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## Can't SSH in as root

I'm using the default installation of `openssh-server` for my Ubuntu 14.04 server. I can connect through the console as root like normal, with my username and password. When I try to SSH with the same username/password, however, I repeatedly get Access Denied errors. `/var/log/auth.log` reports `Failed password for root from <ip address> port <port> ssh2`, but I'm entering the correct password.

Why can't I connect to the server via SSH, even though the username and password ARE correct?

server    ssh    password    authentication

asked Aug 15 '14 at 16:31



Vaindil

77   1   3   11

possible duplicate of [need to connect as \\*\\*root@my-server-ip\\*\\* with SSH](#) – Eliah Kagan Aug 16 '14 at 2:17

@EliahKagan He he, I had reported that as dupe of this before it had got an answer. :D – muru Aug 16 '14 at 3:37

@muru I think either way would be okay, but [that one](#) seems a little broader in scope (more general), has more answers, and has answers suggesting a wider range of solutions. Either way they're closed, answers from one could be mod-merged into the other (or not). – Eliah Kagan Aug 16 '14 at 6:06

Possible duplicate of [How to enable ssh root access on Ubuntu 14.04](#) – That Brazilian Guy Feb 7 at 13:57

## 1 Answer

The default setting in Debian (and hence Ubuntu) for OpenSSH Server is to deny password-based login for root and allow only key-based login. Change this line in `/etc/ssh/sshd_config`:

```
PermitRootLogin without-password
```

to

```
PermitRootLogin yes
```

And restart the SSH server:

```
sudo service ssh restart
```

answered Aug 15 '14 at 16:34



muru

56.3k   10   89   133

Aha, that did it! Thank you, I greatly appreciate it! – Vaindil Aug 15 '14 at 16:35

1 @Vaindil But really, as [gregory.0xf0](#) says, if you must log in remotely as root, it's much better to use [key-based instead of password-based authentication](#). – Eliah Kagan Aug 16 '14 at 2:16

@Vaindil I second EliahKagan and gregory.0xf0 that key-based authentication is superior to password based. Switch to it if you can. – muru Aug 16 '14 at 3:39

It is, by the way, bad practice to allow root login anyways via SSH or via the GUI, you should only ever need root login in cases where `sudo` is disabled. – Thomas W. Aug 16 '14 at 21:27