

Use visudo to Check SUDO Config Syntax

```
greys@becky:~ $ sudo visudo -c
/etc/sudoers: parsed OK
/etc/sudoers.d/010_at-export: parsed OK
/etc/sudoers.d/010_pi-nopasswd: parsed OK
/etc/sudoers.d/README: parsed OK
```

syntax check with `visudo -c`

I'm working on a longer post about editing sudoers with visudo or editing `/etc/sudoers` directly (you should avoid this if possible), but for now here's just a quick note on a visudo command functionality that I find really useful.

IMPORTANT: if possible, edit sudoers files from interactive root shell – meaning you are root already, so there's a chance to troubleshoot if something went wrong.

Two Main Ways of Using visudo

Primary usage of [visudo](#) is interactive: you run the command and it helps you edit the `/etc/sudoers` file.

Secondary usage is syntax check of all the sudoers config – that's what I'm going to show today.

Use visudo to Check Config Syntax

Run **visudo** with the **-c** option to have it check all the SUDO config files – the **/etc/sudoers** file and any includes from **/etc/sudoers.d** directory:

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```

How Broken Syntax is Reported by visudo

```
root@becky:~ # visudo -c
/etc/sudoers: syntax error near line 10 <<<
      parse error in /etc/sudoers near line 10
```

As noted above, I'm running **visudo** from interactive shell – so even though in this example sudoers is broken, I can still fix it by editing the file directly (because I'm still root).

In this example above, I need to **vi /etc/sudoers** and check line 10 in the file.

IMPORTANT: Once changes are made, re-run **visudo -c** to make sure configs are correct now. Do NOT leave your root session – log into the same server separately and try **sudo** commands to check.

See Also

- [sudo command](#)
- [sudo meaning](#)
- [visudo command](#)
- [How To Use visudo](#)