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Sorodo

root on Debian 11

I've used Debian for almost 10 years, but after installing Debian 11 I just can't get root. I'm not allowed to login as root, and sudo su doesn't work because my user account is not in the sudoers file! How is this supposed to work?

17

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SU -

15

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**[deleted]** • 3y ago

BTW If you don't set a root password then the first user will automatically get sudo permissions.

7

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**Sorodo OP** • 3y ago

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But in my frustration I didn't think of simply trying "su root".

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OweH_OweH • 3y ago

`sudo su` is such an anti-pattern and it is repeated all over again.

Don't do this to get a root shell, do `sudo -i` for a proper login shell instead.

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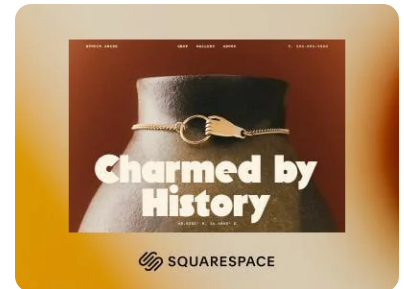


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thatmaynardguy • 3y ago

I just recently did this.

Log into root with `su - root`

Add the sudo privilege to the user with `# adduser USER sudo`

Log back to user and check `$ groups`

Read more here: <https://wiki.debian.org/sudo/>

G'luck!

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[deleted] • 3y ago

`su -`

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You either need sudo set up with you in sudoers, or a root password (or both). It's unlikely to find yourself in a situation when you have neither.

If you have a root password you use `su` .

If you have sudo set up you use `sudo` .

In both cases you log in using your regular account first, because in many/most contexts, logging in directly as root is disabled. You can simulate a root login with `su -` .

My personal preference is to use sudo, which is currently the default in new installations (ie, if you leave the root password field blank in that step of the installer). It's not too difficult to set this up after the fact.

 2  [Reply](#) ...**MaxHedrome** • 3y ago

I fell down this rabbit hole, there's a bug report with a rather vehement "won't do" response from one of the debian maintainers for not including sudo as a default package, for security reasons.

And to be fair... although I can't remember exactly what he said... logically, I went, oh shit... I guess he's right.

"su -" or "su - root" is the way... I only run into a few scripts that need to be adjusted, and ansible is easy enough to slap a "su" in the ansible.cfg

 2  [Reply](#) ... 2 more replies**michaelpaoli** • 3y ago Top 1% Commenter

Not allowed to login as root *how*? If you're trying that over ssh, by default that would be disabled ... for dang good security reasons.

If you set a root password and can't login as root, e.g. on the console, then you probably set the password to something other than what you think you did.

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