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Sudo is Not Prompting For a Password When Re-executed Second Time

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Q. I use sudo to provide permissions and command execution rights to other users under UNIX and Linux operating systems. However, I noticed something strange about sudo. When executing sudo, it will prompt for the user's password the first time, but sudo no longer requires a password anymore when re-executing it. Why? Is this a security risk?



A. sudo records the timestamp by creating a file, when it is executed the first time, sudo won't need a password if the timestamp has not timed out. The time out value is 600 seconds (5 minutes) by default.

[1]

timestamp_timeout

Number of minutes that can elapse before sudo will ask for a passwd again. The default is 5. Set this to 0 to always prompt for a password. If set to a value less than 0 the user's timestamp will never expire. Open /etc/sudoers

```
# vi timestamp_timeout
```

And set timestamp_timeout as per your setup:

```
timestamp_timeout 0
```

sudo -k option

This can be used to allow users to create or delete their own timestamps via sudo -v and sudo -k respectively. Run sudo -k to invalidate the timestamp after executing sudo.

```
$ sudo -k
```

passwd_timeout

Number of minutes before the sudo password prompt times out. The default is 5, set this to 0 for no password timeout.

```
passwd_timeout 2
```

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