

# Linux: 'Username' is not in the sudoers file. This incident will be reported [closed]

Asked 4 years, 4 months ago   Modified 11 months ago   Viewed 211k times



55



16



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Closed 12 months ago.

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After logging into ssh, I got this message:

'Username' is not in the sudoers file. This incident will be reported.

How can I resolve this? I'm connecting ssh to my virtual private server.

[linux](#)   [sudoers](#)

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edited Sep 18, 2020 at 14:26



[Promise Preston](#)

**15.3k**   9   88   106

asked Dec 14, 2017 at 5:43



[Danish Arman](#)

**619**   1   5   7

do your user have admin access? If no then login with root and add your user to `/etc/sudoers` file  
– [smn\\_onrocks](#) Dec 14, 2017 at 5:47


[unix.stackexchange.com/questions/179954/...](https://unix.stackexchange.com/questions/179954/...) – [Stephen C](#) Jul 20, 2019 at 12:43

And [askubuntu.com/questions/2214/...](https://askubuntu.com/questions/2214/...) And [superuser.com/questions/866582/...](https://superuser.com/questions/866582/...) – [Stephen C](#) Jul 20, 2019 at 12:47

This should help people struggling with username is not in the sudoers file. [iosdose.com/...](https://iosdose.com/...) – [maddy](#) Sep 14, 2021 at 15:18

Just for Mac users : Logout and login with one of admin user accounts. Click Apple Icon (top left) => System Preferences => Users & Groups. select the username you want then active "Allow user to administer this computer" and restart. – [Ario](#) Jan 20 at 10:52

11 Answers

Sorted by:  
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35



Both the above answers are correct as far as they go but it is easier to add your user to the sudo group in debian based systems (Ubuntu, kubuntu, debian, etc) and the wheel group under RedHat based systems (RedHat, Fedora, CentOS, etc)

```
usermod -a -G sudo user  
or  
usermod -a -G wheel user
```

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answered Dec 14, 2017 at 10:13

[Rodney Howard](#)**410** 5 7

Exaaaactly. Include OpenSuse under the 2nd group. In my case I reversed the order, modifying `sudoers` before adding my user to `wheel` and ended up here. – [Tom Russell](#) Aug 11, 2021 at 5:57

It's too much better this way, because you don't need edit none critical files for make this operation. – [RSiqueira](#) Jan 5 at 13:20



Open file

57



```
sudo nano /etc/sudoers
```

Then add the user below admin user like below syntax.

```
user_name ALL=(ALL) ALL
```

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answered Dec 14, 2017 at 6:20

[sanath meti](#)**3,451** 20 28

7 Recommended way is to use `visudo` to avoid simultaneous edits (possibly not a problem in this case, but still...) – [eMMe](#) Dec 14, 2017 at 6:25

- 3 It's only what the comment at the very top of the file makes clear "## This file MUST be edited with the 'visudo' command as root." – [David C. Rankin](#) Dec 14, 2017 at 6:44
- 
- 74 How does this make sense? The issue is that the user can't use sudo, so how can part of the solution be using sudo? – [Peter Uithoven](#) Jan 25, 2019 at 12:55
- 
- 2 I also needed to "su root" since I couldn't just sudo nano either :) – [Tom](#) Apr 7, 2021 at 16:29
- 
- 2 @PeterUithoven Exactly! – [KansaiRobot](#) Jul 7, 2021 at 11:28
- 



21



This is a very common error for the beginners. The error occurs because we are trying to access/update something with super privileges from the user instead of root -user.

Hence, to solve this, we need to make changes in the sudoers file where the root user has been given the privileges. So, switch to root user, run the following command

```
sudo su
# vi /etc/sudoers
```

The editor would open the file, now scroll down to the bottom where you will see a line

```
#User privilege specification

root    ALL=(ALL:ALL) ALL

username ALL=(ALL:ALL) ALL
```

As you can see, I have just added my username with all permissions.

Save the file, and exit. Switch back to the user and start using sudo commands with ease.

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edited May 10, 2021 at 16:30

answered Jul 20, 2019 at 12:12



[Sonal](#)

379 3 6

- 1 this is the solution except that I also needed to "su root" – [Tom](#) Apr 7, 2021 at 16:29
- 
- 1 Thanks for calling it out. I assumed it, but I have added it to the solution. – [Sonal](#) May 10, 2021 at 16:31
- 



5



At the top of the aforementioned `/etc/sudoers` file there's an info:

```
"## This file MUST be edited with the 'visudo' command as root."
```

In order of doing as we're told, use:

```
$ su
> Enter root password: *****
$ visudo -f /etc/sudoers
```

Find the following section of `/etc/sudoers` file and add your users privileges:

```
# User privilege specification
root    ALL=(ALL:ALL) ALL
user_name ALL=(ALL) ALL
```

Save the file (press `esc` and type `:x` if vim is your default text editor, for nano press `ctrl+o`, `enter` and then `ctrl+x`).

Type `exit` to turn off the `root` shell, and enjoy the power of `sudo` with your `username`

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answered Dec 9, 2019 at 20:06



wscourge

9,219 12 51 70



[try this video](#), it works for me.

3

1. ssh root@localhost



2. sudo vi /etc/sudoers



3. insert username in file 'sudoers'

4. save and exit ssh

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edited Apr 16, 2021 at 20:21



Dharman ♦

26.6k 20 71 121

answered Dec 30, 2020 at 3:35



user6670135

49 4



You should use `visudo` to edit `/etc/sudoers` file.

4

Just run `sudo visudo -f /etc/sudoers`



and add your username with correct syntax and access rights. You can find more in `man sudoers`



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edited Nov 10, 2020 at 10:28



Sushilinux

640 7 21

answered Dec 14, 2017 at 9:39



Viktor Khilin

1,638 8 18



1. Entered Root using command `$ su root` . Input Root Password

3

2. Install sudo: `$ apt-get install sudo -y`3. Add your < username> `$ adduser <username> sudo`4. `$ exit`

5. Then sign up and sign in the &lt; username&gt; session

6. Finally, check with: `< username>@< hostname>:~$ sudo apt-get update`

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answered Jun 13, 2019 at 19:20

[Braian Coronel](#)**20k** 4 42 521 su root was basically the answer i needed. – [Hicsy](#) Oct 18, 2021 at 1:36

First, switch/ log into the root user account or an account that has sudo privileges.

1

Next add the user to the group for sudo users:



- If you're on **Ubuntu** members of the **sudo** group are granted with sudo privileges, so you can use this:

`sudo adduser username sudo`

- If you're on **CentOS** members of the **wheel** group are granted with sudo privileges, so you can use this::

`usermod -aG wheel username`**Note:** Replace username with your desired `username` .

To test the sudo access, log into the account that you just added to the sudo users group, and then run the command below using `sudo` :

`sudo whoami`

You will be prompted to enter the password. If the user have sudo access, the output will be:

`root`

If you get an error saying **user is not in the sudoers file**, it means that the user doesn't have sudo privileges yet.

That's all.

## I hope this helps

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answered Sep 18, 2020 at 14:34



[Promise Preston](#)

**15.3k** 9 88 106



Got a slightly different syntax to Rodney's from my host

6

```
usermod -aG wheel username
```



Their explanation was



The user will need to be added to the wheel group.

Use the usermod command to add the user to the wheel group.

You may need to log off and log back in after doing this

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[edited May 9, 2020 at 3:50](#)

answered Jul 5, 2018 at 15:41



[Robert Sinclair](#)

**3,608** 1 32 34

1 I simply needed to log off and log back in after applying this solution. – [user12603016](#) May 9, 2020 at 3:48

1 What if my user already belongs to the wheel group but I still get "'Username' is not in the sudoers file. This incident will be reported."? – [Adrian Lopez](#) Sep 9, 2020 at 12:10

@AdrianLopez the wheel syntax only makes sense if wheel is a sudoers group, which in your case it probably isn't. This answer is also not really helpful, but rather miss informing to be honest. By default wheel isn't in the sudoers file. – [Patrick Abraham](#) Nov 26, 2021 at 16:00



If you're unable to find visudo on your system

1

```
whereis visudo
```



Launch this tool



```
./PATH/visudo
```

add this line under

User privilege specification

```
user_name ALL=(ALL) ALL
```

Save the changes and here you go !

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answered May 11, 2020 at 12:19



[Olivier D'Ancona](#)

**503** 1 10 24



-1



Add your user to the list of sudoers. This will make it easier to execute commands as the user that you have created will require admin privileges.

**sudo adduser username sudo**

(Note:- Username is the user you want to give the privileges)

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answered Apr 15, 2020 at 4:35



[Tej](#)

**7** 1

1 this won't work if the user can't use sudo which is what the original poster can't do hence the error message. – [Sebastian](#) Apr 27, 2021 at 9:38