

System

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Add user to sudo

You most likely already have `sudo` installed (should be installed by default in Debian 11). Because of that, the `sudo` group already exists and is in `/etc/sudoers` file. The only thing we have to do is add our user to the `sudo` group.

Add user to sudo group

1. Login as `root`

2. Add user `username` to `sudo` group

```
(root)$ usermod -aG sudo username
```

- `-a` adds user to a new supplementary group
- `-G` specifies the name of the group to append to the user

3. Check whether your user is in the `sudo` group

```
(root)$ groups username  
username : username cdrom floppy sudo audio dip video plugdev netdev bluetooth lpadmin scanner
```

As you can see from the output, `sudo` is one of the groups `username` is in.

4. Log out of `root`, login as your user and try to use `sudo` to execute a privileged command like `apt upgrade`. You will be prompted for a password (your user password, not `root` password). If you type it in correctly, and the command works, you have appropriate privileges, if not, you will be warned that the user isn't in the `sudoers` file.

Don't forget to actually log off `root` before logging back as your user. Your mileage may vary, but when I didn't do that, `sudo` didn't reload config and thought I wasn't in the `sudoers` file.

Disable password for sudo

If you have a really long password like me, you probably don't want to type it in every time you use `sudo`. By default, there's a timeout in `sudo` that allows you to execute multiple elevated commands before asking you for a password again. However, if you never want to be asked for a password when running `sudo`, you need to edit a configuration file.

1. Backup the current `sudoers` file in case something goes wrong.

```
$ sudo cp /etc/sudoers ~/
```

2. Edit the `sudoers` file with `visudo` to avoid making syntax mistakes (`visudo` does basic checks).

```
$ sudo visudo
```

This will happen if you make a syntax mistake:

```
/etc/sudoers:23:21: syntax error
%sudo  ALL=NOPASSWD: ALLfdsaf
                  ^~~~~~
What now? n
Options are:
(e)dit sudoers file again
e(x)it without saving changes to sudoers file
(Q)uit and save changes to sudoers file (DANGER!)
```

3. Edit the line with `%sudo` and make it look like this. `sudo` has very powerful configuration, `man sudoers` for more.

```
# Allow members of group sudo to execute any command
%sudo  ALL=NOPASSWD: ALL
```

4. Log out or reboot and test if it works.

Disable root account

You might want to disable your `root` account from logging in.

1. Disable the account (remove password)

```
$ sudo passwd -d root
```

2. Lock the account (adds `!` to `/etc/shadow`)

```
$ sudo passwd -l root
```

Now logging in as `root` shouldn't be possible, but you can still elevate to it with `sudo su`.