

! password in /etc/shadow

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2005-03/4142.html>

From: James Scott (jayscott0_at_gmail.com)

Date: 03/30/05

Date: Wed, 30 Mar 2005 15:55:38 -0600

To: debian-user@lists.debian.org

I am attempting to configure a package that is instructing me to assign a password to the user account of a different package. I am new to Linux, so I am a little afraid as to what affect this might have on my system.

When I look at the /etc/shadow file, the password field is currently an exclamation point (:!). I understand that an asterisk (:*) would mean that the account is disabled, but what does the exclamation mean?

Also, if I assign a password to this account, and it breaks the other package, how can I change it back to whatever the !: is?

Thank you,
J.Scott

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