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How can I log in as root?

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Q. How do I log in as the root user under Linux / UNIX operating system?

A. Under Linux, UNIX and *BSD root user act as superuser. Root user is the conventional name of the user who has all rights or permissions. The root user can do many things an ordinary user cannot, such as changing the ownership of files, mounting disk, formatting and restating new file system and binding to ports numbered below 1024 etc (see [Supperuser/Rootuser](#) ^[2] at wikipedia).



[1]

Generally, it is not good practice for anyone to use root as their normal user account, because of security risks. Therefore, you use a normal user account instead. You need to use the su command to switch to root. Sudo command also provides same facility in secure manner.

su command

su command is use to change user ID or become super-user during a login session.

su command syntax

su - {[user-name](#)}

If invoked without a user-name, su defaults to becoming the super user. The user will be prompted for a password, if appropriate.

To log in as root user type following command (you need to supply root user password):

```
$ su -
```

Sample output:

```
Password: *****  
#
```

Once logged in, your prompt should change from \$ to #. To log in as another user (called vivek) type following command (you need to supply vivek user password):

```
$ su - Vivek
```

Password:

Remote root login over ssh session

Simply use ssh client as follows:

```
$ ssh root@remote-server.com  
$ ssh root@remote-server-ip-address  
$ ssh root@220.1.2.3
```

Most system disable direct remote root login over ssh session. First login as normal user and then switch to root using su command:

```
$ ssh vivek@remote-server.com  
$ su -
```

sudo command

sudo is a program for Linux / BSD / Unix-like computer operating systems that allows users to run programs with the security privileges of another user normally the superuser (root). By default, sudo will prompt for a user password but it may be configured to require the root password or no password at all. Apple Mac OS X and Ubuntu Linux and many other oses used sudo command for many administrative tasks. For example, to login as root under Ubuntu Linux, type:

```
$ sudo bash
```

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