How to Enable or Disable Automatic Login in Ubuntu?

When the user logs in to a password-protected account on the Ubuntu system, it asks for the password to verify whether the user is authentic. However, when a single account is used by all the users on the computer, then an automatic login feature is enabled. The automatic login will not ask for a password until this feature is disabled.

This post will demonstrate how to enable or disable the automatic login on Ubuntu with the following outcomes:

- **Method 1: Enable or Disable Automatic Login in Ubuntu Using the Terminal**
- **Method 2: Enable or Disable Automatic Login in Ubuntu Using the GUI**

Method 1: Enable or Disable Automatic Login in Ubuntu Using the Terminal

We can enable and disable the automatic login in Ubuntu using the "**custom configuration**" file. To make the automatic login enable or disable, follow the below steps.

Step 1: Find the Location of Custom Configuration File

First, find the location of the custom.conf file:

```
$ locate custom.conf
```

```
itslinux@foss:~$ locate custom.conf
/etc/gdm3/custom.conf  ←
/usr/share/im-config/data/90_custom.conf
itslinux@foss:~$
```

In our case, it is located at /etc/gdm3.

Step 2: Open the File

The next step is to open the custom configuration file with the nano text editor:

```
$ sudo nano /etc/gdm3/custom.conf
```


The file open should be looks like the below figure:

Step 3: Edit the File

Now its time to edit the file and for it, find the "Enabling automatic login" section, which is by default disabled:

To make it enable, remove the comments from "**AutomaticLoginEnable**" and "**AutomaticLogin**". Also, replace the "**user1**" with the username for whose you want to customize these settings. For example, we will enable the automatic enable for user **"itslinux"**:

```
  GNU nano 6.2                    /etc/gdm3/custom.conf *
[daemon]
# Uncomment the line below to force the login screen to use Xorg
#WaylandEnable=false

# Enabling automatic login
 AutomaticLoginEnable = true
 AutomaticLogin = itslinux
```

Save the file using CTRL+S and close the file with CTRL+X.

Similarly, to disable the automatic login, open the file again and comment on both lines:

```
  GNU nano 6.2                    /etc/gdm3/custom.conf *
[daemon]
# Uncomment the line below to force the login screen to use Xorg
#WaylandEnable=false

# Enabling automatic login
 # AutomaticLoginEnable = true
 #AutomaticLogin = itslinux
```

In this way, the automatic login can be enabled or disabled using the terminal in Ubuntu.

Method 2: Enable or Disable Automatic Login in Ubuntu Using the GUI

All the steps listed here are demonstrated on Ubuntu Jammy Jellyfish, the latest LTS of Ubuntu.
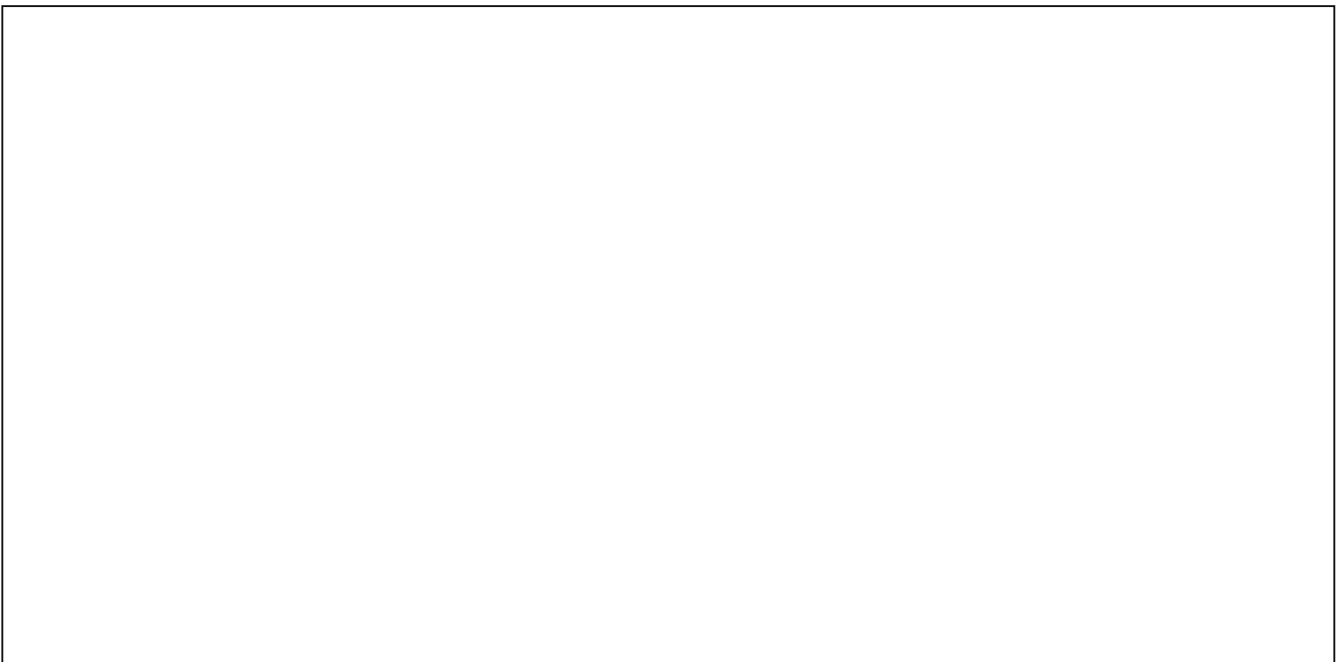
Step 1: Open the Settings

This method is quite convenient because it uses the Graphical Interface to do this; first, open "**Settings**" from the applications menu:

Step 2: Unlock the User Accounts

Then, go to the "**Users**" option available on the left side of the screen, next to the "**Accessibility**" option, and then click on the "**Unlock...**" option present at the right top of the screen:
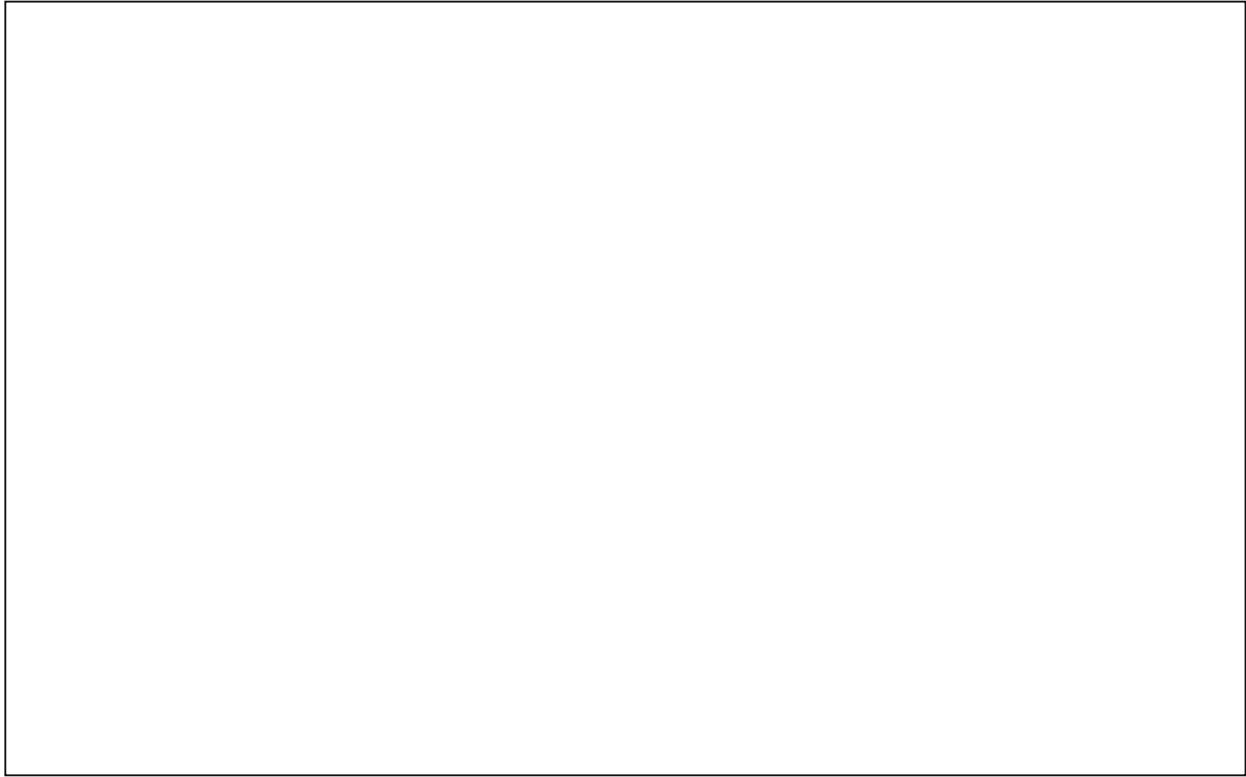
It will ask for the user account password for the authentication purpose, enter the password and click on the "**Authenticate**" option:
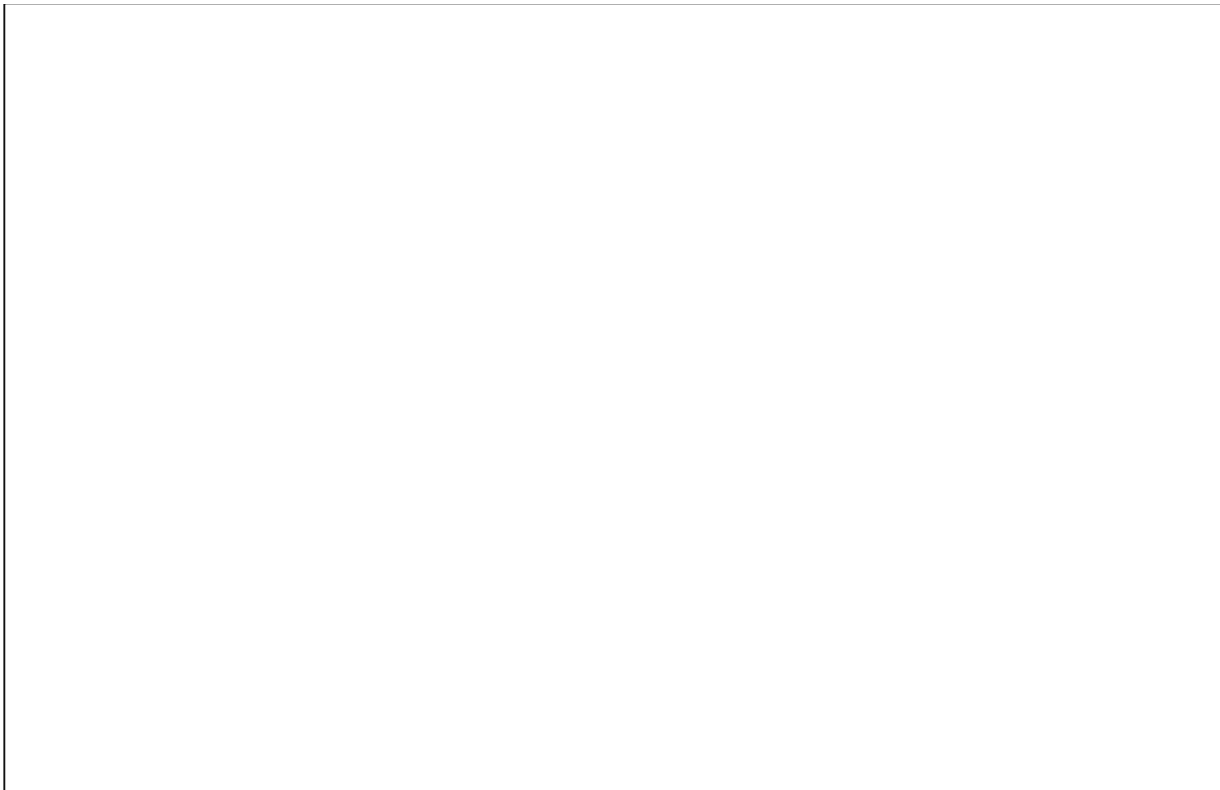
Step 3: Enable/Disable Automatic Login

Then a box will pop up with different options, find the "**Automatic Login**" with a toggle button:

If the toggle button of "**Automatic Login**" is off, it means that the Automatic Login has been disabled, and if it is on, then the "Automatic Login" is enabled:

When the settings of the "**Automatic Login**" are set, close the window and exit from the Settings to save the new changes made.

Conclusion

To enable and disable the automatic login in Ubuntu, open the settings, find the Automatic Login option with its toggle button in the "**User**" section and turn it on or off. Another method is by editing the custom configuration file in Ubuntu which is located at /etc/gdm3/custom.conf. In this blog, both the command line and the graphical interface-based method of enabling and disabling Automatic Login have been discussed.
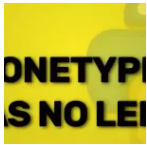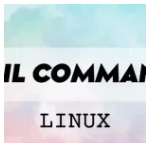
Maddox

📁 Ubuntu

ItsLinuxFoss Posts

How to Install Linux Bash Shell on Windows 11?
In Bash

TypeError: object of type 'NoneType' has no len()...
In Python

tail Command in Linux | Explained
In Linux

How to Use apt-get Command?
In Linux

How to Install Arduino IDE on Ubuntu 22.04?
In Ubuntu

Get FREE Updates on Latest Tutorials

Your email with us is completely safe, subscribe and start growing!

| First Name | Email Address | Subscribe |