Exercise 6 – Who Is The Boss

1. Review questions
2. Why is it recommended to run **su** with the hyphen (i.e. **su –** )?

The hyphen allows you to take on the environment of the user you are switching to.

1. You have issued **su root** command without the hyphen. What is your location in the filesystem?

Your location will not change from where you were on your own user

1. You are logged in as user **fred**, and you have just typed the command:   
     
   $ **sudo –u root /usr/sbin/visudo**

The **sudo** command asks you for a password. Whose password are you going to provide?

The password for root

1. What are two most important advantages of **sudo** over **su**?

Sudo is temporary token of power used to complete the task and that’s it. This prevents someone from staying logged on as root indefinitely thus allowing other people to complete their tasks.

1. Exploring su working environment
2. Log in as ordinary user, and check the value of your **PATH** variable

1. Now issue **sudo** **su**, to change identity into **root**, with **root**’s environment, and check the value of **PATH** again

1. Return to your original login then switch user identity into **root** again, this time without reading **root**’s environment. Once you are **root** again, check the value of **PATH** once more.

1. What are your conclusions regarding the **PATH** variable assignment when using **su**?

1. Basic (very basic) configuration of sudo tool
2. Log in as **root**.
3. Run the **visudo** command, to edit the **/etc/sudoers** file. This is used to give **sudo** access to users belonging to group **admin**.
4. Use the following commands to add a new user account, called **steve**, give him a password, and assign him to group **admin**:

# **useradd –m steve**

# **passwd steve**

Changing password for henry.

New password: **steve10**

Re-enter new password: **steve10**

# **groupadd admin**

# **usermod –G admin steve**

Don’t worry if you don’t fully understand the detail of the above commands, we will analyse them in a later chapter…

1. Log out and in, this time as your new user, **steve**, to see if you can edit the ***sudoers*** file again, this time as **steve**.

First, try the **/usr/sbin/visudo** command on its own. That should fail, with an appropriate error message.

1. Now run **visudo** as argument to **sudo**. Notice that we won’t modify the ***sudoers*** file on this occasion, we just want to see if we could do it if we so wished…