

Su & Sudo

Working as root

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Su & Sudo

The su and sudo commands are used to run commands as root on a Linux system. Some distributions have sudo installed and active by default others don't and use su. We'll look at both and examine the advantages of sudo over su.

Second Slide

The su command will switch to another user if that user's password is known.

SU Example

```
tux@instr:~]$ su - jstudent
Password: (Enter password for jstudent)
jstudent@intr:~]$ pwd
/home/jstudent
```

Login Shell

If the user login isn't given root is assumed. The -l option assures that the complete path for the user is used.

```
tux@instr:~]$ su -l
```

```
Password: (Enter password for root)
```

```
root@intr:~]# pwd
```

```
/root
```

Login Shell

```
jstudent@intr:~]$ su
Password:
root@intr:~]# echo $PATH
/usr/local/bin:/usr/bin:/bin:/usr/games:/home/jstudent/bin
root@intr:/home/jstudent]# pwd
/home/jstudent
```

login Shell

```
jstudent@intr:~]$ su -  
Password:  
root@intr:~]# echo $PATH  
/usr/local/bin:/usr/bin:/bin:/sbin:/usr/sbin:/root/bin  
root@intr:~]# pwd  
/root
```


Su - Disadvantages

- The root password must be shared.
- Full root privileges are given.
- There is no audit trail.
- Managing many root users is hard.

User Privilege Lines

```
root ALL=(ALL:ALL) ALL
```

User Privilege Lines

```
root ALL=(ALL:ALL) ALL
```

Sudo

Examples

```
root ALL = (ALL) ALL
%wheel ALL = (ALL) ALL
```