

sudo command

sudo allows you to run a Unix command as a different user. Using `/etc/sudoers` file to confirm what privileges are available to you, this command effectively elevates your access rights, thus allowing you to run commands and access files which would otherwise be not available to you.

Simplest usage is: **sudo** followed by the command you want to run as **root**. You'll be asked for your password (not root's password!) and if you are allowed to use sudo, it will work like this:

```
greys@maverick:~ $ sudo whoami
Password:
root
```

As you can see from the output, `whoami` command reports that it's run by the user **root** (because sudo elevates your privileges).

There's usually no need to type password for subsequent sudo commands in the same login session. So if you're asked sudo once, you can execute multiple sudo commands in the same session and it won't ask for your password again:

```
greys@maverick:~ $ sudo whoami
Password:
root
greys@maverick:~ $ sudo id
uid=0(root)                                gid=0(wheel)
groups=0(wheel),1(daemon),2(kmem),3(sys),4(tty),5(operator),8(
procview),9(procmod),12(everyone),20(staff),29(certusers),61(l
ocalaccounts),80(admin),701(com.apple.sharepoint.group.1),33(_
appstore),98(_lpadmin),100(_lpoperator),204(_developer),250(_a
nalyticsusers),395(com.apple.access_ftp),398(com.apple.access_
screensharing),399(com.apple.access_ssh)
```

See Also

- [sudo tutorial](#)
- [visudo command](#)
- [editing /etc/sudoers file with visudo](#)
- [using sudo](#)
- [visudo tutorial](#)
- [using visudo](#)