

NAME

sudoers - default sudo security policy module

DESCRIPTION

The *sudoers* policy module determines a user's **sudo** privileges. It is the default **sudo** policy plugin. The policy is driven by the */etc/sudoers* file or, optionally in LDAP. The policy format is described in detail in the *SUDOERS FILE FORMAT* section. For information on storing *sudoers* policy information in LDAP, please see *sudoers.ldap(5)*.

Authentication and logging

The *sudoers* security policy requires that most users authenticate themselves before they can use **sudo**. A password is not required if the invoking user is root, if the target user is the same as the invoking user, or if the policy has disabled authentication for the user or command. Unlike *su(1)*, when *sudoers* requires authentication, it validates the invoking user's credentials, not the target user's (or root's) credentials. This can be changed via the *rootpw*, *targetpw* and *runaspw* flags, described later.

If a user who is not listed in the policy tries to run a command via **sudo**, mail is sent to the proper authorities. The address used for such mail is configurable via the *mailto* Defaults entry (described later) and defaults to root.

Note that mail will not be sent if an unauthorized user tries to run **sudo** with the **-l** or **-v** option. This allows users to determine for themselves whether or not they are allowed to use **sudo**.

If **sudo** is run by root and the *SUDO_USER* environment variable is set, the *sudoers* policy will use this value to determine who the actual user is. This can be used by a user to log commands through *sudo* even when a root shell has been invoked. It also allows the **-e** option to remain useful even when invoked via a *sudo-run* script or program. Note, however, that the *sudoers* lookup is still done for root, not the user specified by *SUDO_USER*.

sudoers uses time stamp files for credential caching. Once a user has been authenticated, the time stamp is updated and the user may then use *sudo* without a password for a short period of time (5 minutes unless overridden by the *timeout* option). By default, *sudoers* uses a tty-based time stamp which means that there is a separate time stamp for each of a user's login sessions. The *tty_tickets* option can be disabled to force the use of a single time stamp for all of a user's sessions.

sudoers can log both successful and unsuccessful attempts (as well as errors) to *syslog(3)*, a log file, or both. By default, *sudoers* will log via *syslog(3)* but this is changeable via the *syslog* and *logfile* Defaults settings.

sudoers also supports logging a command's input and output streams. I/O logging is not on by default

but can be enabled using the *log_input* and *log_output* Defaults flags as well as the LOG_INPUT and LOG_OUTPUT command tags.

Command environment

Since environment variables can influence program behavior, *sudoers* provides a means to restrict which variables from the user's environment are inherited by the command to be run. There are two distinct ways *sudoers* can deal with environment variables.

By default, the *env_reset* option is enabled. This causes commands to be executed with a new, minimal environment. On AIX (and Linux systems without PAM), the environment is initialized with the contents of the */etc/environment* file. On BSD systems, if the *use_loginclass* option is enabled, the environment is initialized based on the *path* and *setenv* settings in */etc/login.conf*. The new environment contains the TERM, PATH, HOME, MAIL, SHELL, LOGNAME, USER, USERNAME and SUDO_* variables in addition to variables from the invoking process permitted by the *env_check* and *env_keep* options. This is effectively a whitelist for environment variables.

If, however, the *env_reset* option is disabled, any variables not explicitly denied by the *env_check* and *env_delete* options are inherited from the invoking process. In this case, *env_check* and *env_delete* behave like a blacklist. Since it is not possible to blacklist all potentially dangerous environment variables, use of the default *env_reset* behavior is encouraged.

In all cases, environment variables with a value beginning with () are removed as they could be interpreted as **bash** functions. The list of environment variables that **sudo** allows or denies is contained in the output of “`sudo -V`” when run as root.

Note that the dynamic linker on most operating systems will remove variables that can control dynamic linking from the environment of setuid executables, including **sudo**. Depending on the operating system this may include *_RLD**, *DYLD_**, *LD_**, *LDR_**, *LIBPATH*, *SHLIB_PATH*, and others. These type of variables are removed from the environment before **sudo** even begins execution and, as such, it is not possible for **sudo** to preserve them.

As a special case, if **sudo**'s **-i** option (initial login) is specified, *sudoers* will initialize the environment regardless of the value of *env_reset*. The DISPLAY, PATH and TERM variables remain unchanged; HOME, MAIL, SHELL, USER, and LOGNAME are set based on the target user. On AIX (and Linux systems without PAM), the contents of */etc/environment* are also included. On BSD systems, if the *use_loginclass* option is enabled, the *path* and *setenv* variables in */etc/login.conf* are also applied. All other environment variables are removed.

Finally, if the *env_file* option is defined, any variables present in that file will be set to their specified values as long as they would not conflict with an existing environment variable.

SUDOERS FILE FORMAT

The *sudoers* file is composed of two types of entries: aliases (basically variables) and user specifications (which specify who may run what).

When multiple entries match for a user, they are applied in order. Where there are multiple matches, the last match is used (which is not necessarily the most specific match).

The *sudoers* grammar will be described below in Extended Backus-Naur Form (EBNF). Don't despair if you are unfamiliar with EBNF; it is fairly simple, and the definitions below are annotated.

Quick guide to EBNF

EBNF is a concise and exact way of describing the grammar of a language. Each EBNF definition is made up of *production rules*. E.g.,

```
symbol ::= definition | alternate1 | alternate2 ...
```

Each *production rule* references others and thus makes up a grammar for the language. EBNF also contains the following operators, which many readers will recognize from regular expressions. Do not, however, confuse them with “wildcard” characters, which have different meanings.

- ? Means that the preceding symbol (or group of symbols) is optional. That is, it may appear once or not at all.
- * Means that the preceding symbol (or group of symbols) may appear zero or more times.
- + Means that the preceding symbol (or group of symbols) may appear one or more times.

Parentheses may be used to group symbols together. For clarity, we will use single quotes (') to designate what is a verbatim character string (as opposed to a symbol name).

Aliases

There are four kinds of aliases: *User_Alias*, *Runas_Alias*, *Host_Alias* and *Cmnd_Alias*.

```
Alias ::= 'User_Alias' User_Alias (':' User_Alias)* |
        'Runas_Alias' Runas_Alias (':' Runas_Alias)* |
        'Host_Alias' Host_Alias (':' Host_Alias)* |
        'Cmnd_Alias' Cmnd_Alias (':' Cmnd_Alias)*
```

```
User_Alias ::= NAME '=' User_List
```

```
Runas_Alias ::= NAME '=' Runas_List
```

```
Host_Alias ::= NAME '=' Host_List
```

```
Cmnd_Alias ::= NAME '=' Cmnd_List
```

```
NAME ::= [A-Z]([A-Z][0-9_]*)
```

Each *alias* definition is of the form

```
Alias_Type NAME = item1, item2, ...
```

where *Alias_Type* is one of *User_Alias*, *Runas_Alias*, *Host_Alias*, or *Cmnd_Alias*. A *NAME* is a string of uppercase letters, numbers, and underscore characters ('_'). A *NAME* **must** start with an uppercase letter. It is possible to put several alias definitions of the same type on a single line, joined by a colon (':'). E.g.,

```
Alias_Type NAME = item1, item2, item3 : NAME = item4, item5
```

The definitions of what constitutes a valid *alias* member follow.

```
User_List ::= User |
             User ',' User_List
```

```
User ::= '!'* user name |
         '!'* #uid |
         '!'* %group |
         '!'* %#gid |
         '!'* +netgroup |
         '!'* %:nonunix_group |
         '!'* %:#nonunix_gid |
         '!'* User_Alias
```

A *User_List* is made up of one or more user names, user IDs (prefixed with '#'), system group names and IDs (prefixed with '%' and '%#' respectively), netgroups (prefixed with '+'), non-Unix group names and IDs (prefixed with '%:' and '%:#' respectively) and *User_Aliases*. Each list item may be prefixed with zero or more '!' operators. An odd number of '!' operators negate the value of the item; an even number just cancel each other out.

A user name, uid, group, gid, netgroup, nonunix_group or nonunix_gid may be enclosed in double

quotes to avoid the need for escaping special characters. Alternately, special characters may be specified in escaped hex mode, e.g. `\x20` for space. When using double quotes, any prefix characters must be included inside the quotes.

The actual `nonunix_group` and `nonunix_gid` syntax depends on the underlying group provider plugin (see the `group_plugin` description below). For instance, the QAS AD plugin supports the following formats:

- Group in the same domain: `"%:Group Name"`
- Group in any domain: `"%:Group Name@FULLY.QUALIFIED.DOMAIN"`
- Group SID: `"%:S-1-2-34-5678901234-5678901234-5678901234-567"`

Note that quotes around group names are optional. Unquoted strings must use a backslash (`\`) to escape spaces and special characters. See *Other special characters and reserved words* for a list of characters that need to be escaped.

```
Runas_List ::= Runas_Member |
             Runas_Member ',' Runas_List
```

```
Runas_Member ::= '!'* user name |
               '!'* #uid |
               '!'* %group |
               '!'* %#gid |
               '!'* %:nonunix_group |
               '!'* %:#nonunix_gid |
               '!'* +netgroup |
               '!'* Runas_Alias
```

A `Runas_List` is similar to a `User_List` except that instead of `User_Aliases` it can contain `Runas_Aliases`. Note that user names and groups are matched as strings. In other words, two users (groups) with the same uid (gid) are considered to be distinct. If you wish to match all user names with the same uid (e.g. root and toor), you can use a uid instead (#0 in the example given).

```
Host_List ::= Host |
            Host ',' Host_List
```

```
Host ::= '!'* host name |
        '!'* ip_addr |
```

```
'!* network(/netmask)? |
'!* +netgroup |
'!* Host_Alias
```

A `Host_List` is made up of one or more host names, IP addresses, network numbers, netgroups (prefixed with '+') and other aliases. Again, the value of an item may be negated with the '!' operator. If you do not specify a netmask along with the network number, **sudo** will query each of the local host's network interfaces and, if the network number corresponds to one of the hosts's network interfaces, the corresponding netmask will be used. The netmask may be specified either in standard IP address notation (e.g. 255.255.255.0 or ffff:ffff:ffff:ffff:), or CIDR notation (number of bits, e.g. 24 or 64). A host name may include shell-style wildcards (see the *Wildcards* section below), but unless the host name command on your machine returns the fully qualified host name, you'll need to use the *fqdn* option for wildcards to be useful. Note that **sudo** only inspects actual network interfaces; this means that IP address 127.0.0.1 (localhost) will never match. Also, the host name 'localhost' will only match if that is the actual host name, which is usually only the case for non-networked systems.

```
Cmnd_List ::= Cmnd |
            Cmnd ',' Cmnd_List
```

```
command name ::= file name |
                file name args |
                file name ""
```

```
Cmnd ::= '!'* command name |
        '!'* directory |
        '!'* "sudoedit" |
        '!'* Cmnd_Alias
```

A `Cmnd_List` is a list of one or more command names, directories, and other aliases. A command name is a fully qualified file name which may include shell-style wildcards (see the *Wildcards* section below). A simple file name allows the user to run the command with any arguments he/she wishes. However, you may also specify command line arguments (including wildcards). Alternately, you can specify "" to indicate that the command may only be run **without** command line arguments. A directory is a fully qualified path name ending in a '/'. When you specify a directory in a `Cmnd_List`, the user will be able to run any file within that directory (but not in any sub-directories therein).

If a `Cmnd` has associated command line arguments, then the arguments in the `Cmnd` must match exactly those given by the user on the command line (or match the wildcards if there are any). Note that the following characters must be escaped with a '\': '; ': '=' \. The special command "sudoedit" is used to permit a user to run **sudo** with the **-e** option (or as

sudoedit). It may take command line arguments just as a normal command does.

Defaults

Certain configuration options may be changed from their default values at run-time via one or more `Default_Entry` lines. These may affect all users on any host, all users on a specific host, a specific user, a specific command, or commands being run as a specific user. Note that per-command entries may not include command line arguments. If you need to specify arguments, define a `Cmnd_Alias` and reference that instead.

```
Default_Type ::= 'Defaults' |
                'Defaults' '@' Host_List |
                'Defaults' ':' User_List |
                'Defaults' '!' Cmnd_List |
                'Defaults' '>' Runas_List
```

```
Default_Entry ::= Default_Type Parameter_List
```

```
Parameter_List ::= Parameter |
                  Parameter ',' Parameter_List
```

```
Parameter ::= Parameter '=' Value |
              Parameter '+=' Value |
              Parameter '-=' Value |
              '!' * Parameter
```

Parameters may be **flags**, **integer** values, **strings**, or **lists**. Flags are implicitly boolean and can be turned off via the `!` operator. Some integer, string and list parameters may also be used in a boolean context to disable them. Values may be enclosed in double quotes (`""`) when they contain multiple words. Special characters may be escaped with a backslash (`\`).

Lists have two additional assignment operators, `+=` and `-=`. These operators are used to add to and delete from a list respectively. It is not an error to use the `-=` operator to remove an element that does not exist in a list.

Defaults entries are parsed in the following order: generic, host and user Defaults first, then runas Defaults and finally command defaults.

See *SUDOERS OPTIONS* for a list of supported Defaults parameters.

User specification

```
User_Spec ::= User_List Host_List '=' Cmnd_Spec_List \
            (' Host_List '=' Cmnd_Spec_List)*
```

```
Cmnd_Spec_List ::= Cmnd_Spec |
                Cmnd_Spec ',' Cmnd_Spec_List
```

```
Cmnd_Spec ::= Runas_Spec? SELinux_Spec? Solaris_Priv_Spec? Tag_Spec* Cmnd
```

```
Runas_Spec ::= '(' Runas_List? (' Runas_List)? ')'
```

```
SELinux_Spec ::= ('ROLE=role' | 'TYPE=type')
```

```
Solaris_Priv_Spec ::= ('PRIVS=privset' | 'LIMITPRIVS=privset')
```

```
Tag_Spec ::= ('NOPASSWD:' | 'PASSWD:' | 'NOEXEC:' | 'EXEC:' |
             'SETENV:' | 'NOSETENV:' | 'LOG_INPUT:' | 'NOLOG_INPUT:' |
             'LOG_OUTPUT:' | 'NOLOG_OUTPUT:')
```

A **user specification** determines which commands a user may run (and as what user) on specified hosts. By default, commands are run as **root**, but this can be changed on a per-command basis.

The basic structure of a user specification is “who where = (as_whom) what”. Let’s break that down into its constituent parts:

Runas_Spec

A `Runas_Spec` determines the user and/or the group that a command may be run as. A fully-specified `Runas_Spec` consists of two `Runas_Lists` (as defined above) separated by a colon (‘:’) and enclosed in a set of parentheses. The first `Runas_List` indicates which users the command may be run as via `sudo`’s **-u** option. The second defines a list of groups that can be specified via `sudo`’s **-g** option. If both `Runas_Lists` are specified, the command may be run with any combination of users and groups listed in their respective `Runas_Lists`. If only the first is specified, the command may be run as any user in the list but no **-g** option may be specified. If the first `Runas_List` is empty but the second is specified, the command may be run as the invoking user with the group set to any listed in the `Runas_List`. If both `Runas_Lists` are empty, the command may only be run as the invoking user. If no `Runas_Spec` is specified the command may be run as **root** and no group may be specified.

A `Runas_Spec` sets the default for the commands that follow it. What this means is that for the entry:

```
dgb boulder = (operator) /bin/ls, /bin/kill, /usr/bin/lprm
```


The user **dgb** may run `/bin/ls`, `/bin/kill`, and `/usr/bin/lprm`--but only as **operator**. E.g.,

```
$ sudo -u operator /bin/ls
```

It is also possible to override a `Runas_Spec` later on in an entry. If we modify the entry like so:

```
dgb boulder = (operator) /bin/ls, (root) /bin/kill, /usr/bin/lprm
```

Then user **dgb** is now allowed to run `/bin/ls` as **operator**, but `/bin/kill` and `/usr/bin/lprm` as **root**.

We can extend this to allow **dgb** to run `/bin/ls` with either the user or group set to **operator**:

```
dgb boulder = (operator : operator) /bin/ls, (root) /bin/kill,\
    /usr/bin/lprm
```

Note that while the group portion of the `Runas_Spec` permits the user to run as command with that group, it does not force the user to do so. If no group is specified on the command line, the command will run with the group listed in the target user's password database entry. The following would all be permitted by the sudoers entry above:

```
$ sudo -u operator /bin/ls
$ sudo -u operator -g operator /bin/ls
$ sudo -g operator /bin/ls
```

In the following example, user **tcm** may run commands that access a modem device file with the dialer group.

```
tcm boulder = (:dialer) /usr/bin/tip, /usr/bin/cu,\
    /usr/local/bin/minicom
```

Note that in this example only the group will be set, the command still runs as user **tcm**. E.g.

```
$ sudo -g dialer /usr/bin/cu
```

Multiple users and groups may be present in a `Runas_Spec`, in which case the user may select any combination of users and groups via the **-u** and **-g** options. In this example:

```
alan ALL = (root, bin : operator, system) ALL
```

user **alan** may run any command as either user `root` or `bin`, optionally setting the group to `operator` or

system.

SELinux_Spec

On systems with SELinux support, *sudoers* entries may optionally have an SELinux role and/or type associated with a command. If a role or type is specified with the command it will override any default values specified in *sudoers*. A role or type specified on the command line, however, will supersede the values in *sudoers*.

Solaris_Priv_Spec

On Solaris systems, *sudoers* entries may optionally specify Solaris privilege set and/or limit privilege set associated with a command. If privileges or limit privileges are specified with the command it will override any default values specified in *sudoers*.

A privilege set is a comma-separated list of privilege names. The `ppriv(1)` command can be used to list all privileges known to the system. For example:

```
$ ppriv -l
```

In addition, there are several “special” privilege strings:

none	the empty set
all	the set of all privileges
zone	the set of all privileges available in the current zone
basic	the default set of privileges normal users are granted at login time

Privileges can be excluded from a set by prefixing the privilege name with either an ‘!’ or ‘-’ character.

Tag_Spec

A command may have zero or more tags associated with it. There are ten possible tag values: `NOPASSWD`, `PASSWD`, `NOEXEC`, `EXEC`, `SETENV`, `NOSETENV`, `LOG_INPUT`, `NOLOG_INPUT`, `LOG_OUTPUT` and `NOLOG_OUTPUT`. Once a tag is set on a `Cmnd`, subsequent `Cmnds` in the `Cmnd_Spec_List`, inherit the tag unless it is overridden by the opposite tag (in other words, `PASSWD` overrides `NOPASSWD` and `NOEXEC` overrides `EXEC`).

NOPASSWD and *PASSWD*

By default, **sudo** requires that a user authenticate him or herself before running a command. This

behavior can be modified via the NOPASSWD tag. Like a *Runas_Spec*, the NOPASSWD tag sets a default for the commands that follow it in the *Cmnd_Spec_List*. Conversely, the PASSWD tag can be used to reverse things. For example:

```
ray  rushmore = NOPASSWD: /bin/kill, /bin/ls, /usr/bin/lprm
```

would allow the user **ray** to run */bin/kill*, */bin/ls*, and */usr/bin/lprm* as **root** on the machine *rushmore* without authenticating himself. If we only want **ray** to be able to run */bin/kill* without a password the entry would be:

```
ray  rushmore = NOPASSWD: /bin/kill, PASSWD: /bin/ls, /usr/bin/lprm
```

Note, however, that the PASSWD tag has no effect on users who are in the group specified by the *exempt_group* option.

By default, if the NOPASSWD tag is applied to any of the entries for a user on the current host, he or she will be able to run “*sudo -l*” without a password. Additionally, a user may only run “*sudo -v*” without a password if the NOPASSWD tag is present for all a user’s entries that pertain to the current host. This behavior may be overridden via the *verifypw* and *listpw* options.

NOEXEC and *EXEC*

If **sudo** has been compiled with *noexec* support and the underlying operating system supports it, the NOEXEC tag can be used to prevent a dynamically-linked executable from running further commands itself.

In the following example, user **aaron** may run */usr/bin/more* and */usr/bin/vi* but shell escapes will be disabled.

```
aaron  shanty = NOEXEC: /usr/bin/more, /usr/bin/vi
```

See the *Preventing shell escapes* section below for more details on how NOEXEC works and whether or not it will work on your system.

SETENV and *NOSETENV*

These tags override the value of the *setenv* option on a per-command basis. Note that if SETENV has been set for a command, the user may disable the *env_reset* option from the command line via the **-E** option. Additionally, environment variables set on the command line are not subject to the restrictions imposed by *env_check*, *env_delete*, or *env_keep*. As such, only trusted users should be allowed to set

variables in this manner. If the command matched is **ALL**, the SETENV tag is implied for that command; this default may be overridden by use of the NOSETENV tag.

LOG_INPUT and *NOLOG_INPUT*

These tags override the value of the *log_input* option on a per-command basis. For more information, see the description of *log_input* in the *SUDOERS OPTIONS* section below.

LOG_OUTPUT and *NOLOG_OUTPUT*

These tags override the value of the *log_output* option on a per-command basis. For more information, see the description of *log_output* in the *SUDOERS OPTIONS* section below.

Wildcards

sudo allows shell-style *wildcards* (aka meta or glob characters) to be used in host names, path names and command line arguments in the *sudoers* file. Wildcard matching is done via the `glob(3)` and `fnmatch(3)` functions as specified by IEEE Std 1003.1 (“POSIX.1”). Note that these are *not* regular expressions.

- * Matches any set of zero or more characters.
- ? Matches any single character.
- [...] Matches any character in the specified range.
- [!...] Matches any character **not** in the specified range.
- \x For any character ‘x’, evaluates to ‘x’. This is used to escape special characters such as: ‘*’, ‘?’, ‘[’, and ‘]’.

Character classes may also be used if your system’s `glob(3)` and `fnmatch(3)` functions support them. However, because the ‘:’ character has special meaning in *sudoers*, it must be escaped. For example:

```
/bin/l[alpha]*
```

Would match any file name beginning with a letter.

Note that a forward slash (‘/’) will **not** be matched by wildcards used in the path name. This is to make a path like:

```
/usr/bin/*
```

match */usr/bin/who* but not */usr/bin/X11/xterm*.

When matching the command line arguments, however, a slash **does** get matched by wildcards since command line arguments may contain arbitrary strings and not just path names.

Wildcards in command line arguments should be used with care. Because command line arguments are matched as a single, concatenated string, a wildcard such as '?' or '*' can match multiple words. For example, while a sudoers entry like:

```
%operator ALL = /bin/cat /var/log/messages*
```

will allow command like:

```
$ sudo cat /var/log/messages.1
```

It will also allow:

```
$ sudo cat /var/log/messages /etc/shadow
```

which is probably not what was intended.

Exceptions to wildcard rules

The following exceptions apply to the above rules:

"" If the empty string "" is the only command line argument in the *sudoers* entry it means that command is not allowed to be run with **any** arguments.

sudoedit Command line arguments to the *sudoedit* built-in command should always be path names, so a forward slash ('/') will not be matched by a wildcard.

Including other files from within sudoers

It is possible to include other *sudoers* files from within the *sudoers* file currently being parsed using the `#include` and `#includedir` directives.

This can be used, for example, to keep a site-wide *sudoers* file in addition to a local, per-machine file. For the sake of this example the site-wide *sudoers* will be */etc/sudoers* and the per-machine one will be */etc/sudoers.local*. To include */etc/sudoers.local* from within */etc/sudoers* we would use the following line in */etc/sudoers*:

```
#include /etc/sudoers.local
```

When **sudo** reaches this line it will suspend processing of the current file (*/etc/sudoers*) and switch to */etc/sudoers.local*. Upon reaching the end of */etc/sudoers.local*, the rest of */etc/sudoers* will be processed. Files that are included may themselves include other files. A hard limit of 128 nested include files is enforced to prevent include file loops.

If the path to the include file is not fully-qualified (does not begin with a `'/'`, it must be located in the same directory as the sudoers file it was included from. For example, if */etc/sudoers* contains the line:

```
#include sudoers.local
```

the file that will be included is */etc/sudoers.local*.

The file name may also include the `%h` escape, signifying the short form of the host name. In other words, if the machine's host name is "xerxes", then

```
#include /etc/sudoers.%h
```

will cause **sudo** to include the file */etc/sudoers.xerxes*.

The `#includedir` directive can be used to create a *sudo.d* directory that the system package manager can drop *sudoers* rules into as part of package installation. For example, given:

```
#includedir /etc/sudoers.d
```

sudo will read each file in */etc/sudoers.d*, skipping file names that end in `'~'` or contain a `'.'` character to avoid causing problems with package manager or editor temporary/backup files. Files are parsed in sorted lexical order. That is, */etc/sudoers.d/01_first* will be parsed before */etc/sudoers.d/10_second*. Be aware that because the sorting is lexical, not numeric, */etc/sudoers.d/1_whoops* would be loaded **after** */etc/sudoers.d/10_second*. Using a consistent number of leading zeroes in the file names can be used to avoid such problems.

Note that unlike files included via `#include`, **visudo** will not edit the files in a `#includedir` directory unless one of them contains a syntax error. It is still possible to run **visudo** with the `-f` flag to edit the files directly.

Other special characters and reserved words

The pound sign (`#`) is used to indicate a comment (unless it is part of a `#include` directive or unless it occurs in the context of a user name and is followed by one or more digits, in which case it is treated as a uid). Both the comment character and any text after it, up to the end of the line, are ignored.

The reserved word **ALL** is a built-in *alias* that always causes a match to succeed. It can be used wherever one might otherwise use a *Cmnd_Alias*, *User_Alias*, *Runas_Alias*, or *Host_Alias*. You should not try to define your own *alias* called **ALL** as the built-in *alias* will be used in preference to your own. Please note that using **ALL** can be dangerous since in a command context, it allows the user to run **any** command on the system.

An exclamation point (!) can be used as a logical *not* operator in a list or *alias* as well as in front of a *Cmnd*. This allows one to exclude certain values. For the ! operator to be effective, there must be something for it to exclude. For example, to match all users except for root one would use:

```
ALL,!root
```

If the **ALL**, is omitted, as in:

```
!root
```

it would explicitly deny root but not match any other users. This is different from a true “negation” operator.

Note, however, that using a ! in conjunction with the built-in **ALL** *alias* to allow a user to run “all but a few” commands rarely works as intended (see *SECURITY NOTES* below).

Long lines can be continued with a backslash (\) as the last character on the line.

White space between elements in a list as well as special syntactic characters in a *User Specification* (=, :, (,)) is optional.

The following characters must be escaped with a backslash (\) when used as part of a word (e.g. a user name or host name): !, =, :, ;, (,), \.

SUDOERS OPTIONS

sudo's behavior can be modified by *Default_Entry* lines, as explained earlier. A list of all supported Defaults parameters, grouped by type, are listed below.

Boolean Flags:

always_set_home If enabled, **sudo** will set the HOME environment variable to the home directory of the target user (which is root unless the **-u** option is used). This effectively means that the **-H** option is always implied. Note that HOME is already set when the the *env_reset* option is enabled, so *always_set_home* is only effective for

- configurations where either *env_reset* is disabled or HOME is present in the *env_keep* list. This flag is *off* by default.
- authenticate** If set, users must authenticate themselves via a password (or other means of authentication) before they may run commands. This default may be overridden via the **PASSWD** and **NOPASSWD** tags. This flag is *on* by default.
- closefrom_override** If set, the user may use **sudo**'s **-C** option which overrides the default starting point at which **sudo** begins closing open file descriptors. This flag is *off* by default.
- compress_io** If set, and **sudo** is configured to log a command's input or output, the I/O logs will be compressed using **zlib**. This flag is *on* by default when **sudo** is compiled with **zlib** support.
- env_editor** If set, **visudo** will use the value of the **EDITOR** or **VISUAL** environment variables before falling back on the default editor list. Note that this may create a security hole as it allows the user to run any arbitrary command as root without logging. A safer alternative is to place a colon-separated list of editors in the editor variable. **visudo** will then only use the **EDITOR** or **VISUAL** if they match a value specified in editor. This flag is *off* by default.
- env_reset** If set, **sudo** will run the command in a minimal environment containing the **TERM**, **PATH**, **HOME**, **MAIL**, **SHELL**, **LOGNAME**, **USER**, **USERNAME** and **SUDO_*** variables. Any variables in the caller's environment that match the *env_keep* and *env_check* lists are then added, followed by any variables present in the file specified by the *env_file* option (if any). The default contents of the *env_keep* and *env_check* lists are displayed when **sudo** is run by root with the **-V** option. If the *secure_path* option is set, its value will be used for the **PATH** environment variable. This flag is *on* by default.
- fast_glob** Normally, **sudo** uses the **glob(3)** function to do shell-style globbing when matching path names. However, since it accesses the file system, **glob(3)** can take a long time to complete for some patterns, especially when the pattern references a network file system that is mounted on demand (auto mounted). The *fast_glob* option causes **sudo** to use the **fnmatch(3)** function, which does not access the file system to do its matching. The disadvantage of *fast_glob* is that it is unable to match relative path names such as *./ls* or *../bin/ls*. This has security implications when path names that include globbing characters are used with the negation operator, **!**, as such rules can be trivially bypassed. As such, this option should not be used when *sudoers* contains rules that contain negated path names which

include globbing characters. This flag is *off* by default.

fqdn

Set this flag if you want to put fully qualified host names in the *sudoers* file when the local host name (as returned by the `hostname` command) does not contain the domain name. In other words, instead of `myhost` you would use `myhost.mydomain.edu`. You may still use the short form if you wish (and even mix the two). This option is only effective when the “canonical” host name, as returned by the `getaddrinfo()` or `gethostbyname()` function, is a fully-qualified domain name. This is usually the case when the system is configured to use DNS for host name resolution.

If the system is configured to use the */etc/hosts* file in preference to DNS, the “canonical” host name may not be fully-qualified. The order that sources are queried for hosts name resolution is usually specified in the */etc/nsswitch.conf*, */etc/netsvc.conf*, */etc/host.conf*, or, in some cases, */etc/resolv.conf* file. In the */etc/hosts* file, the first host name of the entry is considered to be the “canonical” name; subsequent names are aliases that are not used by **sudoers**. For example, the following hosts file line for the machine “xyzy” has the fully-qualified domain name as the “canonical” host name, and the short version as an alias.

```
192.168.1.1 xyzy.sudo.ws xyzy
```

If the machine’s hosts file entry is not formatted properly, the *fqdn* option will not be effective if it is queried before DNS.

Beware that when using DNS for host name resolution, turning on *fqdn* requires **sudoers** to make DNS lookups which renders **sudo** unusable if DNS stops working (for example if the machine is disconnected from the network). Also note that just like with the hosts file, you must use the “canonical” name as DNS knows it. That is, you may not use a host alias (CNAME entry) due to performance issues and the fact that there is no way to get all aliases from DNS.

This flag is *off* by default.

ignore_dot

If set, **sudo** will ignore "." or "" (both denoting current directory) in the PATH environment variable; the PATH itself is not modified. This flag is *off* by default.

ignore_local_sudoers

If set via LDAP, parsing of */etc/sudoers* will be skipped. This is intended for Enterprises that wish to prevent the usage of local sudoers files so that only LDAP

is used. This thwarts the efforts of rogue operators who would attempt to add roles to */etc/sudoers*. When this option is present, */etc/sudoers* does not even need to exist. Since this option tells **sudo** how to behave when no specific LDAP entries have been matched, this sudoOption is only meaningful for the `cn=defaults` section. This flag is *off* by default.

insults If set, **sudo** will insult users when they enter an incorrect password. This flag is *off* by default.

log_host If set, the host name will be logged in the (non-syslog) **sudo** log file. This flag is *off* by default.

log_input If set, **sudo** will run the command in a *pseudo tty* and log all user input. If the standard input is not connected to the user's tty, due to I/O redirection or because the command is part of a pipeline, that input is also captured and stored in a separate log file.

Input is logged to the directory specified by the *iolog_dir* option (*/var/log/sudo-io* by default) using a unique session ID that is included in the normal **sudo** log line, prefixed with "TSID=". The *iolog_file* option may be used to control the format of the session ID.

Note that user input may contain sensitive information such as passwords (even if they are not echoed to the screen), which will be stored in the log file unencrypted. In most cases, logging the command output via *log_output* is all that is required.

log_output If set, **sudo** will run the command in a *pseudo tty* and log all output that is sent to the screen, similar to the `script(1)` command. If the standard output or standard error is not connected to the user's tty, due to I/O redirection or because the command is part of a pipeline, that output is also captured and stored in separate log files.

Output is logged to the directory specified by the *iolog_dir* option (*/var/log/sudo-io* by default) using a unique session ID that is included in the normal **sudo** log line, prefixed with "TSID=". The *iolog_file* option may be used to control the format of the session ID.

Output logs may be viewed with the `sudoreplay(8)` utility, which can also be used to list or search the available logs.

log_year	If set, the four-digit year will be logged in the (non-syslog) sudo log file. This flag is <i>off</i> by default.
long_otp_prompt	When validating with a One Time Password (OTP) scheme such as S/Key or OPIE , a two-line prompt is used to make it easier to cut and paste the challenge to a local window. It's not as pretty as the default but some people find it more convenient. This flag is <i>off</i> by default.
mail_always	Send mail to the <i>mailto</i> user every time a users runs sudo . This flag is <i>off</i> by default.
mail_badpass	Send mail to the <i>mailto</i> user if the user running sudo does not enter the correct password. If the command the user is attempting to run is not permitted by <i>sudoers</i> and one of the <i>mail_always</i> , <i>mail_no_host</i> , <i>mail_no_perms</i> or <i>mail_no_user</i> flags are set, this flag will have no effect. This flag is <i>off</i> by default.
mail_no_host	If set, mail will be sent to the <i>mailto</i> user if the invoking user exists in the <i>sudoers</i> file, but is not allowed to run commands on the current host. This flag is <i>off</i> by default.
mail_no_perms	If set, mail will be sent to the <i>mailto</i> user if the invoking user is allowed to use sudo but the command they are trying is not listed in their <i>sudoers</i> file entry or is explicitly denied. This flag is <i>off</i> by default.
mail_no_user	If set, mail will be sent to the <i>mailto</i> user if the invoking user is not in the <i>sudoers</i> file. This flag is <i>on</i> by default.
noexec	If set, all commands run via sudo will behave as if the NOEXEC tag has been set, unless overridden by a EXEC tag. See the description of <i>NOEXEC</i> and <i>EXEC</i> below as well as the <i>Preventing shell escapes</i> section at the end of this manual. This flag is <i>off</i> by default.
path_info	Normally, sudo will tell the user when a command could not be found in their PATH environment variable. Some sites may wish to disable this as it could be used to gather information on the location of executables that the normal user does not have access to. The disadvantage is that if the executable is simply not in the user's PATH, sudo will tell the user that they are not allowed to run it, which can be confusing. This flag is <i>on</i> by default.
passprompt_override	

The password prompt specified by *passprompt* will normally only be used if the password prompt provided by systems such as PAM matches the string “Password:”. If *passprompt_override* is set, *passprompt* will always be used. This flag is *off* by default.

- preserve_groups** By default, **sudo** will initialize the group vector to the list of groups the target user is in. When *preserve_groups* is set, the user’s existing group vector is left unaltered. The real and effective group IDs, however, are still set to match the target user. This flag is *off* by default.
- pwfeedback** By default, **sudo** reads the password like most other Unix programs, by turning off echo until the user hits the return (or enter) key. Some users become confused by this as it appears to them that **sudo** has hung at this point. When *pwfeedback* is set, **sudo** will provide visual feedback when the user presses a key. Note that this does have a security impact as an onlooker may be able to determine the length of the password being entered. This flag is *off* by default.
- requiretty** If set, **sudo** will only run when the user is logged in to a real tty. When this flag is set, **sudo** can only be run from a login session and not via other means such as cron(8) or cgi-bin scripts. This flag is *off* by default.
- root_sudo** If set, root is allowed to run **sudo** too. Disabling this prevents users from “chaining” **sudo** commands to get a root shell by doing something like “sudo sudo /bin/sh”. Note, however, that turning off *root_sudo* will also prevent root from running **sudoedit**. Disabling *root_sudo* provides no real additional security; it exists purely for historical reasons. This flag is *on* by default.
- rootpw** If set, **sudo** will prompt for the root password instead of the password of the invoking user. This flag is *off* by default.
- runaspw** If set, **sudo** will prompt for the password of the user defined by the *runas_default* option (defaults to root) instead of the password of the invoking user. This flag is *off* by default.
- set_home** If enabled and **sudo** is invoked with the **-s** option the HOME environment variable will be set to the home directory of the target user (which is root unless the **-u** option is used). This effectively makes the **-s** option imply **-H**. Note that HOME is already set when the *env_reset* option is enabled, so *set_home* is only effective for configurations where either *env_reset* is disabled or HOME is present in the *env_keep* list. This flag is *off* by default.

- set_logname** Normally, **sudo** will set the LOGNAME, USER and USERNAME environment variables to the name of the target user (usually root unless the **-u** option is given). However, since some programs (including the RCS revision control system) use LOGNAME to determine the real identity of the user, it may be desirable to change this behavior. This can be done by negating the **set_logname** option. Note that if the *env_reset* option has not been disabled, entries in the *env_keep* list will override the value of *set_logname*. This flag is *on* by default.
- set_utm** When enabled, **sudo** will create an entry in the utmp (or utmpx) file when a pseudo-tty is allocated. A pseudo-tty is allocated by **sudo** when the *log_input*, *log_output* or *use_pty* flags are enabled. By default, the new entry will be a copy of the user's existing utmp entry (if any), with the tty, time, type and pid fields updated. This flag is *on* by default.
- setenv** Allow the user to disable the *env_reset* option from the command line via the **-E** option. Additionally, environment variables set via the command line are not subject to the restrictions imposed by *env_check*, *env_delete*, or *env_keep*. As such, only trusted users should be allowed to set variables in this manner. This flag is *off* by default.
- shell_noargs** If set and **sudo** is invoked with no arguments it acts as if the **-s** option had been given. That is, it runs a shell as root (the shell is determined by the SHELL environment variable if it is set, falling back on the shell listed in the invoking user's /etc/passwd entry if not). This flag is *off* by default.
- stay_setuid** Normally, when **sudo** executes a command the real and effective UIDs are set to the target user (root by default). This option changes that behavior such that the real UID is left as the invoking user's UID. In other words, this makes **sudo** act as a setuid wrapper. This can be useful on systems that disable some potentially dangerous functionality when a program is run setuid. This option is only effective on systems that support either the *setreuid(2)* or *setresuid(2)* system call. This flag is *off* by default.
- targetpw** If set, **sudo** will prompt for the password of the user specified by the **-u** option (defaults to root) instead of the password of the invoking user. In addition, the time stamp file name will include the target user's name. Note that this flag precludes the use of a uid not listed in the passwd database as an argument to the **-u** option. This flag is *off* by default.
- tty_tickets** If set, users must authenticate on a per-tty basis. With this flag enabled, **sudo** will

use a file named for the tty the user is logged in on in the user's time stamp directory. If disabled, the time stamp of the directory is used instead. This flag is *on* by default.

- umask_override** If set, **sudo** will set the umask as specified by *sudoers* without modification. This makes it possible to specify a more permissive umask in *sudoers* than the user's own umask and matches historical behavior. If *umask_override* is not set, **sudo** will set the umask to be the union of the user's umask and what is specified in *sudoers*. This flag is *off* by default.
- use_loginclass** If set, **sudo** will apply the defaults specified for the target user's login class if one exists. Only available if **sudo** is configured with the `--with-logincap` option. This flag is *off* by default.
- use_pty** If set, **sudo** will run the command in a pseudo-pty even if no I/O logging is being gone. A malicious program run under **sudo** could conceivably fork a background process that retains to the user's terminal device after the main program has finished executing. Use of this option will make that impossible. This flag is *off* by default.
- utmp_runas** If set, **sudo** will store the name of the runas user when updating the utmp (or utmpx) file. By default, **sudo** stores the name of the invoking user. This flag is *off* by default.
- visiblepw** By default, **sudo** will refuse to run if the user must enter a password but it is not possible to disable echo on the terminal. If the *visiblepw* flag is set, **sudo** will prompt for a password even when it would be visible on the screen. This makes it possible to run things like `ssh somehost sudo ls` since by default, `ssh(1)` does not allocate a tty when running a command. This flag is *off* by default.

Integers:

- closefrom** Before it executes a command, **sudo** will close all open file descriptors other than standard input, standard output and standard error (ie: file descriptors 0-2). The *closefrom* option can be used to specify a different file descriptor at which to start closing. The default is 3.
- passwd_tries** The number of tries a user gets to enter his/her password before **sudo** logs the failure and exits. The default is 3.

Integers that can be used in a boolean context:

loglinelen	Number of characters per line for the file log. This value is used to decide when to wrap lines for nicer log files. This has no effect on the syslog log file, only the file log. The default is 80 (use 0 or negate the option to disable word wrap).
passwd_timeout	Number of minutes before the sudo password prompt times out, or 0 for no timeout. The timeout may include a fractional component if minute granularity is insufficient, for example 2.5. The default is 5.
timestamp_timeout	Number of minutes that can elapse before sudo will ask for a passwd again. The timeout may include a fractional component if minute granularity is insufficient, for example 2.5. The default is 5. Set this to 0 to always prompt for a password. If set to a value less than 0 the user's time stamp will never expire. This can be used to allow users to create or delete their own time stamps via “sudo -v” and “sudo -k” respectively.
umask	Umask to use when running the command. Negate this option or set it to 0777 to preserve the user's umask. The actual umask that is used will be the union of the user's umask and the value of the <i>umask</i> option, which defaults to 0022. This guarantees that sudo never lowers the umask when running a command. Note: on systems that use PAM, the default PAM configuration may specify its own umask which will override the value set in <i>sudoers</i> .

Strings:

badpass_message	Message that is displayed if a user enters an incorrect password. The default is Sorry, try again. unless insults are enabled.
editor	A colon (':') separated list of editors allowed to be used with visudo . visudo will choose the editor that matches the user's EDITOR environment variable if possible, or the first editor in the list that exists and is executable. The default is <i>vi</i> .
iolog_dir	The top-level directory to use when constructing the path name for the input/output log directory. Only used if the <i>log_input</i> or <i>log_output</i> options are enabled or when the LOG_INPUT or LOG_OUTPUT tags are present for a command. The session sequence number, if any, is stored in the directory. The default is <i>/var/log/sudo-io</i> .

The following percent (%) escape sequences are supported:

`{seq}`

expanded to a monotonically increasing base-36 sequence number, such as 0100A5, where every two digits are used to form a new directory, e.g. 01/00/A5

`{user}`

expanded to the invoking user's login name

`{group}`

expanded to the name of the invoking user's real group ID

`{runas_user}`

expanded to the login name of the user the command will be run as (e.g. root)

`{runas_group}`

expanded to the group name of the user the command will be run as (e.g. wheel)

`{hostname}`

expanded to the local host name without the domain name

`{command}`

expanded to the base name of the command being run

In addition, any escape sequences supported by the system's `strftime(3)` function will be expanded.

To include a literal '%' character, the string '%%' should be used.

`iolog_file`

The path name, relative to `iolog_dir`, in which to store input/output logs when the `log_input` or `log_output` options are enabled or when the `LOG_INPUT` or `LOG_OUTPUT` tags are present for a command. Note that `iolog_file` may contain directory components. The default is "`{seq}`".

See the `iolog_dir` option above for a list of supported percent ('%') escape sequences.

In addition to the escape sequences, path names that end in six or more Xs will have the Xs replaced with a unique combination of digits and letters, similar to the

mktemp(3) function.

limitprivs The default Solaris limit privileges to use when constructing a new privilege set for a command. This bounds all privileges of the executing process. The default limit privileges may be overridden on a per-command basis in *sudoers*. This option is only available if **sudoers** is built on Solaris 10 or higher.

mailsub Subject of the mail sent to the *mailto* user. The escape %h will expand to the host name of the machine. Default is “*** SECURITY information for %h ***”.

noexec_file This option is no longer supported. The path to the noexec file should now be set in the */etc/sudo.conf* file.

passprompt The default prompt to use when asking for a password; can be overridden via the **-p** option or the SUDO_PROMPT environment variable. The following percent (‘%’) escape sequences are supported:

%H expanded to the local host name including the domain name (only if the machine’s host name is fully qualified or the *fqdn* option is set)

%h expanded to the local host name without the domain name

%p expanded to the user whose password is being asked for (respects the *rootpw*, *targetpw* and *runaspw* flags in *sudoers*)

%U expanded to the login name of the user the command will be run as (defaults to root)

%u expanded to the invoking user’s login name

%% two consecutive % characters are collapsed into a single % character

The default value is “Password:”.

privs The default Solaris privileges to use when constructing a new privilege set for a command. This is passed to the executing process via the inherited privilege set, but is bounded by the limit privileges. If the *privs* option is specified but the *limitprivs* option is not, the limit privileges of the executing process is set to *privs*. The default privileges may be overridden on a per-command basis in *sudoers*. This option is only available if **sudoers** is built on Solaris 10 or higher.

role	The default SELinux role to use when constructing a new security context to run the command. The default role may be overridden on a per-command basis in <i>sudoers</i> or via command line options. This option is only available when sudo is built with SELinux support.
runas_default	The default user to run commands as if the -u option is not specified on the command line. This defaults to root.
syslog_badpri	Syslog priority to use when user authenticates unsuccessfully. Defaults to alert. The following syslog priorities are supported: alert , crit , debug , emerg , err , info , notice , and warning .
syslog_goodpri	Syslog priority to use when user authenticates successfully. Defaults to notice. See <i>syslog_badpri</i> for the list of supported syslog priorities.
sudoers_locale	Locale to use when parsing the sudoers file, logging commands, and sending email. Note that changing the locale may affect how sudoers is interpreted. Defaults to “C”.
timestampdir	The directory in which sudo stores its time stamp files. The default is <i>/var/adm/sudo</i> .
timestampowner	The owner of the time stamp directory and the time stamps stored therein. The default is root.
type	The default SELinux type to use when constructing a new security context to run the command. The default type may be overridden on a per-command basis in <i>sudoers</i> or via command line options. This option is only available when sudo is built with SELinux support.

Strings that can be used in a boolean context:

env_file	The <i>env_file</i> option specifies the fully qualified path to a file containing variables to be set in the environment of the program being run. Entries in this file should either be of the form “VARIABLE=value” or “export VARIABLE=value”. The value may optionally be surrounded by single or double quotes. Variables in this file are subject to other sudo environment settings such as <i>env_keep</i> and <i>env_check</i> .
----------	---

exempt_group Users in this group are exempt from password and PATH requirements. The group name specified should not include a % prefix. This is not set by default.

group_plugin A string containing a *sudoers* group plugin with optional arguments. This can be used to implement support for the *nonunix_group* syntax described earlier. The string should consist of the plugin path, either fully-qualified or relative to the */usr/local/libexec* directory, followed by any configuration arguments the plugin requires. These arguments (if any) will be passed to the plugin's initialization function. If arguments are present, the string must be enclosed in double quotes ("").

For example, given */etc/sudo-group*, a group file in Unix group format, the sample group plugin can be used:

```
Defaults group_plugin="sample_group.so /etc/sudo-group"
```

For more information see *sudo_plugin(5)*.

lecture This option controls when a short lecture will be printed along with the password prompt. It has the following possible values:

always Always lecture the user.

never Never lecture the user.

once Only lecture the user the first time they run **sudo**.

If no value is specified, a value of *once* is implied. Negating the option results in a value of *never* being used. The default value is *once*.

lecture_file Path to a file containing an alternate **sudo** lecture that will be used in place of the standard lecture if the named file exists. By default, **sudo** uses a built-in lecture.

listpw This option controls when a password will be required when a user runs **sudo** with the **-l** option. It has the following possible values:

all All the user's *sudoers* entries for the current host must have the NOPASSWD flag set to avoid entering a password.

always The user must always enter a password to use the **-l** option.

any At least one of the user's *sudoers* entries for the current host must have the NOPASSWD flag set to avoid entering a password.

never The user need never enter a password to use the **-l** option.

If no value is specified, a value of *any* is implied. Negating the option results in a value of *never* being used. The default value is *any*.

- logfile** Path to the **sudo** log file (not the syslog log file). Setting a path turns on logging to a file; negating this option turns it off. By default, **sudo** logs via syslog.
- mailerflags** Flags to use when invoking mailer. Defaults to **-t**.
- mailerpath** Path to mail program used to send warning mail. Defaults to the path to sendmail found at configure time.
- mailfrom** Address to use for the "from" address when sending warning and error mail. The address should be enclosed in double quotes (") to protect against **sudo** interpreting the @ sign. Defaults to the name of the user running **sudo**.
- mailto** Address to send warning and error mail to. The address should be enclosed in double quotes (") to protect against **sudo** interpreting the @ sign. Defaults to root.
- secure_path** Path used for every command run from **sudo**. If you don't trust the people running **sudo** to have a sane PATH environment variable you may want to use this. Another use is if you want to have the "root path" be separate from the "user path". Users in the group specified by the *exempt_group* option are not affected by *secure_path*. This option is not set by default.
- syslog** Syslog facility if syslog is being used for logging (negate to disable syslog logging). Defaults to **auth**.
- The following syslog facilities are supported: **authpriv** (if your OS supports it), **auth**, **daemon**, **user**, **local0**, **local1**, **local2**, **local3**, **local4**, **local5**, **local6**, and **local7**.
- verifypw** This option controls when a password will be required when a user runs **sudo** with the **-v** option. It has the following possible values:
- all** All the user's *sudoers* entries for the current host must have the NOPASSWD flag set to avoid entering a password.

always The user must always enter a password to use the **-v** option.

any At least one of the user's *sudoers* entries for the current host must have the NOPASSWD flag set to avoid entering a password.

never The user need never enter a password to use the **-v** option.

If no value is specified, a value of *all* is implied. Negating the option results in a value of *never* being used. The default value is *all*.

Lists that can be used in a boolean context:

env_check Environment variables to be removed from the user's environment if the variable's value contains '%' or '/' characters. This can be used to guard against printf-style format vulnerabilities in poorly-written programs. The argument may be a double-quoted, space-separated list or a single value without double-quotes. The list can be replaced, added to, deleted from, or disabled by using the =, +=, -=, and ! operators respectively. Regardless of whether the *env_reset* option is enabled or disabled, variables specified by *env_check* will be preserved in the environment if they pass the aforementioned check. The default list of environment variables to check is displayed when **sudo** is run by root with the **-V** option.

env_delete Environment variables to be removed from the user's environment when the *env_reset* option is not in effect. The argument may be a double-quoted, space-separated list or a single value without double-quotes. The list can be replaced, added to, deleted from, or disabled by using the =, +=, -=, and ! operators respectively. The default list of environment variables to remove is displayed when **sudo** is run by root with the **-V** option. Note that many operating systems will remove potentially dangerous variables from the environment of any setuid process (such as **sudo**).

env_keep Environment variables to be preserved in the user's environment when the *env_reset* option is in effect. This allows fine-grained control over the environment **sudo**-spawned processes will receive. The argument may be a double-quoted, space-separated list or a single value without double-quotes. The list can be replaced, added to, deleted from, or disabled by using the =, +=, -=, and ! operators respectively. The default list of variables to keep is displayed when **sudo** is run by root with the **-V** option.

LOG FORMAT

sudoers can log events using either `syslog(3)` or a simple log file. In each case the log format is almost identical.

Accepted command log entries

Commands that `sudo` runs are logged using the following format (split into multiple lines for readability):

```
date hostname progname: username : TTY=ttyname ; PWD=cwd ; \
  USER=runasuser ; GROUP=runasgroup ; TSID=logid ; \
  ENV=env_vars COMMAND=command
```

Where the fields are as follows:

date	The date the command was run. Typically, this is in the format ‘MMM, DD, HH:MM:SS’. If logging via <code>syslog(3)</code> , the actual date format is controlled by the <code>syslog</code> daemon. If logging to a file and the <code>log_year</code> option is enabled, the date will also include the year.
hostname	The name of the host sudo was run on. This field is only present when logging via <code>syslog(3)</code> .
progname	The name of the program, usually <code>sudo</code> or <code>sudoedit</code> . This field is only present when logging via <code>syslog(3)</code> .
username	The login name of the user who ran sudo .
ttyname	The short name of the terminal (e.g. ‘console’, ‘tty01’, or ‘pts/0’) sudo was run on, or ‘unknown’ if there was no terminal present.
cwd	The current working directory that sudo was run in.
runasuser	The user the command was run as.
runasgroup	The group the command was run as if one was specified on the command line.
logid	An I/O log identifier that can be used to replay the command’s output. This is only present when the <code>log_input</code> or <code>log_output</code> option is enabled.
env_vars	A list of environment variables specified on the command line, if specified.

command The actual command that was executed.

Messages are logged using the locale specified by *sudoers_locale*, which defaults to the “C” locale.

Denied command log entries

If the user is not allowed to run the command, the reason for the denial will follow the user name.

Possible reasons include:

user NOT in sudoers

The user is not listed in the *sudoers* file.

user NOT authorized on host

The user is listed in the *sudoers* file but is not allowed to run commands on the host.

command not allowed

The user is listed in the *sudoers* file for the host but they are not allowed to run the specified command.

3 incorrect password attempts

The user failed to enter their password after 3 tries. The actual number of tries will vary based on the number of failed attempts and the value of the *passwd_tries* option.

a password is required

sudo's **-n** option was specified but a password was required.

sorry, you are not allowed to set the following environment variables

The user specified environment variables on the command line that were not allowed by *sudoers*.

Error log entries

If an error occurs, **sudoers** will log a message and, in most cases, send a message to the administrator via email. Possible errors include:

parse error in /etc/sudoers near line N

sudoers encountered an error when parsing the specified file. In some cases, the actual error may be one line above or below the line number listed, depending on the type of error.

problem with defaults entries

The *sudoers* file contains one or more unknown Defaults settings. This does not prevent **sudo** from running, but the *sudoers* file should be checked using **visudo**.

timestamp owner (username): No such user

The time stamp directory owner, as specified by the *timestampowner* setting, could not be found in the password database.

unable to open/read /etc/sudoers

The *sudoers* file could not be opened for reading. This can happen when the *sudoers* file is located on a remote file system that maps user ID 0 to a different value. Normally, **sudoers** tries to open *sudoers* using group permissions to avoid this problem. Consider changing the ownership of */etc/sudoers* by adding an option like “*sudoers_uid=N*” (where ‘N’ is the user ID that owns the *sudoers* file) to the **sudoers** plugin line in the */etc/sudo.conf* file.

unable to stat /etc/sudoers

The */etc/sudoers* file is missing.

/etc/sudoers is not a regular file

The */etc/sudoers* file exists but is not a regular file or symbolic link.

/etc/sudoers is owned by uid N, should be 0

The *sudoers* file has the wrong owner. If you wish to change the *sudoers* file owner, please add “*sudoers_uid=N*” (where ‘N’ is the user ID that owns the *sudoers* file) to the **sudoers** plugin line in the */etc/sudo.conf* file.

/etc/sudoers is world writable

The permissions on the *sudoers* file allow all users to write to it. The *sudoers* file must not be world-writable, the default file mode is 0440 (readable by owner and group, writable by none). The default mode may be changed via the “*sudoers_mode*” option to the **sudoers** plugin line in the */etc/sudo.conf* file.

/etc/sudoers is owned by gid N, should be 1

The *sudoers* file has the wrong group ownership. If you wish to change the *sudoers* file group ownership, please add “*sudoers_gid=N*” (where ‘N’ is the group ID that owns the *sudoers* file) to the **sudoers** plugin line in the */etc/sudo.conf* file.

unable to open /var/adm/sudo/username/ttyname

sudoers was unable to read or create the user’s time stamp file.

unable to write to /var/adm/sudo/username/ttyname

sudoers was unable to write to the user’s time stamp file.

unable to mkdir to /var/adm/sudo/username

sudoers was unable to create the user's time stamp directory.

Notes on logging via syslog

By default, *sudoers* logs messages via syslog(3). The *date*, *hostname*, and *progname* fields are added by the syslog daemon, not *sudoers* itself. As such, they may vary in format on different systems.

On most systems, syslog(3) has a relatively small log buffer. To prevent the command line arguments from being truncated, **sudoers** will split up log messages that are larger than 960 characters (not including the date, hostname, and the string “sudo”). When a message is split, additional parts will include the string “(command continued)” after the user name and before the continued command line arguments.

Notes on logging to a file

If the *logfile* option is set, *sudoers* will log to a local file, such as */var/log/sudo*. When logging to a file, *sudoers* uses a format similar to syslog(3), with a few important differences:

1. The *progname* and *hostname* fields are not present.
2. If the *log_year* option is enabled, the date will also include the year.
3. Lines that are longer than *loglinelen* characters (80 by default) are word-wrapped and continued on the next line with a four character indent. This makes entries easier to read for a human being, but makes it more difficult to use *grep*(1) on the log files. If the *loglinelen* option is set to 0 (or negated with a '!'), word wrap will be disabled.

SUDO.CONF

The */etc/sudo.conf* file determines which plugins the **sudo** front end will load. If no */etc/sudo.conf* file is present, or it contains no Plugin lines, **sudo** will use the *sudoers* security policy and I/O logging, which corresponds to the following */etc/sudo.conf* file.

```
#
# Default /etc/sudo.conf file
#
# Format:
# Plugin plugin_name plugin_path plugin_options ...
# Path askpass /path/to/askpass
# Path noexec /path/to/sudo_noexec.so
# Debug sudo /var/log/sudo_debug all@warn
# Set disable_coredump true
#
```

```
# The plugin_path is relative to /usr/local/libexec unless
# fully qualified.
# The plugin_name corresponds to a global symbol in the plugin
# that contains the plugin interface structure.
# The plugin_options are optional.
#
Plugin sudoers_policy sudoers.so
Plugin sudoers_io sudoers.so
```

Plugin options

Starting with **sudo** 1.8.5, it is possible to pass options to the *sudoers* plugin. Options may be listed after the path to the plugin (i.e. after *sudoers.so*); multiple options should be space-separated. For example:

```
Plugin sudoers_policy sudoers.so sudoers_file=/etc/sudoers sudoers_uid=0 sudoers_gid=0 sudoers_mode=0440
```

The following plugin options are supported:

`sudoers_file=pathname`

The *sudoers_file* option can be used to override the default path to the *sudoers* file.

`sudoers_uid=uid`

The *sudoers_uid* option can be used to override the default owner of the *sudoers* file. It should be specified as a numeric user ID.

`sudoers_gid=gid`

The *sudoers_gid* option can be used to override the default group of the *sudoers* file. It should be specified as a numeric group ID.

`sudoers_mode=mode`

The *sudoers_mode* option can be used to override the default file mode for the *sudoers* file. It should be specified as an octal value.

Debug flags

Versions 1.8.4 and higher of the *sudoers* plugin supports a debugging framework that can help track down what the plugin is doing internally if there is a problem. This can be configured in the */etc/sudo.conf* file as described in `sudo(8)`.

The *sudoers* plugin uses the same debug flag format as the **sudo** front-end: *subsystem@priority*.

The priorities used by *sudoers*, in order of decreasing severity, are: *crit*, *err*, *warn*, *notice*, *diag*, *info*,

trace and *debug*. Each priority, when specified, also includes all priorities higher than it. For example, a priority of *notice* would include debug messages logged at *notice* and higher.

The following subsystems are used by *sudoers*:

alias User_Alias, Runas_Alias, Host_Alias and Cmnd_Alias processing

all matches every subsystem

audit BSM and Linux audit code

auth user authentication

defaults *sudoers Defaults* settings

env environment handling

ldap LDAP-based sudoers

logging logging support

match matching of users, groups, hosts and netgroups in *sudoers*

netif network interface handling

nss network service switch handling in *sudoers*

parser *sudoers* file parsing

perms permission setting

plugin The equivalent of *main* for the plugin.

pty pseudo-tty related code

rbtree redblack tree internals

util utility functions

FILES

<i>/etc/sudo.conf</i>	Sudo front end configuration
<i>/etc/sudoers</i>	List of who can run what
<i>/etc/group</i>	Local groups file
<i>/etc/netgroup</i>	List of network groups
<i>/var/log/sudo-io</i>	I/O log files
<i>/var/adm/sudo</i>	Directory containing time stamps for the <i>sudoers</i> security policy
<i>/etc/environment</i>	Initial environment for -i mode on AIX and Linux systems

EXAMPLES

Below are example *sudoers* entries. Admittedly, some of these are a bit contrived. First, we allow a few environment variables to pass and then define our *aliases*:

```
# Run X applications through sudo; HOME is used to find the
# .Xauthority file. Note that other programs use HOME to find
# configuration files and this may lead to privilege escalation!
Defaults env_keep += "DISPLAY HOME"

# User alias specification
User_Alias  FULLTIMERS = millert, mikef, dowdy
User_Alias  PARTTIMERS = bostley, jwfox, crawl
User_Alias  WEBMASTERS = will, wendy, wim

# Runas alias specification
Runas_Alias OP = root, operator
Runas_Alias DB = oracle, sybase
Runas_Alias ADMINGRP = adm, oper

# Host alias specification
Host_Alias  SPARC = bigtime, eclipse, moet, anchor :\
            SGI = grolsch, dandelion, black :\
            ALPHA = widget, thalamus, foobar :\
            HPPA = boa, nag, python
Host_Alias  CUNETS = 128.138.0.0/255.255.0.0
Host_Alias  CSNETS = 128.138.243.0, 128.138.204.0/24, 128.138.242.0
```

```

Host_Alias  SERVERS = master, mail, www, ns
Host_Alias  CDROM = orion, perseus, hercules

# Cmnd alias specification
Cmnd_Alias  DUMPS = /usr/bin/mt, /usr/sbin/dump, /usr/sbin/rdump,\
                /usr/sbin/restore, /usr/sbin/rrestore
Cmnd_Alias  KILL = /usr/bin/kill
Cmnd_Alias  PRINTING = /usr/sbin/lpc, /usr/bin/lprm
Cmnd_Alias  SHUTDOWN = /usr/sbin/shutdown
Cmnd_Alias  HALT = /usr/sbin/halt
Cmnd_Alias  REBOOT = /usr/sbin/reboot
Cmnd_Alias  SHELLS = /usr/bin/sh, /usr/bin/csh, /usr/bin/ksh,\
                /usr/local/bin/tcsh, /usr/bin/rsh,\
                /usr/local/bin/zsh
Cmnd_Alias  SU = /usr/bin/su
Cmnd_Alias  PAGERS = /usr/bin/more, /usr/bin/pg, /usr/bin/less

```

Here we override some of the compiled in default values. We want **sudo** to log via syslog(3) using the *auth* facility in all cases. We don't want to subject the full time staff to the **sudo** lecture, user **millert** need not give a password, and we don't want to reset the LOGNAME, USER or USERNAME environment variables when running commands as root. Additionally, on the machines in the *SERVERS* Host_Alias, we keep an additional local log file and make sure we log the year in each log line since the log entries will be kept around for several years. Lastly, we disable shell escapes for the commands in the PAGERS Cmnd_Alias (*/usr/bin/more*, */usr/bin/pg* and */usr/bin/less*).

```

# Override built-in defaults
Defaults    syslog=auth
Defaults>root    !set_logname
Defaults:FULLTIMERS !lecture
Defaults:millert    !authenticate
Defaults@SERVERS    log_year, logfile=/var/log/sudo.log
Defaults!PAGERS    noexec

```

The *User specification* is the part that actually determines who may run what.

```

root    ALL = (ALL) ALL
%wheel    ALL = (ALL) ALL

```

We let **root** and any user in group **wheel** run any command on any host as any user.

FULLTIMERS ALL = NOPASSWD: ALL

Full time sysadmins (**millert**, **mikef**, and **dowdy**) may run any command on any host without authenticating themselves.

PARTTIMERS ALL = ALL

Part time sysadmins (**bostley**, **jwfox**, and **crawl**) may run any command on any host but they must authenticate themselves first (since the entry lacks the NOPASSWD tag).

jack CSNETS = ALL

The user **jack** may run any command on the machines in the *CSNETS* alias (the networks 128.138.243.0, 128.138.204.0, and 128.138.242.0). Of those networks, only 128.138.204.0 has an explicit netmask (in CIDR notation) indicating it is a class C network. For the other networks in *CSNETS*, the local machine's netmask will be used during matching.

lisa CUNETS = ALL

The user **lisa** may run any command on any host in the *CUNETS* alias (the class B network 128.138.0.0).

operator ALL = DUMPS, KILL, SHUTDOWN, HALT, REBOOT, PRINTING,\
sudoedit /etc/printcap, /usr/oper/bin/

The **operator** user may run commands limited to simple maintenance. Here, those are commands related to backups, killing processes, the printing system, shutting down the system, and any commands in the directory */usr/oper/bin/*.

joe ALL = /usr/bin/su operator

The user **joe** may only su(1) to operator.

pete HPPA = /usr/bin/passwd [A-Za-z]*, !/usr/bin/passwd root

%opers ALL = (: ADMINGRP) /usr/sbin/

Users in the **opers** group may run commands in */usr/sbin/* as themselves with any group in the *ADMINGRP* Runas_Alias (the **adm** and **oper** groups).

The user **pete** is allowed to change anyone's password except for root on the *HPPA* machines. Note that this assumes `passwd(1)` does not take multiple user names on the command line.

```
bob    SPARC = (OP) ALL : SGI = (OP) ALL
```

The user **bob** may run anything on the *SPARC* and *SGI* machines as any user listed in the *OP* Runas_Alias (**root** and **operator**.)

```
jim    +biglab = ALL
```

The user **jim** may run any command on machines in the *biglab* netgroup. **sudo** knows that “biglab” is a netgroup due to the ‘+’ prefix.

```
+secretaries  ALL = PRINTING, /usr/bin/adduser, /usr/bin/rmuser
```

Users in the **secretaries** netgroup need to help manage the printers as well as add and remove users, so they are allowed to run those commands on all machines.

```
fred    ALL = (DB) NOPASSWD: ALL
```

The user **fred** can run commands as any user in the *DB* Runas_Alias (**oracle** or **sybase**) without giving a password.

```
john    ALPHA = /usr/bin/su [!-]*, !/usr/bin/su *root*
```

On the *ALPHA* machines, user **john** may su to anyone except root but he is not allowed to specify any options to the `su(1)` command.

```
jen    ALL, !SERVERS = ALL
```

The user **jen** may run any command on any machine except for those in the *SERVERS* Host_Alias (master, mail, www and ns).

```
jill    SERVERS = /usr/bin/, !SU, !SHELLS
```

For any machine in the *SERVERS* Host_Alias, **jill** may run any commands in the directory */usr/bin/* except for those commands belonging to the *SU* and *SHELLS* Cmnd_Aliases.

```
steve    CSNETS = (operator) /usr/local/op_commands/
```

The user **steve** may run any command in the directory `/usr/local/op_commands/` but only as user operator.

```
matt    valkyrie = KILL
```

On his personal workstation, valkyrie, **matt** needs to be able to kill hung processes.

```
WEBMASTERS    www = (www) ALL, (root) /usr/bin/su www
```

On the host `www`, any user in the `WEBMASTERS` `User_Alias` (`will`, `wendy`, and `wim`), may run any command as user `www` (which owns the web pages) or simply `su(1)` to `www`.

```
ALL    CDROM = NOPASSWD: /sbin/umount /CDROM,\
        /sbin/mount -o nosuidnodev /dev/cd0a /CDROM
```

Any user may mount or unmount a CD-ROM on the machines in the `CDROM` `Host_Alias` (`orion`, `perseus`, `hercules`) without entering a password. This is a bit tedious for users to type, so it is a prime candidate for encapsulating in a shell script.

SECURITY NOTES

Limitations of the ‘!’ operator

It is generally not effective to “subtract” commands from **ALL** using the ‘!’ operator. A user can trivially circumvent this by copying the desired command to a different name and then executing that. For example:

```
bill    ALL = ALL, !SU, !SHELLS
```

Doesn’t really prevent **bill** from running the commands listed in `SU` or `SHELLS` since he can simply copy those commands to a different name, or use a shell escape from an editor or other program. Therefore, these kind of restrictions should be considered advisory at best (and reinforced by policy).

In general, if a user has sudo **ALL** there is nothing to prevent them from creating their own program that gives them a root shell (or making their own copy of a shell) regardless of any ‘!’ elements in the user specification.

Security implications of *fast_glob*

If the *fast_glob* option is in use, it is not possible to reliably negate commands where the path name includes globbing (aka wildcard) characters. This is because the C library’s `fnmatch(3)` function cannot resolve relative paths. While this is typically only an inconvenience for rules that grant privileges, it can result in a security issue for rules that subtract or revoke privileges.

For example, given the following *sudoers* entry:

```
john ALL = /usr/bin/passwd [a-zA-Z0-9]*, /usr/bin/chsh [a-zA-Z0-9]*, \
    /usr/bin/chfn [a-zA-Z0-9]*, !/usr/bin/* root
```

User **john** can still run `/usr/bin/passwd root` if *fast_glob* is enabled by changing to `/usr/bin` and running `./passwd root` instead.

Preventing shell escapes

Once **sudo** executes a program, that program is free to do whatever it pleases, including run other programs. This can be a security issue since it is not uncommon for a program to allow shell escapes, which lets a user bypass **sudo**'s access control and logging. Common programs that permit shell escapes include shells (obviously), editors, paginators, mail and terminal programs.

There are two basic approaches to this problem:

- restrict Avoid giving users access to commands that allow the user to run arbitrary commands. Many editors have a restricted mode where shell escapes are disabled, though **sudedit** is a better solution to running editors via **sudo**. Due to the large number of programs that offer shell escapes, restricting users to the set of programs that do not is often unworkable.
- noexec Many systems that support shared libraries have the ability to override default library functions by pointing an environment variable (usually `LD_PRELOAD`) to an alternate shared library. On such systems, **sudo**'s *noexec* functionality can be used to prevent a program run by **sudo** from executing any other programs. Note, however, that this applies only to native dynamically-linked executables. Statically-linked executables and foreign executables running under binary emulation are not affected.

The *noexec* feature is known to work on SunOS, Solaris, *BSD, Linux, IRIX, Tru64 UNIX, MacOS X, HP-UX 11.x and AIX 5.3 and above. It should be supported on most operating systems that support the `LD_PRELOAD` environment variable. Check your operating system's manual pages for the dynamic linker (usually `ld.so`, `ld.so.1`, `dyld`, `dld.sl`, `rld`, or loader) to see if `LD_PRELOAD` is supported.

On Solaris 10 and higher, *noexec* uses Solaris privileges instead of the `LD_PRELOAD` environment variable.

To enable *noexec* for a command, use the `NOEXEC` tag as documented in the User Specification section above. Here is that example again:

```
aaron    shanty = NOEXEC: /usr/bin/more, /usr/bin/vi
```

This allows user **aaron** to run `/usr/bin/more` and `/usr/bin/vi` with *noexec* enabled. This will prevent those two commands from executing other commands (such as a shell). If you are unsure whether or not your system is capable of supporting *noexec* you can always just try it out and check whether shell escapes work when *noexec* is enabled.

Note that restricting shell escapes is not a panacea. Programs running as root are still capable of many potentially hazardous operations (such as changing or overwriting files) that could lead to unintended privilege escalation. In the specific case of an editor, a safer approach is to give the user permission to run **sudoedit**.

Time stamp file checks

sudoers will check the ownership of its time stamp directory (`/var/adm/sudo` by default) and ignore the directory's contents if it is not owned by root or if it is writable by a user other than root. On systems that allow non-root users to give away files via `chown(2)`, if the time stamp directory is located in a world-writable directory (e.g., `/tmp`), it is possible for a user to create the time stamp directory before **sudo** is run. However, because *sudoers* checks the ownership and mode of the directory and its contents, the only damage that can be done is to "hide" files by putting them in the time stamp dir. This is unlikely to happen since once the time stamp dir is owned by root and inaccessible by any other user, the user placing files there would be unable to get them back out.

sudoers will not honor time stamps set far in the future. Time stamps with a date greater than `current_time + 2 * TIMEOUT` will be ignored and **sudo** will log and complain. This is done to keep a user from creating his/her own time stamp with a bogus date on systems that allow users to give away files if the time stamp directory is located in a world-writable directory.

On systems where the boot time is available, *sudoers* will ignore time stamps that date from before the machine booted.

Since time stamp files live in the file system, they can outlive a user's login session. As a result, a user may be able to login, run a command with **sudo** after authenticating, logout, login again, and run **sudo** without authenticating so long as the time stamp file's modification time is within 5 minutes (or whatever the timeout is set to in *sudoers*). When the *tty_tickets* option is enabled, the time stamp has per-tty granularity but still may outlive the user's session. On Linux systems where the `devpts` filesystem is used, Solaris systems with the `devices` filesystem, as well as other systems that utilize a `devfs` filesystem that monotonically increase the inode number of devices as they are created (such as Mac OS X), *sudoers* is able to determine when a tty-based time stamp file is stale and will ignore it. Administrators should not rely on this feature as it is not universally available.

SEE ALSO

ssh(1), su(1), fnmatch(3), glob(3), mktemp(3), strftime(3), sudoers.ldap(5), sudo_plugin(8), sudo(8), visudo(8)

CAVEATS

The *sudoers* file should **always** be edited by the **visudo** command which locks the file and does grammatical checking. It is imperative that *sudoers* be free of syntax errors since **sudo** will not run with a syntactically incorrect *sudoers* file.

When using netgroups of machines (as opposed to users), if you store fully qualified host name in the netgroup (as is usually the case), you either need to have the machine's host name be fully qualified as returned by the hostname command or use the *fqdn* option in *sudoers*.

BUGS

If you feel you have found a bug in **sudo**, please submit a bug report at <https://www.sudo.ws/sudo/bugs/>

SUPPORT

Limited free support is available via the sudo-users mailing list, see <https://www.sudo.ws/mailman/listinfo/sudo-users> to subscribe or search the archives.

DISCLAIMER

sudo is provided “AS IS” and any express or implied warranties, including, but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose are disclaimed. See the LICENSE file distributed with **sudo** or <https://www.sudo.ws/sudo/license.html> for complete details.