

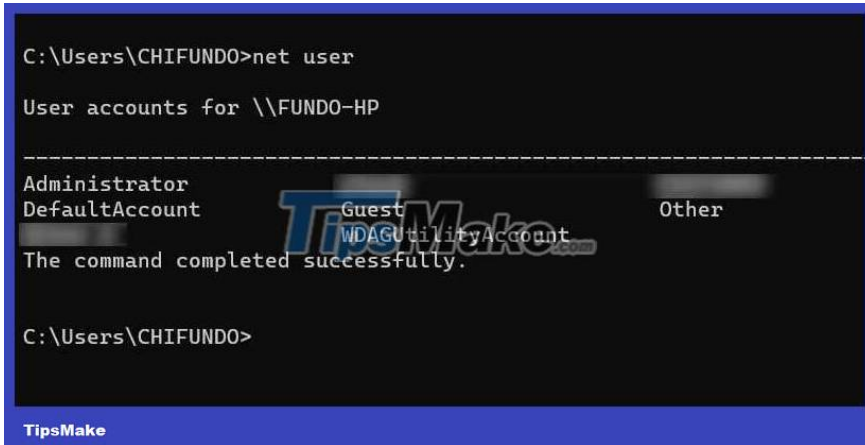
How to manage Windows user accounts through Command Prompt

For those who want to manage accounts in a simpler way, they can use the net user command in Command Prompt to manage user accounts on Windows.

When managing user accounts on a Windows PC, it often makes sense to use the Settings app. After all, it offers a graphical user interface that simplifies the process. But for those who want to manage accounts in a simpler way, they can use the net user command in Command Prompt to manage user accounts on Windows.

This tutorial will show you how to use the net user command to perform various actions on user accounts on a Windows computer.

1. List all user accounts



```
C:\Users\CHIFUNDO>net user
User accounts for \\FUNDO-HP
-----
Administrator          Guest
DefaultAccount         WDAGUtilityAccount    Other
The command completed successfully.
C:\Users\CHIFUNDO>
```

Before you start managing user accounts with net user, it is helpful to know all the user accounts on your computer. To list all of them, open Command Prompt with admin rights, enter the command below and press **Enter** key to run it:

```
net user
```

Remember the names you see because you will need them when using the net user command.

2. Display all user account information

```
C:\Users\CHIFUNDO>net user [redacted]
User name
Full Name
Comment
User's comment
Country/region code      000 (System Default)
Account active           Yes
Account expires         Never

Password last set       06/07/2023 01:28:12
Password expires        Never
Password changeable     06/07/2023 01:28:12
Password required       No
User may change password Yes

Workstations allowed    All
Logon script
User profile
Home directory
Last logon              02/01/2023 10:20:38

Logon hours allowed     All

Local Group Memberships *Administrators
Global Group memberships *None

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```

You can also display all the important information about the user by simply typing the command `net user` followed by the user's name. Here is the basic syntax:

```
net user Username
```

Suppose there is a user named "Jack" on the computer. To display their account information, enter the command below, replacing **Username** in the command structure above with **Jack** :

```
net user Jack
```

After running the command, you will be able to see the user's full name, when their password expired, when they last logged in, whether they are an administrator, etc.

3. Add and remove user accounts

To add a new user in Command Prompt, you need to use the `net user` command followed by the name of the new account, the password you want to set, and the `/add` switch (this tells net user that you are adding a user). Here is the basic syntax of the command:

```
net user Username Password /add
```

Remember that all you will create here is just a local account, but you can always switch the local account to a Microsoft account later. Here's an example of the command in action:

```
net user Jill Pa$$w0rd /add
```

After running that command, you will see that a new user, Jill, has been added to your computer. To delete an account, simply replace the **/add** switch with **/delete** without specifying a password. Here's how:

```
net user Jill /delete
```

Now, the net user will delete the account from the computer.

4. Enable and disable user accounts

```
C:\Users\CHIFUNDO>net user Jack /active: no
```

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If there's a user you want to temporarily restrict from accessing your account, you can simply disable that account instead of deleting it. Here is the basic syntax of that action, make sure to use the **/active:no switch** at the end of the command to notify net users that you are disabling it:

```
net user Username /active:no
```

So here's an example of what account deactivation would look like after replacing **Username** with the name of the actual user account:

```
net user Jack /active:no
```

And if you want to activate a disabled account, you just need to change **/active:no** to **/active:yes**.

5. Enable and disable domain user accounts

Sometimes, you may not want users to access all resources in a particular domain. An easier way to restrict them is to disable their accounts in that domain. You can do this by adding the **/domain** switch to the syntax discussed in the previous section.

Here is the syntax to disable an account on a specific domain using net user, making sure to replace **Username** with the name of the user you want to disable:

```
net user Username /domain /active:no
```

If you want to activate the account on a domain, simply use the /active:yes switch in the above command structure instead .

6. Set user account login time

If you want to specify how long someone can log in, you can use the **/time** parameter to specify the account login time. You can use the basic syntax below:

```
net user Username /time login_times
```

In the above command structure, replace **Username** with the user for whom you want to limit login times and **login_times with the time range in DD,00:00** format . Here's an example of how you do this:

```
net user Jack /time:M-F,09:00-17:00
```

According to the example above, that user can only log in Monday through Friday between 9am and 5pm. If Jack tries to log in, he will receive a message saying **Your account has time restrictions that prevent you from signing in .**

To remove the time limit, use the command below:

```
net user Jack /time:all
```

Now, Jack can log back in whenever he wants.

7. Set user account expiration date



```
C:\Users\CHIFUNDO>net user Jack /expires:2024-07-25
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```

By default, accounts are set to never expire, but you can change that if you have users that you want to be active for a specific period of time. **You will need to use the /expires** parameter while specifying the year, month, and expiration date. Here is the basic command structure:

```
net user Username /expires:DD/MM/YYYY
```

An example of this in practice would be:

```
net user Jack /expires:27/07/2024
```

With the above command, Windows will disable the date you set above.

8. Change the user account password

You can also use the net user command to change the password of a user account in Command Prompt. This will make it possible to quickly change the password of any local account with a single command, instead of having to do it through the Settings app, which requires multiple clicks.

The beauty of it is that you can also use it to change passwords for multiple accounts without leaving the Command Prompt window.

9. Change domain user account password

You can also change the password of a user on a domain by adding the **/domain** switch to the end of the command to change the user account. The syntax for this is as follows:

```
net user Username NewPassword /domain
```

Again, this must be a local domain user account for the command to work. So, if you changed your user account from a Microsoft account to a local account, you will need to switch it back to use the command.

10. Set up password policy for users

```
C:\Users\CHIFUNDO>net user Jack /passwordchg:yes
```

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If you need a specific user to change their password the next time they log in, you can use the net user command with the **/passwordchg:yes** parameter (by default, this parameter is **/passwordchg:no**). Here is the basic syntax:

```
net user Username /passwordchg:yes
```

Here's an example of what it looks like in Command Prompt:

```
net user Jack /passwordchg:yes
```

So, the next time Jack logs on to his computer, he will receive a prompt requiring him to change his password before he can access his user account.

11. Set up home directory for users

When creating a new user profile using net user, you can set the home directory, which is where Windows will store the user's personal files and settings. By default, Windows places each user account's home directory in **This PC > Local Disk (C:) > Users** . To change this for net users during account creation, the basic syntax is as follows:

```
net user Username Password /add /homedir:Path-to-directory
```

A practical example of this command would be:

```
net user Jack Pa$$w0rd /add /homedir:D:Other UsersJack
```

The above command will place the home directory for Jack, upon account creation, in the **D:Other UsersJack folder**.

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