Linux - How to unlock and reset user’s account

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Linux - How to unlock and reset user's account

Sometimes a user cannot remote login to a linux machine might not due to just password expired issue. His/her account might have some other settings that prevent them from logging in. Below is a quick check procedure and how to resolve the issue if it is due to account setting issue.

To check status of the password for a given account.

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```
[root@server ~]# passwd -S james
james PS 2014-02-21 0 99999 7 -1 (Password set, MD5 crypt.)
     |  |   |  |  | |
     |     ||  |  | |
     |     |   |  |  | |
     |     |   |  |  | |__ Inactivity period for password
     |     |   |  |  |__ Password expiry warning period
     |     |   |  |__ Password expiry after max age
     |     |   |__ Password can be change after min age
     |     |___ Date of last password change
     |____if value is LK means the account is locked
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You can also use chage command as below.

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```
[root@server ~]# chage -l james
Last password change                                    : Feb 21, 2014
Password expires                                        : never
```

Password inactive : never
Account expires : never
Minimum number of days between password change : 0
Maximum number of days between password change : 99999
Number of days of warning before password expires : 7
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To change any of the parameters listed above you can use chage command.
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[root@server ~]# chage -<option> <value> <userid>
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Options available for chage.
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OPTIONS
The options which apply to the chage command are:

-d, --lastday LAST_DAY
Set the number of days since January 1st, 1970 when the password was last changed.
The date may also be expressed in the format YYYY-MM-DD
(or the format more commonly used in your area).

-E, --expiredate EXPIRE_DATE
Set the date or number of days since January 1, 1970 on which the userâs account will no longer be accessible. The date may also be expressed in the format YYYY-MM-DD (or the format more commonly used in your area).
A user whose account is locked must contact the system administrator before being able to use the system again.

Passing the number -1 as the EXPIRE_DATE will remove an account expiration date.

-h, --help
Display help message and exit.

-I, --inactive INACTIVE
Set the number of days of inactivity after a password has expired before the account

is locked. The INACTIVE option is the number of days of inactivity.
A user whose account is locked must contact the system administrator before being able to use the system again.

Passing the number -1 as the INACTIVE will remove an accountâs inactivity.

-l, --list
Show account aging information.

-m, --mindays MIN_DAYS
Set the minimum number of days between password changes to MIN_DAYS.
A value of zero for this field indicates that the user may change his/her password at any time.

-M, --maxdays MAX_DAYS
required to change his/her password before being able to use his/her account.
This occurrence can be planned for in advance by use of the -W option, which provides the user with advance warning.

Passing the number -1 as MAX_DAYS will remove checking a passwordâs validity.

-W, --warndays WARN_DAYS
Set the number of days of warning before a password change is required.
The WARN_DAYS option is the number of days prior to the password expiring that a user will be warned his/her password is about to expire.

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To unlock user account.

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[root@server ~]# passwd -u <userid>

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To reset user password.

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[root@server ~]# passwd <userid>

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