Linux+ CertMaster Perform 8.0

2.4.10 Troubleshooting Privilege Escalation Scenarios

You field the following four phone calls in the course of your week.

Scenario 1: `su`

A user calls and says the `su` command is not responding as expected. You ask the user to type `whoami`, and the user reports the result is root. You also ask the user to type `pwd`, and the user reports that the result is their own home directory. When the user switches identities, they remain in their home directory with their profile settings. The user wants to know what prevents them from switching to root and gaining the root user's profile.

In this case, they are probably using the incorrect syntax. The user failed to include the space on both sides of the dash between the `su` command and the username, `su - root`.

Scenario 2: `sudo`

A user calls and says `sudo` is broken on their system after they edited the `/etc/sudoers` file with nano. The user wants you to fix it.

Open `/etc/sudoers` with `visudo` and allow it to identify syntax errors that nano would not have caught. Let the user know to use `visudo` in the future.

Scenario 3: Authorization

A user indicates they cannot accomplish administrative tasks for which they are authorized.

The likely problem is that they are not a member of the `wheel` group or have not been delegated the tasks directly in the `/etc/sudoers` file. The easiest solution is to add them to the `wheel` group.

Scenario 4: New Command

A user calls after attempting to run a command referenced on an Internet website. The user preceded the command with `sudo` and `pkexec`, as suggested on the site. However, the command

failed to run.

The likely problem is that the privilege has not been delegated via either `sudo` or `polkit`.