

# Add User To Root Group In Ubuntu Linux

Every Linux operating system has a built-in superuser account. In the case of Ubuntu Linux, this user account is known as root. The root user is also a member of a Supplementary group root.

```
user@ubuntu:~$ sudo su
user@ubuntu:~$ [sudo] password user:
root@ubuntu:~#
```

## What happens when we add user to the root group

We can add user to the root group using the usermod command.

```
usermod -aG root sysadmin
```

You would expect sysadmin to have unlimited privileges to the Ubuntu system since he is now a member of the root group. But the answer is NO, the user will not get administrative privileges.


```
root@ubuntuserver:~#
root@ubuntuserver:~# usermod -aG root sysadmin
root@ubuntuserver:~#
root@ubuntuserver:~# su sysadmin
sysadmin@ubuntuserver:/root$
sysadmin@ubuntuserver:/root$ groups
sysadmin root
sysadmin@ubuntuserver:/root$
sysadmin@ubuntuserver:/root$ apt-get update
Reading package lists... Done
E: Could not open lock file /var/lib/apt/lists/lock - open (13: Permission denied)
E: Unable to lock directory /var/lib/apt/lists/
W: Problem unlinking the file /var/cache/apt/pkgcache.bin - RemoveCaches (13: Permission denied)
W: Problem unlinking the file /var/cache/apt/srcpkgcache.bin - RemoveCaches (13: Permission denied)
sysadmin@ubuntuserver:/root$ █
```

As you can see the sysadmin user does not have administrative privileges. Ubuntu prevent this as a security measure, otherwise it gives unlimited privileges to the normal user.


Granting privileges using [sudoers](#) is the preferred method in Ubuntu Linux.

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