

Re: use of passwd.lock and passwd-

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/RedHat/2004-01/1028.html>

From: Pete Nesbitt (pete_at_linux1.ca)

Date: 01/28/04

To: "Kirankumar Puttur" <Kirankumar.p@mpphasis.com>, <redhat-list@redhat.com>

Date: Tue, 27 Jan 2004 21:38:51 -0800

On January 27, 2004 08:42 pm, Kirankumar Puttur wrote:

> *Hi,*
>
> *You are right peter on both the occasions, but peter i found a strange*
> *behaviour in this line,*
>
> *whenever i create a user without a passwd (in RH EL 2.4) the passwd.lock*
> *file would appear under etc folder but once i add passwd to the user the*
> *passwd lock file would disappear*
>
> *I think probably vipw locks the file till the user gets the passwd i*
> *believe*
>
> *I think you can throw more light on this*
>
> *Regards*
>
> *Kiran Kumar Puttur*

Hi Kiran,

The lock files are interesting. There are two files, /etc/shadow.lock
/etc/passwd.lock

They contain the PID of the command creating them (vipw or useradd) but are
two separate files, not hardlinks. vipw also created a /etc/.pwd.lock file.

They are created when a user is made with useradd, regardless of if you feed a
password as an arg, and are removed with userdel. If I create 2 users in a
row, the numeric string in the files changes, if I then remove any of users,
the files are removed.

Changing a users passwd or locking/unlocking an account does not change,
create, or remove the files.

In a sence they are left over/broken lock files as they are only applicable if
the number they contain represents a running process. Once the PID is gone

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useradd or vipw exits, the locks no longer apply and should probably have been removed by the process that created them. There may be a bugreport on them, I never looked.

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Pete Nesbitt, rhce

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