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

$ man pwck.8

PWCK(8)   System Management Commands   PWCK(8)

NAME

   pwck - verify integrity of password files

SYNOPSIS

   pwck [options] [passwd [shadow]]

DESCRIPTION

   The pwck command verifies the integrity of the users and authentication

   information. It checks that all entries in /etc/passwd and /etc/shadow

   have the proper format and contain valid data. The user is prompted to

   delete entries that are improperly formatted or which have other

   uncorrectable errors.

   Checks are made to verify that each entry has:

   ?   the correct number of fields

   ?   a unique and valid user name

   ?   a valid user and group identifier

   ?   a valid primary group

   ?   a valid home directory

   ?   a valid login shell

   shadow checks are enabled when a second file parameter is specified or

   when /etc/shadow exists on the system.

   These checks are the following:

   ?   every passwd entry has a matching shadow entry, and every shadow

      entry has a matching passwd entry

? passwords are specified in the shadowed file

? shadow entries have the correct number of fields

? shadow entries are unique in shadow

? the last password changes are not in the future

The checks for correct number of fields and unique user name are fatal.

If the entry has the wrong number of fields, the user will be prompted

to delete the entire line. If the user does not answer affirmatively,

all further checks are bypassed. An entry with a duplicated user name

is prompted for deletion, but the remaining checks will still be made.

All other errors are warning and the user is encouraged to run the

usermod command to correct the error.

The commands which operate on the /etc/passwd file are not able to

alter corrupted or duplicated entries. pwck should be used in those

circumstances to remove the offending entry.

OPTIONS

The -r and -s options cannot be combined.

The options which apply to the pwck command are:

--badname

Allow names that do not conform to standards.

-h, --help

Display help message and exit.

-q, --quiet

Report errors only. The warnings which do not require any action

from the user won't be displayed.

-r, --read-only

Execute the pwck command in read-only mode.

-R, --root CHROOT_DIR

Apply changes in the CHROOT_DIR directory and use the configuration

files from the CHROOT_DIR directory.

-s, --sort

Sort entries in /etc/passwd and /etc/shadow by UID.

By default, pwck operates on the files /etc/passwd and /etc/shadow. The

user may select alternate files with the passwd and shadow parameters.

CONFIGURATION

The following configuration variables in /etc/login.defs change the behavior of this tool:

NONEXISTENT (string)

If a system account intentionally does not have a home directory that exists, this string can be provided in the /etc/passwd entry for the account to indicate this. The result is that pwck will not emit a spurious warning for this account.

PASS_MAX_DAYS (number)

The maximum number of days a password may be used. If the password is older than this, a password change will be forced. If not specified, -1 will be assumed (which disables the restriction).

PASS_MIN_DAYS (number)

The minimum number of days allowed between password changes. Any password changes attempted sooner than this will be rejected. If not specified, 0 will be assumed (which disables the restriction).

PASS_WARN_AGE (number)

The number of days warning given before a password expires. A zero means warning is given only upon the day of expiration, a negative value means no warning is given. If not specified, no warning will be provided.

FILES

/etc/group

Group account information.

/etc/passwd

User account information.

/etc/shadow

Secure user account information.

EXIT VALUES

The pwck command exits with the following values:

0

success

1

invalid command syntax

2

one or more bad password entries

3

can't open password files

4

can't lock password files

5

can't update password files

6

can't sort password files

SEE ALSO

group(5), grpck(8), passwd(5), shadow(5), usermod(8).

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