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## psql: FATAL: Ident authentication failed for user "username" Error and Solution

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**Q.** I've installed Postgresql under Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5.x server. I've created username / password and database. But when I try to connect it via PHP or psql using following syntax:

```
psql -d myDb -U username -W
```

It gives me an error that read as follows:

```
psql: FATAL: Ident authentication failed for user "username"
```

How do I fix this error?

**A.** To fix this error open PostgreSQL client authentication configuration file `/var/lib/pgsql/data/pg_hba.conf`:

```
# vi /var/lib/pgsql/data/pg_hba.conf
```

This file controls:

1. Which hosts are allowed to connect
2. How clients are authenticated
3. Which PostgreSQL user names they can use
4. Which databases they can access

By default Postgresql uses IDENT-based authentication. All you have to do is allow username and password based authentication for your network or webserver. IDENT will never allow you to login via -U and -W options. Append following to allow login via localhost only:

```
local all all trust
host all 127.0.0.1/32 trust
```

Save and close the file. Restart Postgresql server:

```
# service postgresql restart
```

Now, you should be able to login using following command:

```
$ psql -d myDb -U username -W
```



[1]

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