Setting your username on your personal computer to your MIT Kerberos username

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Context

MIT encourages you to **set your username on your personal computer to be the same as your MIT Kerberos username**. This gives you more flexibility when setting up your computer for personal printing, simplifies connecting to Athena and using Kerberos on your computer.

Answer

When setting up a new computer

In all of the cases below, usernames are case sensitive. In order to match your MIT Kerberos username, you must always enter it in all lower case characters. MIT Kerberos usernames do not contain capital letters.

Windows

- Set your Windows username to match your MIT Kerberos name during initial account setup

Windows does not have the concept of long and short names. You only have one "name" in your Windows account, which is also your username and should be set to your MIT Kerberos username.

Mac OS X

- Set what Apple calls the "Account Name" to match your MIT Kerberos name during initial account setup

Mac OS X has two names for each user, a long name or "Full name" and a short name or "Account Name." The "Account Name" is your username and should be set to match your MIT Kerberos username.

Linux

- Set your username on your Linux system to match your MIT Kerberos name during initial account setup

Changing your existing username on your computer

Changing your existing username can be a little more difficult than just setting it to the correct thing in the first place. We strongly encourage it to set it to your MIT Kerberos username when you get a new computer or when you create a new account on a computer you are using. You always have the option of creating a second account with your username set correctly to your MIT Kerberos username and migrating some or all of your work and documents to it. If you do want to change the username associated with your existing account, the below links will point you in the right direction.

Windows

This procedure may not work. If you are attempting to change your username to print to Pharos, and it does not work after following this procedure, your only option is to install the Pharos client

- How to change your user name in Windows 7 professional
- Windows 8
- Windows 10

Mac OS X

- See Apple's KB article How to change user short name or home directory name

Linux

- Log into your Ubuntu Linux system using an administrator account other than the one you want to change (for example, `root`)
- Execute the command:
  `usermod -l new_username old_username`
  where `old_username` is the current username and `new_username` is your MIT Kerberos username

Usernames are case sensitive, so be sure to stick to all lower case for your MIT Kerberos username.