decrement.

**even\_deny\_root\_account**

Root account can become unavailable.

**per\_user**

If /var/log/faillog contains a non-zero .fail\_max/.fail\_locktime field for this user then use it instead of **deny=n/ lock\_time=n** parameter.

**no\_lock\_time**

Don't use .fail\_locktime filed in /var/log/faillog for this user.

## ACCOUNT OPTIONS

Account phase resets attempts counter if the user is **not** magic root. This phase can be used optionally for services which don't call **pam\_setcred(3)** correctly or if the reset should be done regardless of the failure of the account phase of other modules.

**magic\_root**

If the module is invoked by a user with uid=0 the counter is not incremented. The sysadmin should use this for user launched services, like **su**, otherwise this argument should be omitted.

**no\_reset**

Don't reset count on successful entry, only decrement.

## MODULE TYPES PROVIDED

The **auth** and **account** module types are provided.

## RETURN VALUES

**PAM\_AUTH\_ERR**

A invalid option was given, the module was not able to retrieve the user name, no valid counter file was found, or too many failed logins.

**PAM\_SUCCESS**

Everything was successful.

**PAM\_USER\_UNKNOWN**

User not known.

## EXAMPLES

Add the following line to /etc/pam.d/login to lock the account after too many failed logins. The number of allowed fails is specified by /var/log/faillog and needs to be set with **pam\_tally** or **faillog(8)** before.

```
auth    required    pam_securetty.so
auth    required    pam_tally.so per_user
auth    required    pam_env.so
auth    required    pam_unix.so
auth    required    pam_nologin.so
account required    pam_unix.so
password required    pam_unix.so
session required    pam_limits.so
session required    pam_unix.so
session required    pam_lastlog.so nowtmp
session optional    pam_mail.so standard
```

**FILES**

/var/log/faillog  
failure logging file

**SEE ALSO**

**faillog(8)**, **pam.conf(5)**, **pam.d(5)**, **pam(7)**

**AUTHOR**

pam\_tally was written by Tim Baverstock and Tomas Mraz.