

Instructions to disable Root account on Linux

If you're a Linux user, you've probably heard the phrase 'root'. Basically root is the account that has complete control of the entire Linux system, which means that when using a root account you can change any settings on the system. This can cause extremely dangerous problems for system security, and advice if you are a 'high-end' user should use root.

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For most settings on Linux, users do not have access to root accounts. On some major Linux distributions (mostly Ubuntu), even users do not have permission to set up root passwords. In fact, the manufacturer will not tell you the password. Linux users can bypass passwords using the sudo command. This temporary command allows the user to run system management tasks without a root account.

1. Why delete Root account password?

Root account deletion is a secure system security solution. Suppose a Linux computer set up a complicated user password, but a weak root password would make it easier for unauthorized people to access it and be vulnerable.

```
root@testt-Standard-PC-i440FX-PIIX-1996: ~
testt@testt-Standard-PC-i440FX-PIIX-1996:~$ sudo -s
root@testt-Standard-PC-i440FX-PIIX-1996:~# whoami
root
root@testt-Standard-PC-i440FX-PIIX-1996:~#
```

However, if the root user account has no password, it is an advantage. Without a root password means no one can login and hackers will no longer have the opportunity to gain unauthorized access to your computer.

In addition, users can still do anything on the root account with the sudo command by entering **sudo -s** or **sudo su** .

2. Delete Root password

The process of erasing Root passwords is quite simple. First open the **Terminal** window and assign Root access. To do this you use **sudo -s** . The command will allow users to access Root without having to log in to the Root account.

To delete the root password, use the following command:

```
passwd --lock root
```

```
root@testt-Standard-PC-i440FX-PIIX-1996: ~
testt@testt-Standard-PC-i440FX-PIIX-1996:~$ sudo -s
root@testt-Standard-PC-i440FX-PIIX-1996:~# passwd --lock root
passwd: password expiry information changed.
root@testt-Standard-PC-i440FX-PIIX-1996:~#
```

The command will completely disable root login. From now on there will not be any user accounts accessible.

Alternatively, you can **delete your** current **password** and no one will know what your password is:

```
passwd -d root
```

```
testt@testt-Standard-PC-i440FX-PIIX-1996: ~
testt@testt-Standard-PC-i440FX-PIIX-1996:~$ su
Password:
su: Authentication failure
testt@testt-Standard-PC-i440FX-PIIX-1996:~$
```

To **reactivate** the root account, use the command:

sudo passwd root

```
root@testt-Standard-PC-i440FX-PIIX-1996: /home/testt
testt@testt-Standard-PC-i440FX-PIIX-1996:~$ sudo passwd root
Enter new UNIX password:
Retype new UNIX password:
passwd: password updated successfully
testt@testt-Standard-PC-i440FX-PIIX-1996:~$ su
Password:
root@testt-Standard-PC-i440FX-PIIX-1996:/home/testt# whoami
root
root@testt-Standard-PC-i440FX-PIIX-1996:/home/testt# █
```

The system will ask you to **enter a new password** in your root account that will be **reactivated** on the system with a new password.

Refer to some of the following articles:

1. Anyone should know these basic Linux commands
1. How to use Zsh (or other Shells) on Windows 10?
1. Certain deadly commands never run on Linux

Good luck!

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