



Server Configuration Guide : Authentication and User Management : Securing ESX Server Through Authentication and Permissions : Working with Users and Groups on ESX Server Hosts

## Working with Users and Groups on ESX Server Hosts

If you are directly connected to an ESX Server host through the VI Client, you can create, edit, and delete users and groups. These users and groups are visible in the VI Client whenever you log on to the ESX Server host but are not available if you log on to VirtualCenter.

The following section explains how to work with users and groups in the VI Client directly connected to an ESX Server host. The section covers basic tasks you can perform for users and groups, such as viewing and sorting information and exporting reports. It also shows you how to create, delete, and edit users and groups.

**Note** You can also create roles and set permissions through a direct connection to the ESX Server host. Because these tasks are more widely performed in VirtualCenter, see the *Introduction to Virtual Infrastructure* for information on working with permissions and roles.

### Viewing and Exporting Users and Group Information

You work with users and groups through the **Users & Groups** tab in the VI Client. This tab displays a **Users** table or **Groups** table depending on whether you click the **Users** button or **Groups** button.

[Figure 11-2](#) shows the **Users** table. The **Groups** table is similar.



The screenshot shows the VMware ESX Server interface with the 'Users & Groups' tab selected. The 'View' dropdown is set to 'Users'. The table displays a list of system users with their UID, User name, and Name.

UID	User	Name
0	root	root
1	bin	bin
2	daemon	daemon
3	adm	adm
4	lp	lp
5	sync	sync
6	shutdown	shutdown
7	halt	halt
8	mail	mail
9	news	news
10	uucp	uucp
11	operator	operator
12	games	games
13	gopher	gopher
14	ftp	FTP User
28	nscd	NSCD Daemon

**Figure 11-2.** Users Table

You can sort the lists according to column, show and hide columns, and export the list in formats you can use when preparing reports or publishing user or group lists on the Web.

#### To view and sort ESX Server users or groups

- 1 Log on to the VI Client through the ESX Server host.

- 2 Select the server from the inventory panel.  
The hardware configuration page for this server appears.
- 3 Click the **Users & Groups** tab and click **Users** or **Groups**.
- 4 Perform any of these actions as appropriate:
  - To sort the table by any of the columns, click the column heading.
  - To show or hide columns, right-click any of the column headings and deselect or select the name of the column you want to hide.

#### To export data in the ESX Server Users or Groups table

- 1 Log on to the VI Client through the ESX Server host.
- 2 Select the server from the inventory panel.  
The hardware configuration page for this server appears.
- 3 Click the **Users & Groups** tab and click **Users** or **Groups**.
- 4 Determine how you want the table sorted, and hide or show columns according to the information you want to see in the exported file.
- 5 Right-click anywhere in the user table and click **Export** to open the **Save As** dialog box.
- 6 Select a path and enter a filename.
- 7 Select the file type.  
You can export the user or group table in any of the following formats:
  - HTML (plain HTML or HTML formatted for use with a CSS style sheet)
  - XML
  - Microsoft Excel
  - CSV (Comma Separated Values)
- 8 Click **OK**.

#### Working with the Users Table

You can add users to the **Users** table for an ESX Server host, remove users, and change various user attributes such as password and group memberships. When you perform these activities, you are altering the internal user list maintained by the ESX Server host.

#### To add a user to the ESX Server Users table

- 1 Log on to the VI Client through the ESX Server host.
- 2 Select the server from the inventory panel.  
The hardware configuration page for this server appears.
- 3 Click the **Users & Groups** tab and click **Users**.
- 4 Right-click anywhere in the **Users** table and click **Add** to open the **Add New User** dialog box.

- 5 Enter a login, a user name, a numeric user ID (UID), and a password.

Specifying the user name and UID are optional. If you don't specify the UID, the VI Client assigns the next available UID.

The password should meet the length and complexity requirements outlined in [Password Restrictions](#). However, the ESX Server host checks for password compliance only if you have switched to the `pam_passwdqc.so` plugin for authentication. The password settings in the default authentication plugin, `pam_cracklib.so`, are not enforced.

- 6 If you want the user to be able to access the ESX Server host through a command shell, select **Grant shell access to this user**.

In general, you should not grant shell access to ESX Server host users unless you determine that they have a justifiable need to access the host through a shell rather than through the VI Client. Users that access the host only through the VI Client do not need shell access.

- 7 For each existing group you want the user to be part of, enter the group name and click **Add**.

If you type a nonexistent group name, the VI Client warns you and does not add the group to the **Group membership** list.

- 8 Click **OK**.

The login and user name you entered now appear in the **Users** table. The VI Client assigns the next available user ID to the user.

#### To modify the settings for a user

- 1 Log on to the VI Client through the ESX Server host.
- 2 Select the server from the inventory panel.  
The hardware configuration page for this server appears.
- 3 Click the **Users & Groups** tab and click **Users**.
- 4 Right-click anywhere in the **Users** table and click **Edit** to open the **Edit User** dialog box.

The screenshot shows the 'Edit User - jsmith' dialog box. It contains the following fields and options:

- User Information:**
  - Login:
  - User Name:  (optional)
  - UID:
- Change password:**
  - ☐ Change password
  - Password:
  - Confirm:
- Shell Access:**
  - ☐ Grant shell access to this user
- Group membership:**
  - List box: root, adm, users
  - Group:  Add
  - Remove

At the bottom are 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons.

- 5 To change the user ID, enter a numeric user UID in the **UID** field.

The VI Client assigns the UID when you first create the user. In most cases, this assignment doesn't need to be changed.

- 6 Enter a new user name.

- 7 To change the user's password, select **Change Password** and enter the new password.

The password should meet the length and complexity requirements outlined in [Password Restrictions](#). However, the ESX Server host checks for password compliance only if you have switched to the `pam_passwdqc.so` plugin for authentication. The password settings in the default authentication plugin, `pam_cracklib.so`, are not enforced.

- 8 To change the user's ability to access the ESX Server host through a command shell, select or deselect **Grant shell access to this user**.

- 9 To add the user to another group, enter the group name and click **Add**.

If you type a nonexistent group name, the VI Client warns you and does not add the group to the **Group membership** list.

- 10 To remove the user from a group, select the group name from the list and click **Remove**.

- 11 Click **OK**.

#### To remove a user from the ESX Server Users table

- 1 Log on to the VI Client through the ESX Server host.
- 2 Select the server from the inventory panel.  
The hardware configuration page for this server appears.
- 3 Click the **Users & Groups** tab and click **Users**.
- 4 Right-click the user you want to remove and click **Remove**.

**Caution**

Do **not** remove the root user.

## Working with the Groups Table

You can add groups to the **Groups** table for an ESX Server host, remove groups, and add or remove group members. When you perform these activities, you are altering the internal group list maintained by the ESX Server host.

### To add a group to the ESX Server Groups table

- 1 Log on to the VI Client through the ESX Server host.
- 2 Select the server from the inventory panel.  
The hardware configuration page for this server appears.
- 3 Click the **Users & Groups** tab and click **Groups**.
- 4 Right-click anywhere in the **Groups** table and click **Add** to open the **Create New Group** dialog box.

- 5 Enter a group name and numeric group ID (GID).  
Specifying the GID is optional. If don't specify a GID, the VI Client assigns the next available group ID.
- 6 For each user that you want as a group member, enter the user name and click **Add**.  
If you type a nonexistent user name, the VI Client warns you and does not add the user to the **Users in this group** list.
- 7 Click **OK**.

The group ID and group name you entered now appear in the **Groups** table.

### To add or remove users from a group

- 1 Log on to the VI Client through the ESX Server host.
- 2 Select the server from the inventory panel.  
The hardware configuration page for this server appears.
- 3 Click the **Users & Groups** tab and click **Groups**.
- 4 Right-click anywhere in the **Groups** table and click **Properties** to open the **Edit Group** dialog box.



- 5 To add a user to the group, enter the user name and click **Add**.

If you type an nonexistent group name, the VI Client warns you and does not add the user to the **Users in this group** list.

- 6 To remove a user from the group, select the user name from the list and click **Remove**.
- 7 Click **OK**.

#### To remove a group from the ESX Server Groups table

- 1 Log on to the VI Client through the ESX Server host.
- 2 Select the server from the inventory panel.  
The hardware configuration page for this server appears.
- 3 Click the **Users & Groups** tab and click **Groups**.
- 4 Right-click the group you want to remove and click **Remove**.



#### Caution

Do **not** remove the root group.