



By: Mitchell Anicas

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# How To Create a Sudo User on Ubuntu [Quickstart]



48

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LINUX BASICS

QUICKSTART

UBUNTU

The `sudo` command provides a mechanism for granting administrator privileges, ordinarily only available to the root user, to normal users. This guide will show you the easiest way to create a new user with sudo access on Ubuntu, without having to modify your server's `sudoers` file. If you want to configure sudo for an existing user, simply skip to step 3.

## Steps to Create a New Sudo User

1. Log in to your server as the `root` user.

```
local$ ssh root@server_ip_address
```

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

Be sure to replace `username` with the user that you want to create.

```
# adduser username
```

- Set and confirm the new user's password at the prompt. A strong password is highly recommended!

```
Set password prompts:
```

```
Enter new UNIX password:
```

```
Retype new UNIX password:
```

```
passwd: password updated successfully
```

- Follow the prompts to set the new user's information. It is fine to accept the defaults to leave all of this information blank.

```
User information prompts:
```

```
Changing the user information for username
```

```
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]
```

3. Use the `usermod` command to add the user to the `sudo` group.

```
# usermod -aG sudo username
```

By default, on Ubuntu, members of the `sudo` group have sudo privileges.

4. Test sudo access on new user account

- Use the `su` command to switch to the new user account.

```
# su - username
```

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

```
username$ sudo command_to_run
```

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

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

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

Output:

```
[sudo] password for username:
```

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

## Related Tutorials

Here is a link to a more detailed user management tutorial:

- [How To Add and Delete Users on an Ubuntu Server](#)

By: Mitchell Anicas

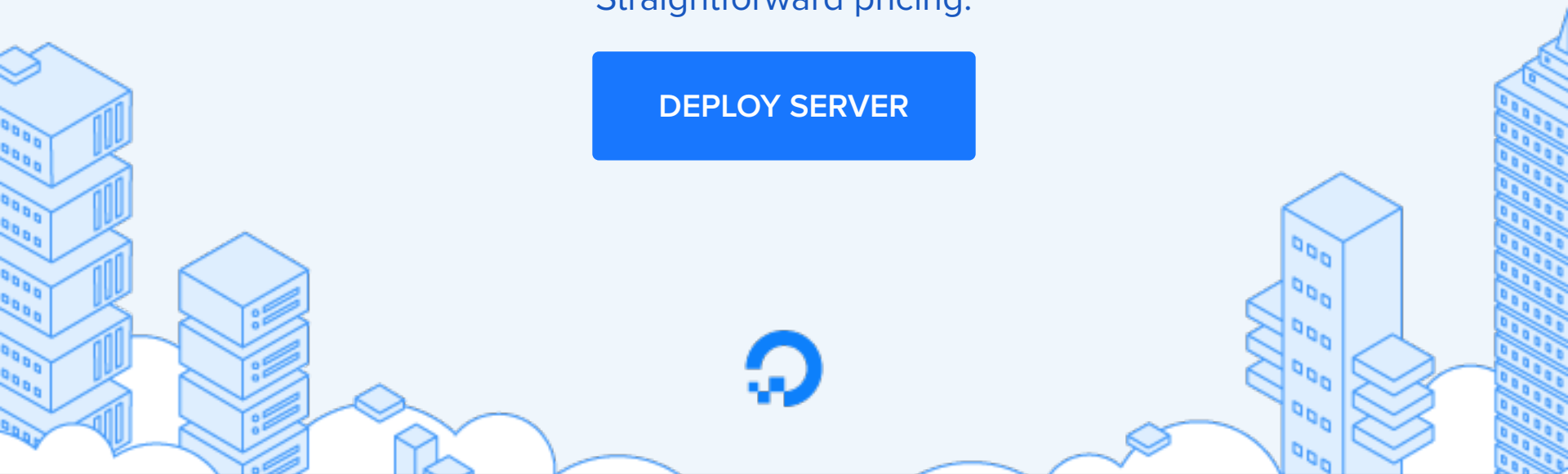
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## 9 Comments

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^ Efendi *April 1, 2016*



0

usermod: command not found

^ rogelios007 *July 16, 2016*



0

That is so helpful. Good steps by step guide.

^ kello *September 27, 2016*



0

works great. thanks :)

^ MajidMA *January 6, 2017*



0

The tutorials from digital ocean are really a good resource to learn.  
Thank you.

^ alexxsanchezm *January 17, 2017*



0

Very good tutorial, but if I do:

```
su <my_username>
cd
```

Says: "`cd: /home/<my_username>` No such file or directory"

So I created a new user but it doesn't has home directory. I would like to know if I have to create it or do I miss something.

Note: I need the new user has its home directory to install and run some services.

^ jtittle1 *March 6, 2017*



0 [@alexksanchezm](#)

You can create the home directory and then use `useradd` to set the home directory for the user.

```
mkdir -p /home/username
```

```
useradd -d /home/username username
```

Where `username` is the username of your choice.

If the username has already been added using `useradd`, then you can use `usermod`.

```
usermod -d /home/username username
```

---

 [nghiadp1](#) February 26, 2017



0 Thank you for the tutorial, I can create a new user. But the thing is I cannot use that account to connect via ssh. Would you have any suggestion?

---

 [jtittle1](#) March 6, 2017



0 [@Efendi](#)

When a new user is created, a password isn't defined yet, so you'd need to set a password for the user before you'll be able to use the user to login.

```
passwd username
```

... where `username` is the username of the user you're wanting to set or change the password for.

---

 [shwelu](#) May 12, 2017



0 Probably at the time of creation of the droplet, you have added a public SSH key which is used

for the SSH login by the root.

First ensure that there is a public SSH key in the root folder by typing:

```
# less /root/.ssh/authorized_keys
```

You should see something like this:

```
output
ssh-rsa
AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAABJQBBBQEAqrzi/H0RoVbZq+v3tGiMgmdKXPysWHBv0PILQKfM0DLN
rsa-key-20160501
```

If that is the case, copy `.ssh` folder to the home directory of the new user:

```
# cp -r /root/.ssh /home/demo
```

Now try to login as a new sudo user `demo` using SSH.



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