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Using /etc/skel

This tip shows you how to use /etc/skel to ensure that all new users on your system get the same initial settings.

The /etc/skel directory is the directory used by useradd to create the default settings in a new user's home directory.

To change the location of /etc/skel, edit /etc/default/useradd.

Code Listing 1

```
# useradd defaults file
GROUP=100
HOME=/home
INACTIVE=-1
EXPIRE=
SHELL=/bin/bash
SKEL=/etc/skel
```

Typically files included in /etc/skel are .rc files for shell initialization, but you could also include a public_html directory, a custom dircolors file, or anything else.

Code Listing 2

```
% ls -A /etc/skel
.bash_profile .bashrc .maildir .screenrc .tcsh.config
```

For more information on customizing /etc/skel see `man useradd`.

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