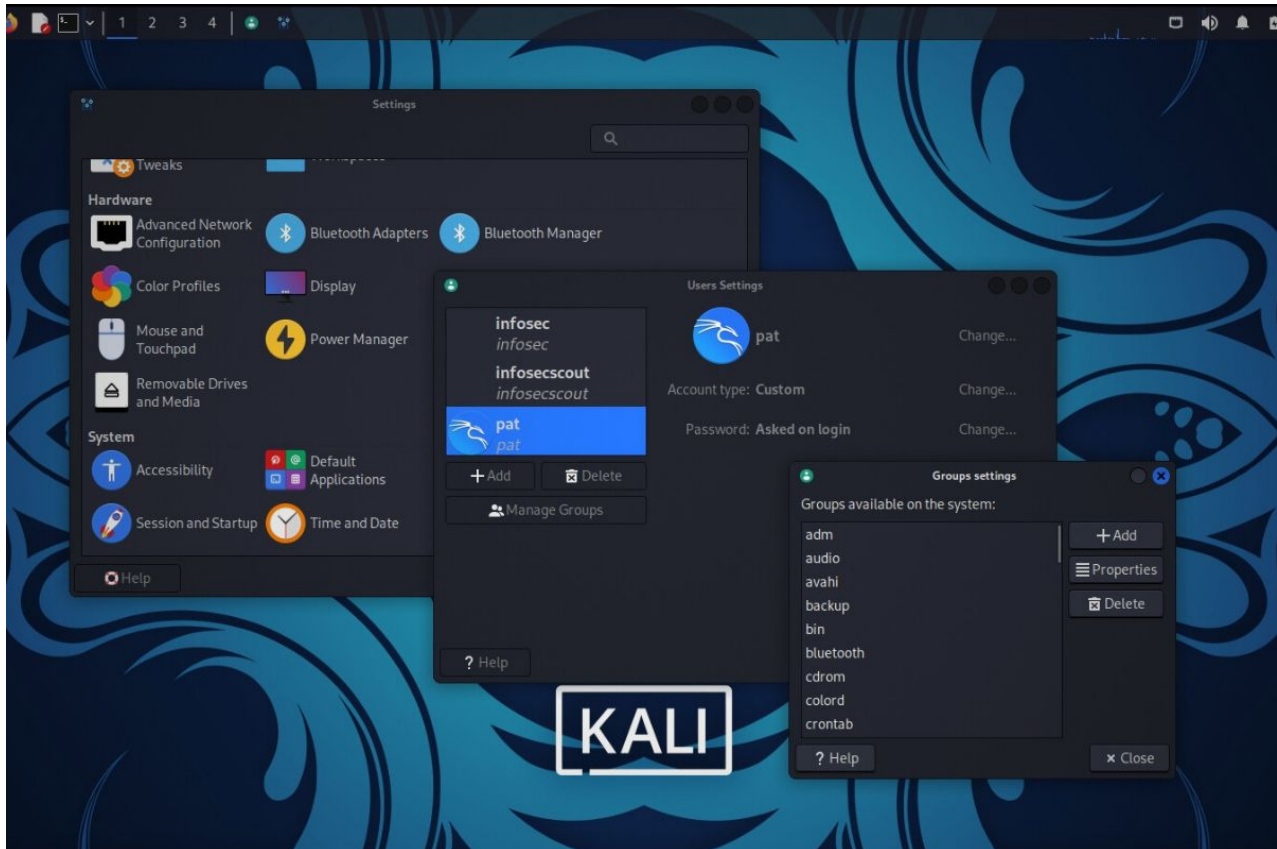


How to Add a New User in Kali Linux (GUI & Command Line)

 infosecscout.com/add-new-user-kali-linux

Patrick Fromaget



Oddly enough, Kali Linux is a security-oriented distribution, but it comes with a default login and password. You will need to harden it a bit after the initial installation. You can always change the password or even set a different user name. But it's also possible to create a new one. Here is how to do it.

On Kali Linux, the easiest way to create a new user is to use the system settings panel. It's also possible to do the same using Linux commands from a terminal (locally or remotely).

In this tutorial, I'll discuss these two options, starting with the simplest one (via the GUI) and then give you the commands lines to do the same from a Linux prompt.

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How to add user on Kali Linux via the GUI

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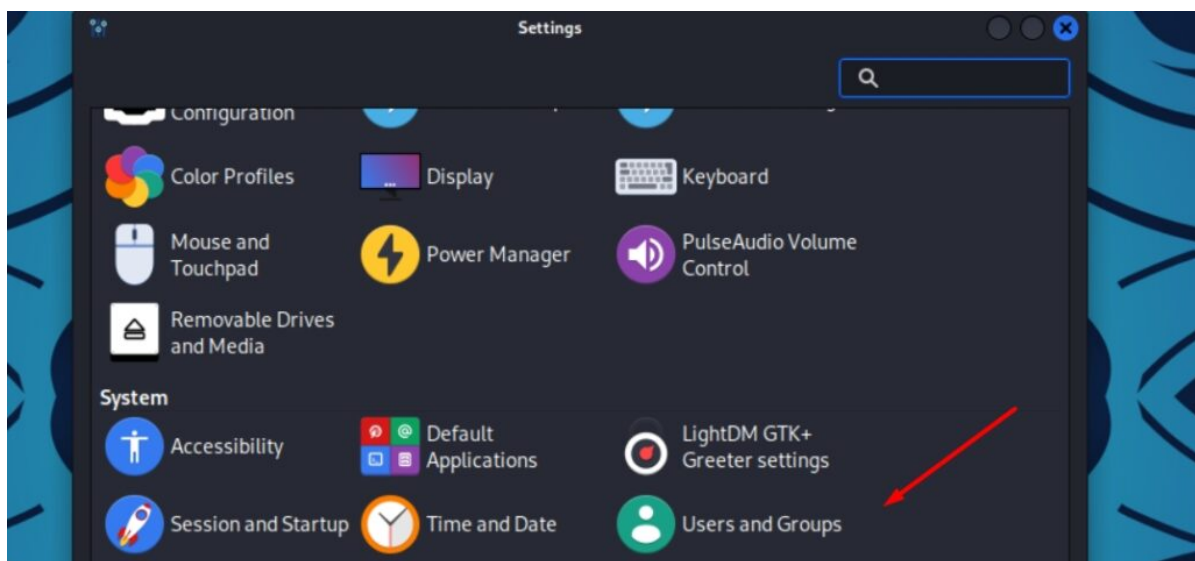
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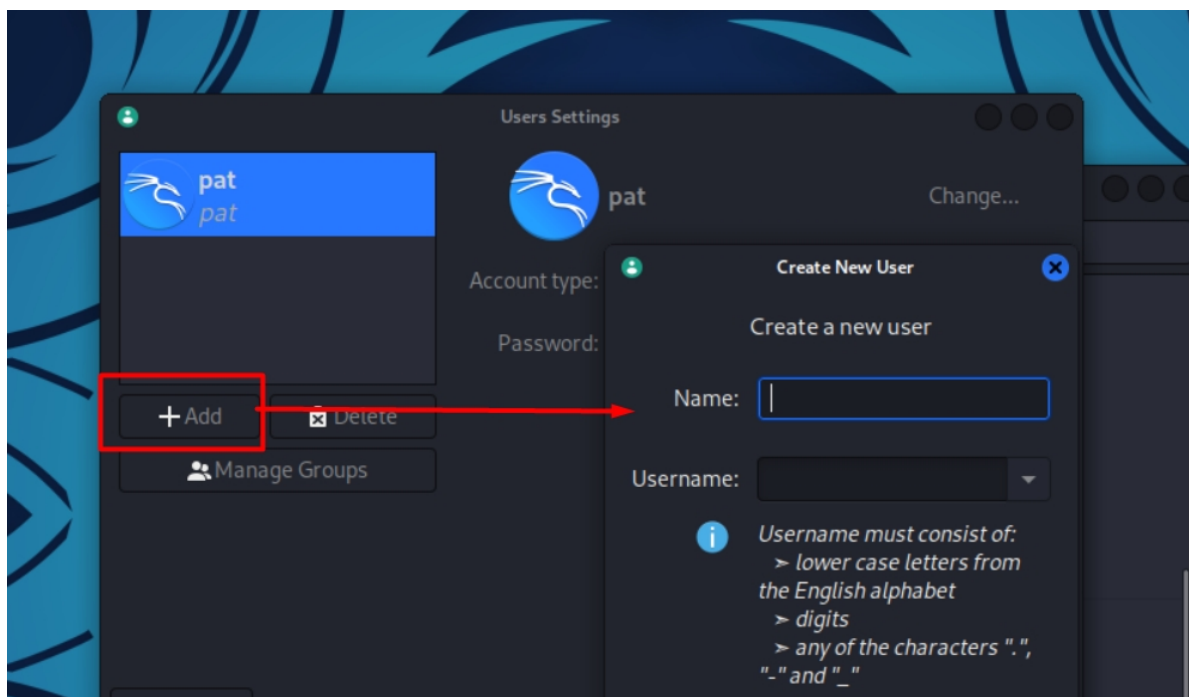
If you have access to the desktop environment, Kali Linux includes a tool to manage users easily from the system settings.

Here is how to create a new user from the graphical interface:

- In the main menu, click on “Settings” > “Settings Manager”.
- Find the “Users and Groups” item in the settings:



- By clicking on it, you'll see your current users (probably only the main user). But there, you can **click on “Add” to create a new user**:



You may need to enter your password to access this screen.

- **Fill the form with the new user name and username, and click on “OK”.** On the next screen, you can set the initial password for the new user (or generate a random one):

The image shows a 'Change User Password' dialog box. It has a title bar with a close button. The main text says 'Changing user password for: infosec'. There are two radio buttons: 'Set password by hand' (selected) and 'Generate random password'. Below the first radio button are two text input fields: 'New password:' and 'Confirmation:'. Below the second radio button is a 'Password set to:' text input field and a 'Generate' button with a gear icon. At the bottom, there is a checkbox labeled 'Don't ask for password on login' and two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'OK'.

- **Click “OK” again and the new user will be created.**

You can log out from your current account and try the new one right away if you want, it should work directly.

You can even delete the main account after that if that was the goal (using the same settings menu), but before doing that, make sure the new user has all the permissions you need, and that you copied the personnel files (from your home directory to the new user directory).

For example, with the default settings, the new user can't use sudo, so you'll quickly get stuck. I'd recommend keeping both users for a while, using only the new one, to make sure you don't forget anything.

How to add user on Kali with Linux commands

Creating a user in command lines on Kali Linux is not that complicated, you basically need only one command to do it.

Here is how to create a new user on Kali Linux from a terminal:

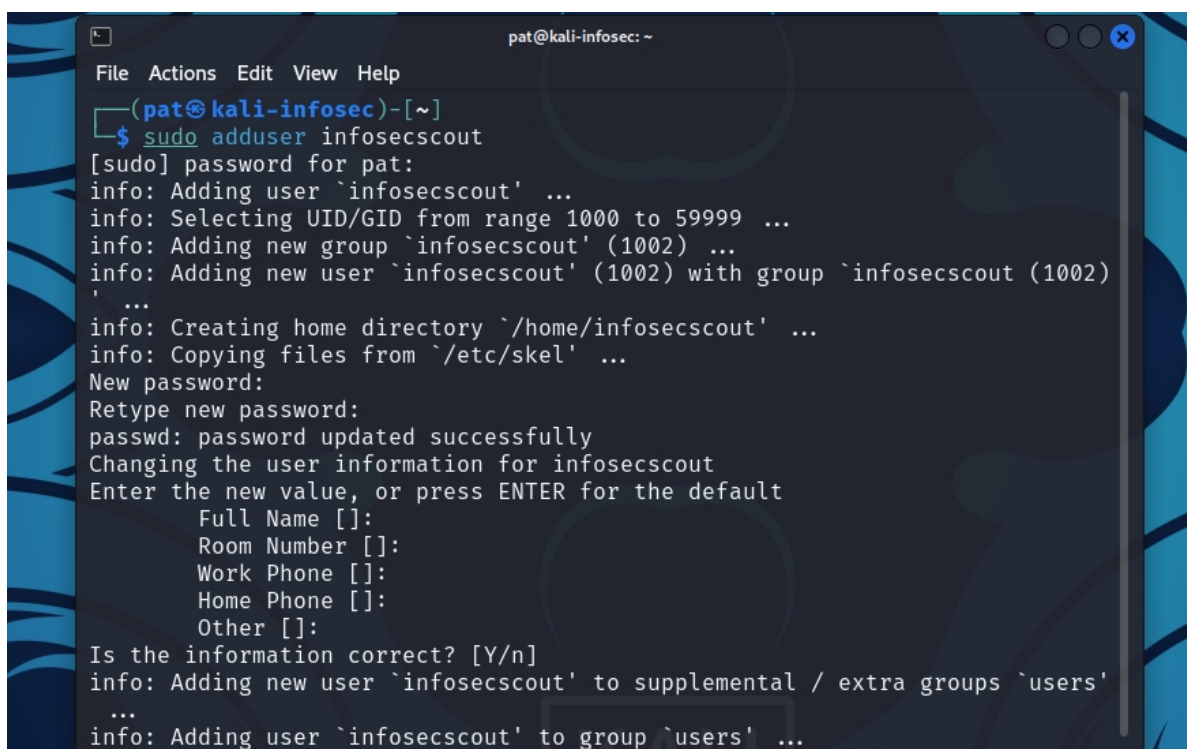
- **Open a terminal** or an SSH connection.
- **Type the following command:**

```
sudo adduser <new-username>
```

Replace the variable with the user you want to create, for example:

```
sudo adduser infosecscout
```

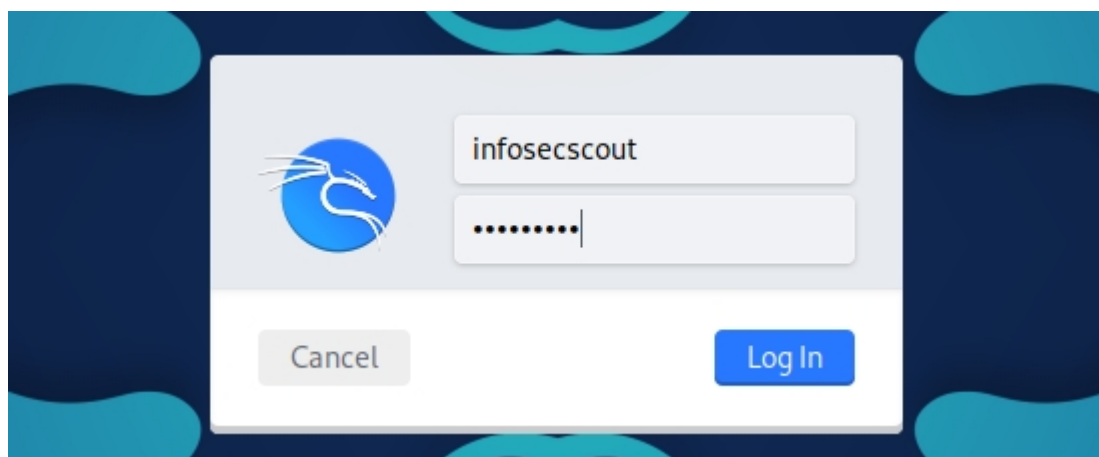
- The wizard will ask a few questions to customize the user.



```
pat@kali-infosec: ~  
File Actions Edit View Help  
(pat@kali-infosec)-[~]  
$ sudo adduser infosecscout  
[sudo] password for pat:  
info: Adding user `infosecscout' ...  
info: Selecting UID/GID from range 1000 to 59999 ...  
info: Adding new group `infosecscout' (1002) ...  
info: Adding new user `infosecscout' (1002) with group `infosecscout (1002)' ...  
info: Creating home directory `/home/infosecscout' ...  
info: Copying files from `/etc/skel' ...  
New password:  
Retype new password:  
passwd: password updated successfully  
Changing the user information for infosecscout  
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]  
info: Adding new user `infosecscout' to supplemental / extra groups `users'  
...  
info: Adding user `infosecscout' to group `users' ...
```

Except for the passwords, you can keep the default values for most of them (just press ENTER).

That's all you need to know for a basic user with no additional permissions. After doing this, you can log in right away:



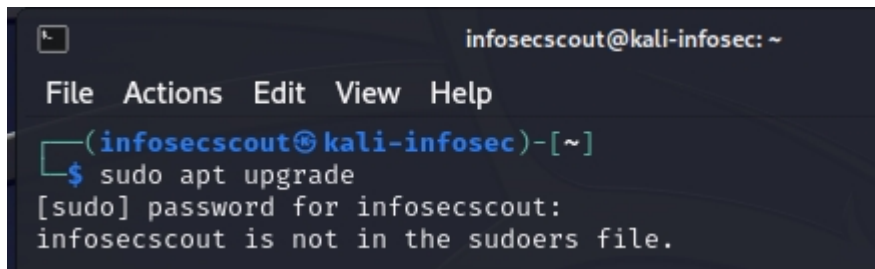
Now, as for the user creation from the GUI, you'll quickly see that the new user has basically no permissions at this point, so make sure to read the next section if you need administrative privileges for this user.

Related questions

How to add “sudo” permission to a new user?

On Kali Linux, users must be members of the “sudo” group to get access to the sudo command line, which gives them administrative privileges. The “adduser” command can again be used to do this.

By default, the new user can’t use sudo, and will typically get an error:

A terminal window with a dark background. The title bar shows 'infosecscout@kali-infosec: ~'. The menu bar has 'File', 'Actions', 'Edit', 'View', and 'Help'. The prompt is '(infosecscout@kali-infosec)-[~]'. The user enters '\$ sudo apt upgrade'. The response is '[sudo] password for infosecscout:' followed by 'infosecscout is not in the sudoers file.'

```
infosecscout@kali-infosec: ~  
File Actions Edit View Help  
(infosecscout@kali-infosec)-[~]  
$ sudo apt upgrade  
[sudo] password for infosecscout:  
infosecscout is not in the sudoers file.
```

<username> is not in the sudoers file.

The error message is not very clear on how to fix it, but on Kali Linux is pretty straightforward, the only thing you need is to add the new user to the “sudo” group.

Make sure you’re still logged in with the main user (not the new one), and follow this command syntax:

`sudo adduser <username> sudo`

So, with my previous example, it would be:

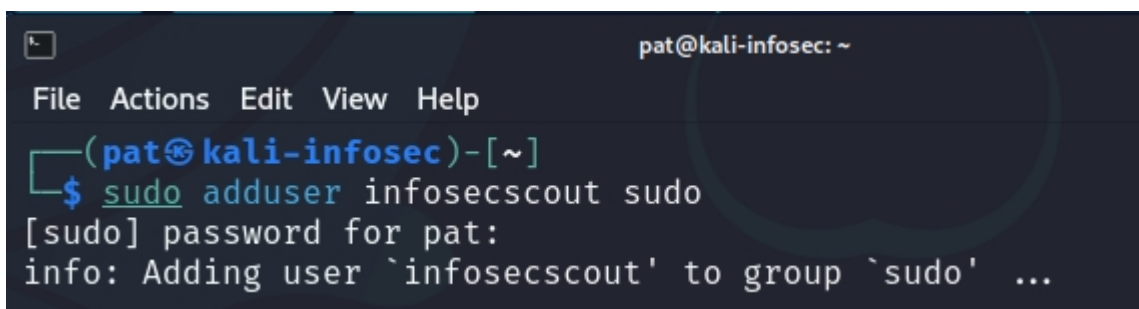
`sudo adduser infosecscout sudo`

Obviously, this must be done by a user with administrative privileges.

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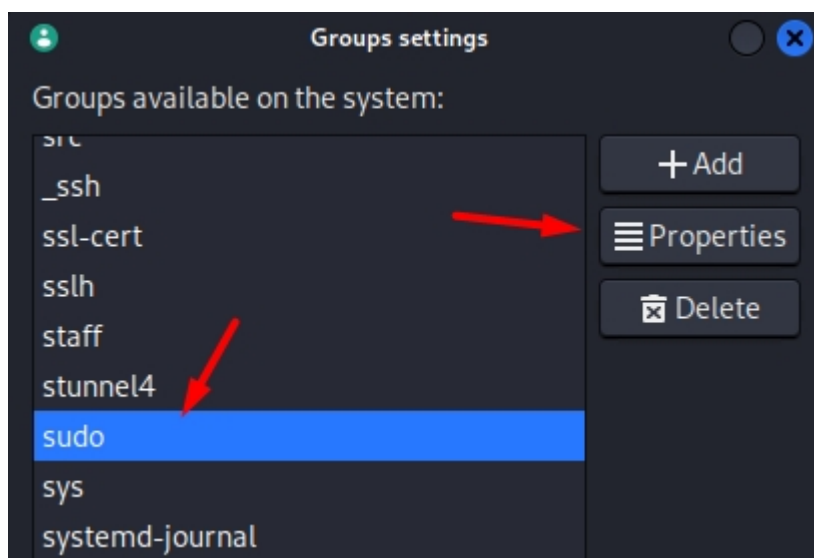
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A terminal window with a dark background. The title bar shows 'pat@kali-infosec: ~'. The menu bar has 'File', 'Actions', 'Edit', 'View', and 'Help'. The prompt is '(pat@kali-infosec)-[~]'. The user enters '\$ sudo adduser infosecscout sudo'. The response is '[sudo] password for pat:' followed by 'info: Adding user `infosecscout' to group `sudo' ...'.

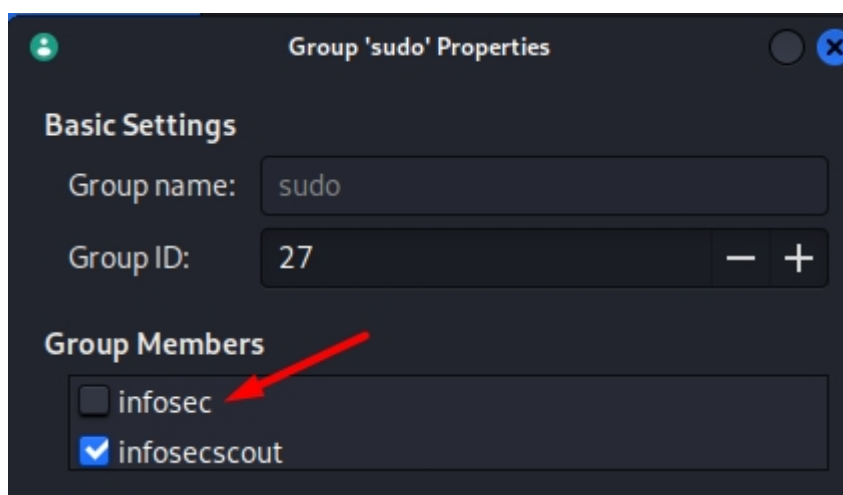
```
pat@kali-infosec: ~  
File Actions Edit View Help  
(pat@kali-infosec)-[~]  
$ sudo adduser infosecscout sudo  
[sudo] password for pat:  
info: Adding user `infosecscout' to group `sudo' ...
```

Once done, logout from your main user session, and try again from the new user session. It should be fine after that:

- Then click on “Properties” to see the groups members:



- In the new window, you'll see the group name, id and members.



You can simply check/uncheck any user to add or remove them from the group.

I wish it was this easy in other distributions, but anyway, creating a new user and managing its permissions is not that complicated in Kali Linux, and now you know how to do it in two different ways :-).

Whenever you're ready for more security, here are things you should think about:

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