

System Administration Decal

Homework #2

Due by March 19, 2008

Submit responses to joshk.decal@triplehelix.org

1 Users

1. In what file is user account information stored?
2. Can multiple users on the system have the same account name? UID?
3. The command to create a new user is `useradd`. How would you add the user `john` with a home directory at `/export/home/john` and with the shell `/usr/local/bin/zsh` ? (hint: read the man page)
4. Why are some user accounts (like `www-data`) called system user accounts?

2 Groups

1. In what file is group information stored?
2. The command to create a new user is `groupadd`. How would you create a group `admin` ?
3. The command to administer group membership is `gpasswd`. How would you add the user `john` to the group `admin`? How would you remove him?

3 Passwords

1. In what file is password information stored?
2. Why aren't password hashes stored in the same file as other user information?
3. The command to change a password is `passwd`. How would you change your password?
4. Which user has the ability to change any user's password?

4 ACLs

1. Explain how ACLs can make sharing a file with a specific user easier.
2. (Optional) The commands to get and set file access controls are `getfacl` and `setfacl`. How would you grant read and write permission to the user `jameson` on the file `user_info`?

5 sudo

1. How is `sudo` different from file ACLs?
2. The command for `sudo` is `sudo` (duh!). How would you (as your normal self) use `sudo` to add the user `john` to the system? (DO NOT RUN SUDO COMMANDS ON SYSTEMS OTHER THAN YOUR OWN. YOU WILL GENERATE SECURITY ALERTS THAT GO TO STAFF MEMBERS. THAT MEANS DON'T TRY THIS ON INST OR OCF)
3. The file for `sudo` information is (usually) `/etc/sudoers`. What entry would you add to give yourself (username `john`) full `sudo` (permission to run anything)? (hint: man `sudoers`)