# Red Hat Enterprise Linux Release 9.2 Manual Pages on 'groupdel.8' command

### $ man groupdel.8

GROUPDEL(8)          System Management Commands          GROUPDEL(8)

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.

    -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).

shadow-utils 4.9            09/28/2022            GROUPDEL(8)