



TUTORIAL

How To Create a New Sudo-enabled User on Ubuntu 20.04 [Quickstart]

[Ubuntu](#) [Quickstart](#) [Ubuntu 20.04](#)By [Lyn Muldrow](#)

Posted June 22, 2020 17.4k

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Introduction

When managing a server, you'll sometimes want to allow users to execute commands as "root," the administrator-level user. The `sudo` command provides system administrators with a way to grant administrator privileges — ordinarily only available to the **root** user — to normal users.

In this tutorial, you'll learn how to create a new user with `sudo` access on Ubuntu 20.04 without having to modify your server's `/etc/sudoers` file.

Note: If you want to configure `sudo` for an existing user, skip to step 3.

Step 1 — Logging Into Your Server

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Step 2 — Adding a New User to the System

Use the `adduser` command to add a new user to your system:

```
# adduser sammy
```

Be sure to replace `sammy` with the username that you want to create. You will be prompted to create and verify a password for the user:

Output

```
Enter new UNIX password:
Retype new UNIX password:
passwd: password updated successfully
```

Next, you'll be asked to fill in some information about the new user. It is fine to accept the defaults and leave this information blank:

Output

```
Changing the user information for sammy
Enter the new value, or press ENTER for the default
  Full Name []:
  Room Number []:
  Work Phone []:
  Home Phone []:
  Other []:
Is the information correct? [Y/n]
```

Step 3 — Adding the User to the `sudo` Group

Use the `usermod` command to add the user to the **`sudo`** group:

```
# usermod -aG sudo sammy
```

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To test that the new `sudo` permissions are working, first use the `su` command to switch to the new user account:

```
# su - sammy
```

As the new user, verify that you can use `sudo` by prepending `sudo` to the command that you want to run with superuser privileges:

```
$ sudo command_to_run
```

For example, you can list the contents of the `/root` directory, which is normally only accessible to the root user:

```
$ sudo ls -la /root
```

The first time you use `sudo` in a session, you will be prompted for the password of that user's account. Enter the password to proceed:

Output:

```
[sudo] password for sammy:
```

Note: This is *not* asking for the **root** password! Enter the password of the sudo-enabled user you just created.

If your user is in the proper group and you entered the password correctly, the command that you issued with `sudo` will run with **root** privileges.

Conclusion

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If you need more detailed information on setting up an Ubuntu 20.04 server, please read our [Initial Server Setup with Ubuntu 20.04 tutorial](#).

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About the authors




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