

Debian-User: shadow password

## shadow password

**Source:** <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2005-03/4157.html>

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To: [debian-user@lists.debian.org](mailto: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 I don't what the exclamation means?

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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