Exercise 6 – Who Is The Boss

1. Review questions
2. Why is it recommended to run **su** with the hyphen (i.e. **su –** )?

Allows automatic login to root with the user’s current environment

1. You have issued **su root** command without the hyphen. What is your location in the filesystem?

The location is the home of the user shell

1. You are logged in as user **fred**, and you have just typed the command:   
     
   $ **sudo –u root /usr/sbin/visudo**

The **sudo** command asks you for a password. Whose password are you going to provide?

Fred’s password, given that he is the User

1. What are two most important advantages of **sudo** over **su**?

Sudo = timed instance of a super user, it allows the execution of a command also allowing the system to roll back to the user account ensuring another user to use

1. Exploring su working environment
2. Log in as ordinary user, and check the value of your **PATH** variable

1. Now issue **sudo** **su**, to change identity into **root**, with **root**’s environment, and check the value of **PATH** again

1. Return to your original login then switch user identity into **root** again, this time without reading **root**’s environment. Once you are **root** again, check the value of **PATH** once more.

1. What are your conclusions regarding the **PATH** variable assignment when using **su**?

**It removes other user paths allowing only the current user to be shown**

1. Basic (very basic) configuration of sudo tool
2. Log in as **root**.
3. Run the **visudo** command, to edit the **/etc/sudoers** file. This is used to give **sudo** access to users belonging to group **admin**.
4. Use the following commands to add a new user account, called **steve**, give him a password, and assign him to group **admin**:

# **useradd –m steve**

# **passwd steve**

Changing password for henry.

New password: **steve10**

Re-enter new password: **steve10**

# **groupadd admin**

# **usermod –G admin steve**

Don’t worry if you don’t fully understand the detail of the above commands, we will analyse them in a later chapter…

1. Log out and in, this time as your new user, **steve**, to see if you can edit the ***sudoers*** file again, this time as **steve**.

First, try the **/usr/sbin/visudo** command on its own. That should fail, with an appropriate error message.

1. Now run **visudo** as argument to **sudo**. Notice that we won’t modify the ***sudoers*** file on this occasion, we just want to see if we could do it if we so wished…