# How to create a user account on Ubuntu Linux

Author: Vivek GiteLast updated: April 29, 2020

I have Ubuntu Linux 18.4/20.04 LTS server running on AWS cloud. How do I create a user account on Ubuntu Linux server using the command line? How can I add users on Ubuntu?

*Introduction* : By default, the cloud server comes with a user named ubuntu. You can use such primary user account for system admin tasks on Ubuntu. However, sometimes you need to add a new user account on Ubuntu for additional sysadmin tasks. This page shows how to create a user account or sysadmin account on the Ubuntu server.

## Steps to create a user account on Ubuntu Linux

1. Open the terminal application
2. Log in to remote box by running the `ssh user@your-ubuntu-box-ip`
3. To add a new user in Ubuntu run `sudo adduser userNameHere`
4. Enter password and other needed info to create a user account on Ubuntu server
5. New username would be added to /etc/passwd file, and encrypted password stored in the /etc/shadow file

Let us see all commands in details and

## Ubuntu create user account commands

Let us say you need to add a new user in Ubuntu called vivek, type the following command in your shell:

```
$ sudo adduser vivek
```

Type your own password and other info:



## Verification

Use the grep command or cat command as follows:

```
$ cat /etc/passwd
$ grep '^vivek' /etc/passwd
```

Sample outputs:

```
vivek:x:1001:1001:Vivek Gite,,,:/home/vivek:/bin/bash
```

## How do I log in using ssh?

From your Windows (WSL) or macOS or Linux desktop, run:

```
$ ssh vivek@your-aws-ubuntu-server-ip
```

OR

```
$ ssh -i ~/.ssh/aws.pub.key vivek@your-aws-ubuntu-server-ip
```

Enter the password when prompted.

# Creating a user account using useradd command on Ubuntu

Alternatively, you can use the useradd command is a low level utility for adding users on Ubuntu. The syntax is:

```
$ sudo useradd -s /path/to/shell -d /home/{dirname} -m -G {secondary-group} {username}
$ sudo passwd {username}
```

Let us create a new user named vivek using the useradd command on Ubuntu:

```
$ sudo useradd -s /bin/bash -d /home/vivek/ -m -G sudo vivek
$ sudo passwd vivek
```

Where,

- `-s /bin/bash` – Set /bin/bash as login shell of the new account
- `-d /home/vivek/` – Set /home/vivek/ as home directory of the new Ubuntu account
- `-m` – Create the user's home directory
- `-G sudo` – Make sure vivek user can sudo i.e. give admin access to the new account

I strongly recommend installing ssh keys while creating the new user account. You must have RSA/ed25519 key pair on your local desktop/laptop. Use the cat command to view your current RSA/ed25519 public key on the desktop:

```
$ cat ~/.ssh/id_ed25519.pub
$ cat ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub
```
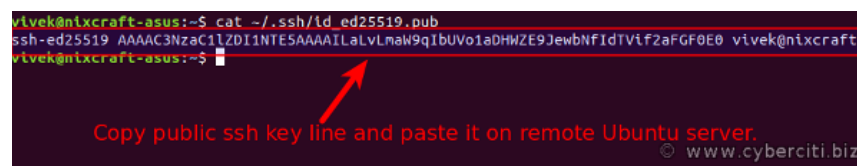


View public ssh key on your macos/unix/linux desktop

Run the following commands on your Ubuntu server to install above ~/.ssh/id_ed25519.pub key from your desktop:

```
$ sudo mkdir /home/vivek/.ssh/
$ sudo chmod 0700 /home/vivek/.ssh/
$ sudo -- sh -c "echo 'ssh-ed25519 AAAAC3NzaC1lZDI1NTE5AAAAILaLvLmaW9qIbUVo1aDHWZE9JewbNfIdTVif2aFGF0E0 vivek@nixcraft' >
/home/vivek/.ssh/authorized_keys"
$ sudo chown -R vivek:vivek /home/vivek/.ssh/
```

Now you can log in with ssh keys:

```
$ ssh vivek@your-aws-server-ip-here
```