NAME

rmuser - remove users from the system

SYNOPSIS

rmuser [**-yv**] [**-f** *file*] [*username ...*]

DESCRIPTION

The **rmuser** utility removes one or more users submitted on the command line or from a file. In removing a user from the system, this utility:

1.   Removes the user's crontab(1) entry (if any).

2.   Removes any at(1) jobs belonging to the user.

3.   Sends a SIGKILL signal to all processes owned by the user.

4.   Removes the user from the system's local password file.

5.   Removes the user's home directory (if it is owned by the user), including handling of symbolic links in the path to the actual home directory.

6.   Removes the incoming mail and POP daemon mail files belonging to the user from */var/mail*.

7.   Removes all files owned by the user from */tmp*, */var/tmp*, and */var/tmp/vi.recover*.

8.   Removes the username from all groups to which it belongs in */etc/group*. (If a group becomes empty and the group name is the same as the username, the group is removed; this complements adduser(8)'s per-user unique groups.)

9.   Removes all message queues, shared memory segments and semaphores owned by the user.

The **rmuser** utility refuses to remove users whose UID is 0 (typically root), since certain actions (namely, killing all the user's processes, and perhaps removing the user's home directory) would cause damage to a running system. If it is necessary to remove a user whose UID is 0, see vipw(8) for information on directly editing the password file.

If **rmuser** was not invoked with the **-y** option, it will show the selected user's password file entry and ask for confirmation that the user be removed. It will then ask for confirmation to delete the user's home directory. If the answer is in the affirmative, the home directory and any files and subdirectories under it will be deleted only if they are owned by the user. See pw(8) for more details.

As **rmuser** operates, it informs the user regarding the current activity. If any errors occur, they are posted to standard error and, if it is possible for **rmuser** to continue, it will.

The options are as follows:

-f *file*   The **rmuser** utility will get a list of users to be removed from *file*, which will contain one user per line. Anything following a hash mark ('#'), including the hash mark itself, is considered a comment and will not be processed. If the file is owned by anyone other than a user with UID 0, or is writable by anyone other than the owner, **rmuser** will refuse to continue.

-y   Implicitly answer "yes" to any and all prompts. Currently, this includes prompts on whether to remove the specified user and whether to remove the home directory. This option requires that either the **-f** option be used, or one or more user names be given as command line arguments.

-v   Enable verbose mode. Normally, the output includes one line per removed user; however, with this option **rmuser** will be much more chatty about the steps taken.

username Identifies one or more users to be removed; if not present, **rmuser** interactively asks for one or more users to be removed.

FILES
  /etc/master.passwd
  /etc/passwd
  /etc/group
  /etc/spwd.db
  /etc/pwd.db

SEE ALSO
  at(1), chpass(1), crontab(1), finger(1), passwd(1), group(5), passwd(5), adduser(8), pw(8), pwd_mkdb(8), vipw(8)

HISTORY
  The **rmuser** utility appeared in FreeBSD 2.2.

BUGS
  The **rmuser** utility does not comprehensively search the file system for all files owned by the removed user and remove them; to do so on a system of any size is prohibitively slow and I/O intensive. It is also unable to remove symbolic links that were created by the user in */tmp* or */var/tmp*, as symbolic links on 4.4BSD file systems do not contain information as to who created them. Also, there may be other files

created in */var/mail* other than */var/mail/username* and */var/mail/.pop.username* that are not owned by the removed user but should be removed.

The **rmuser** utility has no knowledge of YP/NIS, and it operates only on the local password file.