Linux Chage Command to Set Password Aging for User

The command name 'chage' is an acronym for 'change age'. This command is used to change the user's password's aging/expiry information. Any user can execute this command with the '-l' option to view their password and aging information. No other unauthorized users can view the password's aging/expiry information. As the root user, you can execute this command to modify the aging information.

Syntax

```
chage [-l] [-m mindays] [-M maxdays] [-d lastday] [-I inactive] [-E expiredate] [-W warndays] user
```

We can go through some examples to get a better understanding of this command.

1) List the password aging information of a user

```
chage -l testuser
```

As you can see, password expiration is disabled for this user.

2) Disable password aging for a user

```
chage -I -1 -m 0 -M 99999 -E -1 testuser
```

- -I -1 : This will set the "Password inactive" to never

- -m 0 : This will set the minimum number of days between password change to 0

- -M 99999 : This will set the maximum number of days between password change to 99999

- -E -1 : This will set "Account expires" to never.

This will disable the password expiry of a user if it is already enabled.

3) Enable password expiry date of a user

In most cases, as an administrator, you need to set a password expiry date for all users for the purpose of better security. Once you enable password expiry date for a user, the user will be forced to change their password at the time of the next login after the expiry date.

4) Set the Account Expiry date in the format 'YYYY-MM-DD'

5) Set the password expiry warning message

By default, this value is set to 7. So, when a user logs in prior to 7 days of expiry, they will start getting warning about the looming password expiry. If you want to change it to 10 days, you can do it as follows:

```
chage –W 10 testuser
```

6) Force the user to change the password on the next logon

When you create a new user account, you can set it to force the user to change the password when they login for the first time as follows:

```
chage –d 0 testuser
```

This will reset "Last Password Change" to "Password must be changed".

Hope this helps and let us know your thoughts on the above 6 chage command examples.

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