

How do I grant sudo privileges to an existing user? [duplicate]

Asked 12 years, 4 months ago Modified 7 years, 10 months ago Viewed 919k times



177



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[How can I add a user as a new sudoer using the command line?](#) (7 answers)

Closed 11 years ago.



I want to grant a newly created user `hduser` `sudo` privileges in Ubuntu.



I tried

```
sudo adduser hduser admin
```

but it says no admin group exists. How can I do it?

sudo

privileges

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edited Jan 23, 2013 at 15:04



jdthood

12.6k 2 49 62

asked Jul 26, 2012 at 7:42



saket

1,881 2 12 6

What is the output of `sudo visudo` ? – Mitch Jul 26, 2012 at 8:19

1 This was changed recently, which is the reason for the confusion. – Adrian Jul 26, 2012 at 8:29

`sudo adduser <username> sudo` - did the trick for me. Second sudo is the group name instead of sudo
– Jamess Sep 21, 2012 at 12:28

4 Answers

Sorted by: Highest score (default)



You need to add the user `hduser` to the `sudo` group (which is the "administrators" group in Ubuntu).

256



If you have already created the user, you can add the user to the `sudo` group by running the following command in a Terminal:



```
sudo usermod -a -G sudo hduser
```



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edited Mar 7, 2016 at 10:34

answered Jul 26, 2012 at 8:22



vabada

291 5 18



ish

141k 36 311 315

51 Note that the user must log off, then back on again for this change to take effect. – [Jacob Foshee](#) Jul 5, 2013 at 16:01

3 not working ubuntu 14 – [Ashish Ratan](#) Jan 8, 2016 at 6:23

2 Usage: `usermod [options] LOGIN` Options: `-c, --comment COMMENT` new value of the GECOS field `-d, --home HOME_DIR` new home directory for the user account `-e, --expiredate EXPIRE_DATE` set account expiration date to `EXPIRE_DATE` `-f, --inactive INACTIVE` set password inactive after expiration to `INACTIVE` `-g, --gid GROUP` force use `GROUP` as new primary group `-G, --groups GROUPS` new list of supplementary `GROUPS` `-a, --append` append the user to the supplemental `GROUPS` – [Ashish Ratan](#) Jan 8, 2016 at 6:24

No problem here using ubuntu 14. Thx. – [joedragons](#) Jan 26, 2016 at 20:09

1 FYI, In RHEL/CentOS it is: `sudo usermod -aG wheel hduser` – [jeffmcneill](#) Jul 6, 2017 at 13:13



Instead you can try,

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```
sudo adduser hduser sudo
```



In Ubuntu you need to add the user only to the group `sudo` .



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edited Feb 18, 2017 at 8:32

answered Mar 7, 2013 at 11:27



Zanna

71.6k 60 222 330



Aishwarya

381 3 3



1) Become root. You can do this using `sudo -i` or becoming root the old fashioned way `su -`

18

2) Run `visudo`



3) I changed this portion of the `sudoers` file to have my chosen users become sudo users, and you can add users similarly (blank lines introduce to format cleanly):



```
## User Aliases
## These aren't often necessary, as you can use regular groups
## (ie, from files, LDAP, NIS, etc) in this file - just use %groupname
## rather than USERALIAS
# User_Alias ADMINS = jsmith, mikem dbadmin
```

```
ALL=(ALL) ALL
ics ALL=(ALL) ALL
csm ALL=(ALL) ALL
coa ALL=(ALL) ALL
```

4) Press : and x to write the changes to sudoers and exit vi.

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edited Nov 21, 2013 at 20:14

answered May 15, 2013 at 15:47



Braiam
68.6k 32 181 271



octopusgrabbus
571 1 8 28

- 3 This seems needlessly complicated. Why bother running visudo when the [adduser command](#) will do what you want? – [Dan Dascalescu](#) Jul 11, 2014 at 9:29
- 2 @dan-dascalescu - \$ sudo adduser username sudo won't work if the 'sudo' group does not exist. So adding the user manually is certainly an option. However, it's certainly more elegant to create a sudo group, add it to the sudoers file (e.g. via visudo), then add the appropriate user(s) to that user group. – [Jarrett Barnett](#) Oct 2, 2015 at 17:47
- 1 @JarrettBarnett That was the case for me. Thank you for your answer. – [Marcel](#) Mar 21, 2016 at 22:47



Edit the sudoers file: `sudo visudo`

5

and add:



```
user ALL=(ALL:ALL) ALL
```



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edited Feb 18, 2017 at 8:30

answered May 15, 2013 at 15:52



Zanna ♦
71.6k 60 222 330



Alberto Burgos
121 1 2 5

10 Why bother editing `/etc/sudoers` when the [adduser command](#) will work? – [Dan Dascalescu](#) Jul 11, 2014 at 9:29

@Zanna You have edited `sudo visudo /etc/sudoers` Is it correct? AFAIK, it is either `sudo visudo` or `sudo nano /etc/sudoers` – [daisy](#) Feb 18, 2017 at 8:29

ah @LnuX you're right, but you should always use `visudo` to edit `/etc/sudoers` because it stops you from making a fatal syntax error. I corrected – [Zanna](#) ♦ Feb 18, 2017 at 8:32

1 @DanDascalescu maybe because for some people it doesnt work? – [The Fool](#) Dec 26, 2020 at 14:04