

# Edit /etc/passwd correctly

In my recent guides, you might have noticed that I sometimes edit `/etc/passwd` directly with `vi` or `nano`. **This is not advised behavior.** The main reason being the possibility of file corruption and other users making changes to their account while you are editing. The latter is not very likely to happen as I am the only user on the system. In any case, here's how to do it more properly.

## Use vipw

`vipw` is a command line utility designed to make edits to the `/etc/passwd` file and prevents corruption by setting appropriate locks. You will need elevated privileges to edit `/etc/passwd`.

```
$ sudo vipw
```

It might ask you to pick an editor you want to use, usually `nano` or `vi`. Choose which one you prefer and the file will open, ready to be edited. I usually do this to edit shell for a service user, but do whatever you like.

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