

#### **TUTORIAL**

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

Ubuntu Quickstart Ubuntu 20.04

By Lyn Muldrow

#### Not using Ubuntu 20.04?

Choose a different version or distribution.

Ubuntu 20.04

#### 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

**Sign up for our newsletter** Get the latest tutorials on SysAdmin and open source topics.

×

## 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
```

## **Sign up for our newsletter** Get the latest tutorials on SysAdmin and open source topics.

×

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.

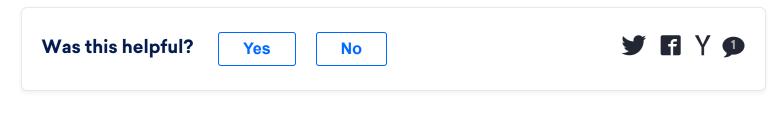
If your user is in the proper group and you entered the password correctly, the command that you issued with sudo will run with **root** privileges.

## Conclusion

**Sign up for our newsletter** Get the latest tutorials on SysAdmin and open source topics.

X

If you need more detailed information on setting up an Ubuntu 20.04 server, please read our <u>Initial</u> Server Setup with Ubuntu 20.04 tutorial.



Report an issue

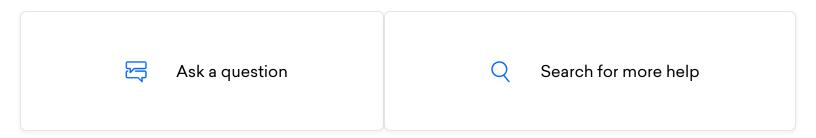
#### About the authors



# Lyn Muldrow

Software engineer, writer, and speaker who loves solving problems and educating the next generation.

# Still looking for an answer?



#### Comments

**Sign up for our newsletter** Get the latest tutorials on SysAdmin and open source topics.

×

Leave a comment...

### Sign In to Comment

- shraddha404 September 16, 2020
- <sup>0</sup> Excellent information.

Always I love to read and follow Digital Ocean tutorials.

Reply Report



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.



**Sign up for our newsletter** Get the latest tutorials on SysAdmin and open source topics.

X



#### **HUB FOR GOOD**

Working on improving health and education, reducing inequality, and spurring

economic growth? We'd like to help.



**DEPLOY: NOV 10, 2020** 

DigitalOcean's first virtual global 24-hour community conference.

Featured on Community Kubernetes Course Learn Python 3 Machine Learning in Python Getting started with Go Intro to Kubernetes

DigitalOcean Products Virtual Machines Managed Databases Managed Kubernetes Block Storage

**Sign up for our newsletter** Get the latest tutorials on SysAdmin and open source topics.

X

Over 80 tech-focused sessions, new product announcements, hourly goody giveaways, RSVP for free and join deploy today!

RSVP today!



© 2020 DigitalOcean, LLC. All rights reserved

Company	Products
About	Pricing
Leadership	Products Overview
Blog	Droplets
Careers	Kubernetes
Partners	Managed Databases
Referral Program	Spaces
Press	Marketplace
Legal	Load Balancers
Security & Trust Center	Block Storage
	API Documentation
	Documentation

Community Contact

Tutorials Get Support

&A Trouble Signing In

## **Sign up for our newsletter** Get the latest tutorials on SysAdmin and open source topics.

X

Code of Conduct

**Sign up for our newsletter** Get the latest tutorials on SysAdmin and open source topics.

X