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How To Create a Sudo User on Ubuntu [Quickstart]

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The `sudo` command provides a mechanism for granting administrator privileges, ordinarily only available to the root user, to normal users. This guide will show you the easiest way to create a new user with sudo access on Ubuntu, without having to modify your server's `sudoers` file. If you want to configure sudo for an existing user, simply skip to step 3.

Steps to Create a New Sudo User

1. Log in to your server as the `root` user.

```
local$ ssh root@server_ip_address
```

2. Use the `adduser` command to add a new user to your system.

Be sure to replace `username` with the user that you want to create.

```
# adduser username
```

- Set and confirm the new user's password at the prompt. A strong password is highly recommended!

```
Set password prompts:
Enter new UNIX password:
Retype new UNIX password:
passwd: password updated successfully
```

- Follow the prompts to set the new user's information. It is fine to accept the defaults to leave all of this information blank.

```
User information prompts:
Changing the user information for username
Enter the new value, or press ENTER for the default
    Full Name [ ]:
    Room Number [ ]:
    Work Phone [ ]:
    Home Phone [ ]:
    Other [ ]:
Is the information correct? [Y/n]
```

3. Use the `usermod` command to add the user to the `sudo` group.

```
# usermod -aG sudo username
```

By default, on Ubuntu, members of the `sudo` group have sudo privileges.

4. Test sudo access on new user account

- Use the `su` command to switch to the new user account.

```
# su - username
```

- As the new user, verify that you can use sudo by prepending "sudo" to the command that you want to run with superuser privileges.

```
username$ sudo command_to_run
```

- For example, you can list the contents of the `/root` directory, which is normally only accessible to the root user.

```
username$ sudo ls -la /root
```

- The first time you use `sudo` in a session, you will be prompted for the password of the user account. Enter the password to proceed.

Output:

```
[sudo] password for username:
```

If your user is in the proper group and you entered the password correctly, the command that you issued with `sudo` should run with root privileges.

Related Tutorials

Here is a link to a more detailed user management tutorial:

- [How To Add and Delete Users on an Ubuntu Server](#)

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o usermod: command not found

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o That is so helpful. Good steps by step guide.

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o works great. thanks :)

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o The tutorials from digital ocean are really a good resource to learn.
Thank you.

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o Very good tutorial, but if I do:

```
su <my_username>
cd
```

Says: "cd: /home/<my_username> No such file or directory"

So I created a new user but it doesn't has home directory. I would like to know if I have to create it or do I miss something.

Note: I need the new user has its home directory to install and run some services.

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^ [jtittle1](#) *March 6, 2017*



1 [@alexxsanchezm](#)

You can create the home directory and then use `useradd` to set the home directory for the user.

```
mkdir -p /home/username
```

```
useradd -d /home/username username
```

Where `username` is the username of your choice.

If the username has already been added using `useradd`, then you can use `usermod`.

```
usermod -d /home/username username
```

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^ [nghiadp11](#) February 26, 2017

1 Thank you for the tutorial, I can create a new user. But the thing is I cannot use that account to connect via ssh. Would you have any suggestion?

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^ [jtittle1](#) March 6, 2017

o [@Efendi](#)

When a new user is created, a password isn't defined yet, so you'd need to set a password for the user before you'll be able to use the user to login.

```
passwd username
```

... where `username` is the username of the user you're wanting to set or change the password for.

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^ [shwelu](#) May 12, 2017

3 Probably at the time of creation of the droplet, you have added a public SSH key which is used for the SSH login by the root.

First ensure that there is a public SSH key in the root folder by typing:

```
# less /root/.ssh/authorized_keys
```

You should see something like this:

```
output
ssh-rsa
AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAABJQBBBQEAqrzi/H0RoVbZq+v3tGiMgmdKXPysWHBv0PILQKfM0DLNt
rsa-key-20160501
```

If that is the case, copy `.ssh` folder to the home directory of the new user:

```
# cp -r /root/.ssh /home/demo
```

Now try to login as a new sudo user `demo` using SSH.

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^ [saotome](#) December 22, 2017



2 Don't forget to...

```
chown -R demo:demo ~demo/.ssh
```

Otherwise the copied directory will still belong to the `root` user, and will not be readable when trying to log in as `demo` with ssh.

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^ [greggman](#) January 4, 2018



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```
$ sudo ls -la /root
-su: sudo: command not found
```





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