Exercise 6 – Who Is The Boss

1. Review questions
2. Why is it recommended to run **su** with the hyphen (i.e. **su –** )?

When using the hyphen, the environment can be changed to the user in which the new shell is referring to.

1. You have issued **su root** command without the hyphen. What is your location in the filesystem?

You are still in the original user’s profile

1. You are logged in as user **fred**, and you have just typed the command:   
     
   $ **sudo –u root /usr/sbin/visudo**

The **sudo** command asks you for a password. Whose password are you going to provide?

Will need to use Fred’s password because Fred is using the sudo command.

1. What are two most important advantages of **sudo** over **su**?

sudo can selectively assign commands against chosen users, meaning root’s password is not necessary.

Configuration can be centralised across the network, sudo settings can be established in a server.

1. Exploring su working environment
2. Log in as ordinary user, and check the value of your **PATH** variable

1. Now issue **sudo** **su**, to change identity into **root**, with **root**’s environment, and check the value of **PATH** again

1. Return to your original login then switch user identity into **root** again, this time without reading **root**’s environment. Once you are **root** again, check the value of **PATH** once more.

1. What are your conclusions regarding the **PATH** variable assignment when using **su**?

1. Basic (very basic) configuration of sudo tool
2. Log in as **root**.
3. Run the **visudo** command, to edit the **/etc/sudoers** file. This is used to give **sudo** access to users belonging to group **admin**.
4. Use the following commands to add a new user account, called **steve**, give him a password, and assign him to group **admin**:

# **useradd –m steve**

# **passwd steve**

Changing password for henry.

New password: **steve10**

Re-enter new password: **steve10**

# **groupadd admin**

# **usermod –G admin steve**

Don’t worry if you don’t fully understand the detail of the above commands, we will analyse them in a later chapter…

1. Log out and in, this time as your new user, **steve**, to see if you can edit the ***sudoers*** file again, this time as **steve**.

First, try the **/usr/sbin/visudo** command on its own. That should fail, with an appropriate error message.

1. Now run **visudo** as argument to **sudo**. Notice that we won’t modify the ***sudoers*** file on this occasion, we just want to see if we could do it if we so wished…