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Can I create another root user account in Linux / UNIX?

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Q. I'd like to create my root account in Linux. How do I do it?

A. Root user is superuser on a Unix / Linux system. Root user has all rights or permissions. . The root user can do many things an ordinary user cannot do on system such as start / stop services, grant / revoke any permissions, open ports (especially < 1024 ports), user management and much more. The root user is the most privileged user on the system and has absolute power over it.

[1]

By default almost all Linux distributions and UNIX like operating system creates the root account at the time of installation. You don't have to create a new root account. Use su or sudo command to run administrative task as the root user.

Creating another root user can be a security risk. Root has a UID of zero in /etc/passwd. This means absolute control over the system for the root user. You can set any user id to 0 (zero) to grant unlimited permissions provided that you login as root.

However some variants of UNIX provides additional account. For example BSD provides a toor ("root" backwards) account in addition to a root account.

It is recommended that you use root only when required and there is no need to create a new root user account.

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