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Restrict certain users log onto a system via SSH server

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Q. How do I limit what users can log onto a my Linux server system via OpenSSH / SSHD server?

A. OpenSSH server allows to specify usernames for login. According to man page syntax is as follows::
AllowUsers user1 user2

[1]

AllowUsers keyword can be followed by a list of user name patterns, separated by spaces. If specified, login is allowed only for user names that match one of the patterns. * and ? can be used as wildcards in the patterns. Only user names are valid; a numerical user ID is not recognized. By default, login is allowed for all users. If the pattern takes the form USER@HOST then USER and HOST are separately checked, restricting logins to particular users from particular hosts.

Step # 1: Open sshd_config file

```
# vi /etc/ssh/sshd_config
```

Step # 2: Add a user

Only allow user vivek to login by adding following line:
```
AllowUsers vivek
```

Step # 3: Restart sshd

Save and close the file. In the above example, user vivek has already been created on the system. Now just restart sshd:
```
# /etc/init.d/sshd restart
```

You can also use -
Linux PAM configuration that allows or deny login via the sshd server [2]

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URLs in this post:

[1] Image: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/linux/**
[2] Linux PAM configuration that allows or deny login via the sshd server : **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/tips/linux-pam-configuration-that-allows-or-deny-login-via-the-sshd-server.html**