Server configuration

Server Configuration

In this section we will cover:

1. Logging In
2. Creating a new user
3. Disable root login
4. Disable password login
5.

Logging in

When you provision a new server, you will be provided a username, password, and ip address. Generally that username will beroot . Let’s log in with them now in the form ofssh username@ip .

1. Initiate login to server
2.

SSH into the server

1. TypeYes

2. Enter password

Logged into root

You are now logged into root. However, we doNOT want this as an option, so let’s fix it.

Create New User

Since we no longer want to be able to log in as root, we’ll first need to create a new user to log into.

1. Create a new user
2.

You’re going to want to choose a unique username here, as the more unique, the harder it’ll be for a bad actor to guess. We’re going to usemellamo .

```

Copy addusermellamo

```

Create user mellamo

You will then be prompted to create a password and fill in information. Don’t worry about the information, but make sure your password is complicated!

1. Give them sudo privileges

sudo is the name for “master” privileges, so we need to modify the user to add them to that group.

```

Copy usermodmellamo-aGsudo

```

1. Verify user has sudo access

```

Copy su-mellamosudols/root

```

Testing sudo privileges

Disable Root Login

Disabling root login takes away an easy method for hackers to get in. The easiest way of accessing remote servers or VPSs is via SSH and to block root user login under it, you need to edit the/etc/ssh/sshd_config file.

1. From the remote server, open /etc/ssh/sshd_config
2.

```

Copy sudonano/etc/ssh/sshd_config

```

Set PermitRootLogin to “no”

1. Save and exit sshd_config, then restart the service.

```

Copy sudosystemctlrestartsshd

```

Copy SSH key

1. Return to you local machine.
2.

```

Copy exit

```

Log out of server

1. Copy your ssh key to the server

```

Copy ssh-copy-idmellamo@{ipaddress}

```

Copy keys

1. Confirm you can login with just your SSH key

```

Copy sshmellamo@104.149.129.250

```

Log in with SSH key

Done! You can now log in exclusively with your SSH key.

Disable Password Login

Now that you can log in with just your ssh key, you should now disable password login.

1. Return to your remote server, and open /etc/ssh/sshd_config again
2.

```

Copy sudonano/etc/ssh/sshd_config

```

1. Find ChallengeResponseAuthentication and set to no:

```
```

```
Copy bbChallengeResponseAuthentication no
```

1. Next, find PasswordAuthentication set to no too:

```
Copy PasswordAuthentication no
```

1. Search for UsePAM and set to no, too:

```
Copy UsePAM no
```

1. Save and exit sshd_config, then restart the service.

```
Copy sudosystemctlrestartsshd
```

Congratulations! You can only login with your ssh key now.Be sure to back it up in case something happens to your machine!

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