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## Linux: Openssh (ssh server) deny root user access

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**Q.** How do I block access to root user over ssh session?

**A..** sshd (OpenSSH Daemon) is the daemon program for ssh. Server side ssh configuration is defined in /etc/ssh/sshd\_config file.

You need to use **DenyUsers** option to block access to root user.

This option can be followed by a list of user name patterns, separated by spaces. Login is disallowed for user names that match one of 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.



[1]

## Open /etc/ssh/sshd\_config file

Use vi command:

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

## Deny root user access

Append or modify as follows to block root user:

```
DenyUsers root
```

If you want to block additional user just append names to DenyUsers

```
DenyUsers root, user2, user3
```

Save and close the file. Restart sshd service:

```
#/etc/init.d/sshd restart
```

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