

NAME

chsh – change login shell

SYNOPSIS

chsh [*options*] [*LOGIN*]

DESCRIPTION

The **chsh** command changes the user login shell. This determines the name of the user's initial login command. A normal user may only change the login shell for her own account; the superuser may change the login shell for any account.

OPTIONS

The options which apply to the **chsh** command are:

-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. Only absolute paths are supported. No SELINUX support.

-s, --shell *SHELL*

The name of the user's new login shell. Setting this field to blank causes the system to select the default login shell.

If the **-s** option is not selected, **chsh** operates in an interactive fashion, prompting the user with the current login shell. Enter the new value to change the shell, or leave the line blank to use the current one. The current shell is displayed between a pair of [] marks.

NOTE

The only restriction placed on the login shell is that the command name must be listed in /etc/shells.

If the invoker is the superuser any value may be added regardless what is defined in the configuration files. An account with a restricted login shell may not change her login shell. For this reason, placing /bin/rsh in /etc/shells is discouraged since accidentally changing to a restricted shell would prevent the user from ever changing her login shell back to its original value.

CONFIGURATION

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

CHSH_AUTH (boolean)

If yes, the **chsh** program will require authentication before making any changes, unless run by the superuser.

LOGIN_STRING (string)

The string used for prompting a password. The default is to use "Password: ", or a translation of that string. If you set this variable, the prompt will not be translated.

If the string contains %s, this will be replaced by the user's name.

FILES

/etc/passwd

User account information.

/etc/shells

List of valid login shells.

/etc/login.defs

Shadow password suite configuration.

SEE ALSO

chfn(1), **login.defs**(5), **passwd**(5).