

How To: GUI Login as Root in Ubuntu

In this article, I'm going to show you how to enable the root account with Ubuntu. This is a terrible idea and you should definitely not do this. Ever.

A while back, I told you how to enable root in Ubuntu. In that article, I also wrote about the people who don't answer questions when they don't think you're doing things the right way. Being the kind of person I am, I'll happily tell you how to make your OS less secure.

And, trust me, this is a horrible idea from a security perspective – especially if you don't have good physical security. Then again, if you don't have good physical security then your computer is already compromised if someone wants to just boot to a live USB thumb-drive and if you haven't taken the steps to encrypt your private data.

NOTE: This is only good for Ubuntu. It looks like it should work from 18.04 to 20.10, and will probably continue to work until Ubuntu moves on from GDM3. (GDM3 is Gnome Display Manager 3, a drop-in replacement for GDM.) This may work for other Ubuntu flavors, I haven't tested. If you do test or know, please leave a comment below. Thanks!

Anyhow, on with the work. This shouldn't take too long.

The first step is to set up the system so that you can login as root. To do that, you have to enable root login for Ubuntu. You should probably read the warnings on that page and you should think carefully before doing this to your own computer.

The next step is to crack open your default terminal emulator. You can do that by pressing CTRL + ALT + T.

Now let's make you a superuser. You can do that with:

```
[code]sudo su[/code]
```

(Press enter and enter your password, of course.)

Our next step is to tell GDM3 to let us use the root login.

```
[code]nano /etc/gdm3/custom.conf[/code]
```

You're going to arrow down to just below the automatic login configurations and enter this line:

```
[code]AllowRoot=true[/code]
```

Then, you'll press CTRL + X, then Y, and then ENTER. (Congratulations, you've used 'nano' again and edited a file in the terminal!)

Our next step is to tell PAM (Pluggable Authentication Modules) that logging in as root is okay. That's pretty easy, and we'll do it with nano once again.

```
[code]nano /etc/pam.d/gdm-password[/code]
```

Now, scroll down and look for this line:

```
[code]auth required pam_succeed_if.so user != root  
quiet_success[/code]
```

What you're going to do is 'comment it out'. Basically, you're adding the # symbol which means, in this case, 'skip this line'. It's a way to tell the system to ignore a line while leaving the line there in case you change your mind.

So, change that line so that it looks like this:

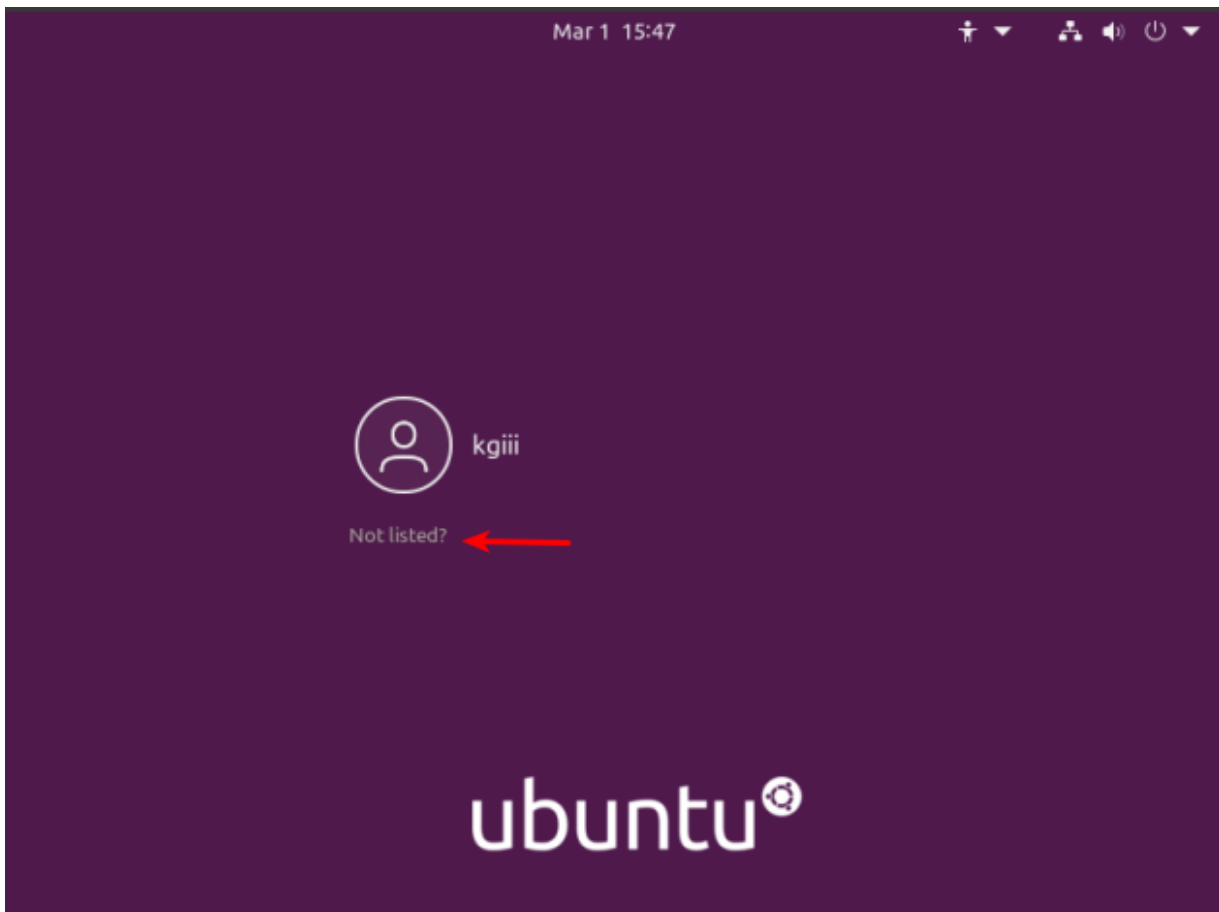
```
[code]#auth required pam_succeed_if.so user != root  
quiet_success[/code]
```

Now, save it just like you did above. (Press CTRL + X, then Y, and then ENTER.)

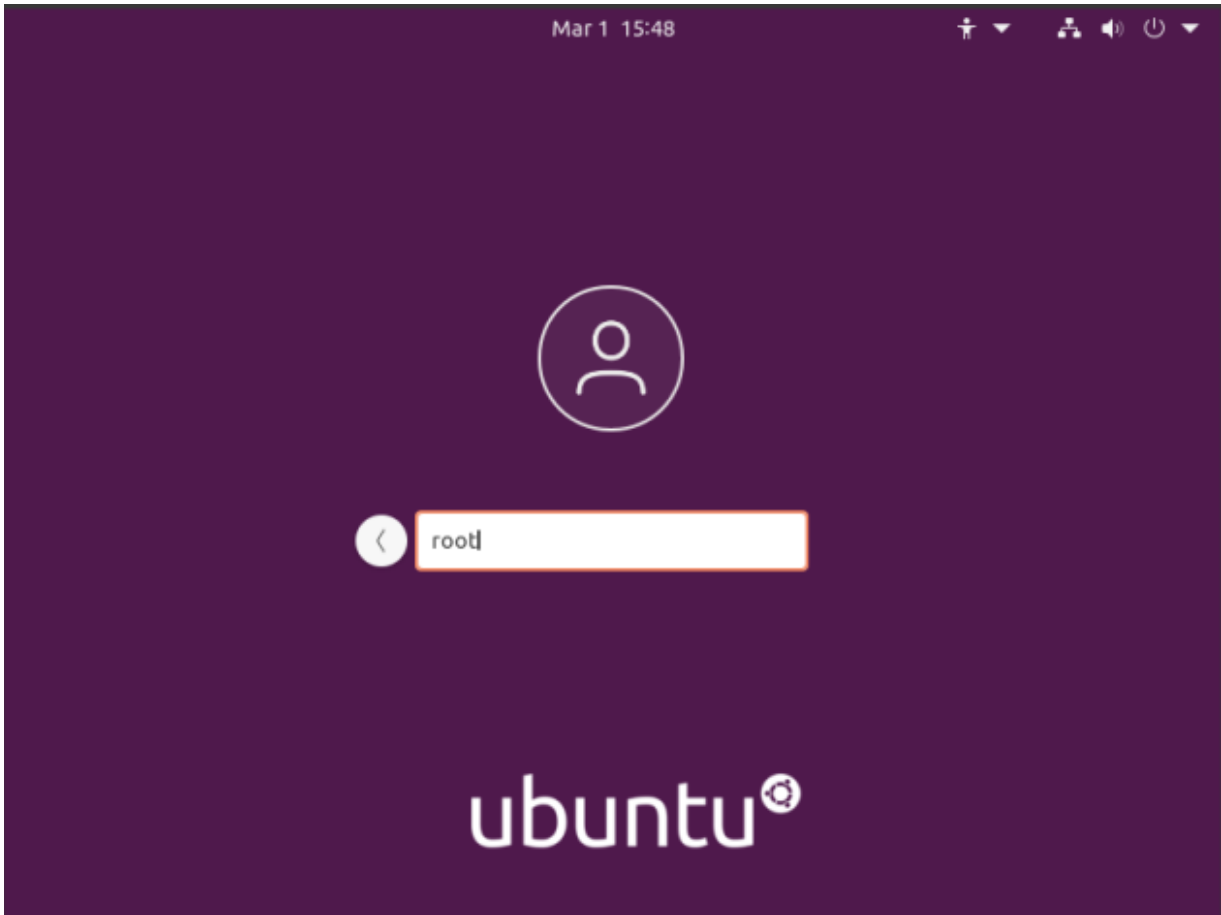
You're still using 'sudo su' and you can get out of that mode with:

```
[code]exit[/code]
```

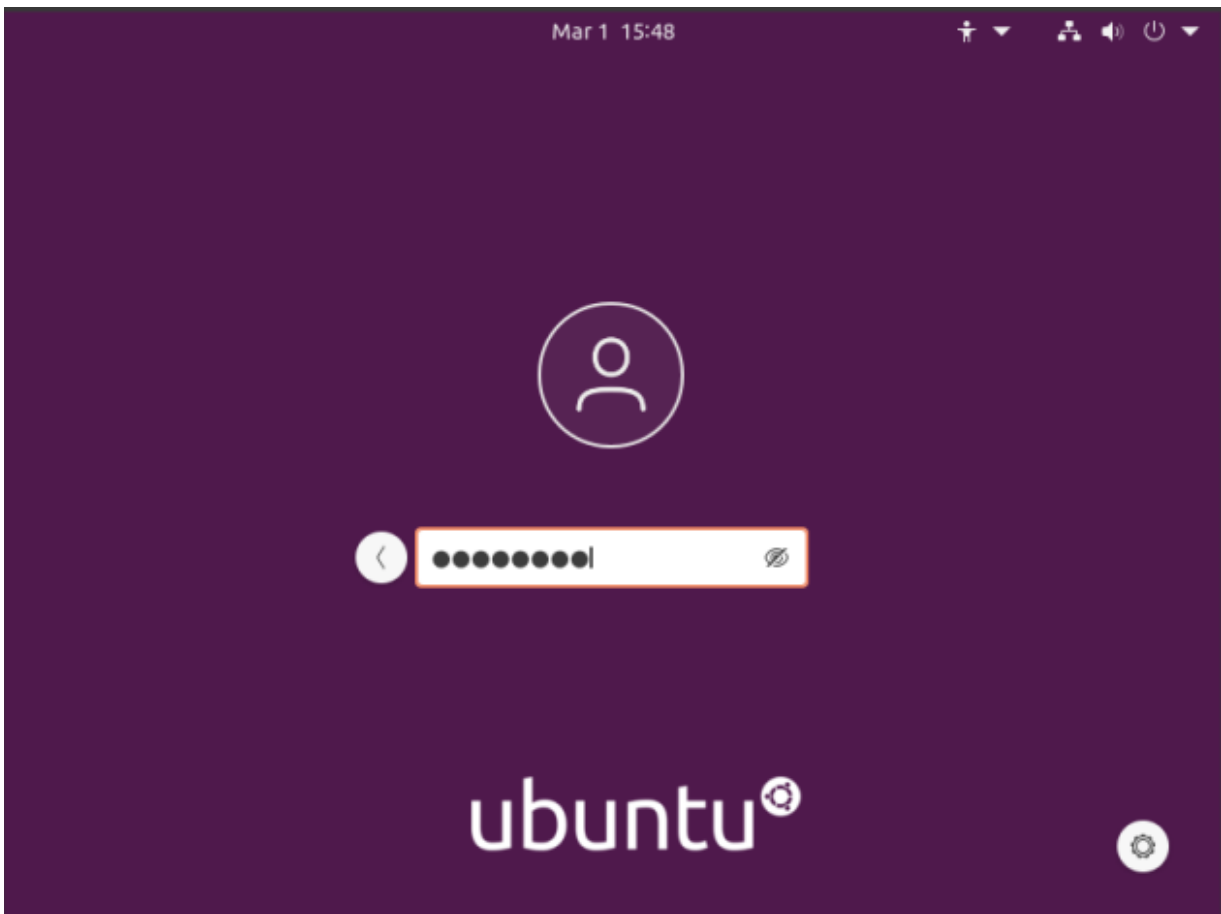
Now, when you next reboot, you can login as root. What you need to do is click on 'Not Listed', type in 'root', and then enter your password.



Like so...



And like this...



Enter your password and then press the ENTER button.

Tada! You're now logged in as root for no good reason and with almost no benefits! Congratulations! Now, undo it and go back to being a bit more secure. Or not... I don't mind. Just don't let your box get owned and turned into something malicious like a spam bot or a node in bot network used to do things like DDOS sites for money. Seriously, this is a horrible idea and you shouldn't do this.

Anyhow, thanks for reading. I appreciate it and I'm glad to get some of my notes online – finally. Things seem to be going at a good pace right now and I suspect I can keep this up for a while. If you want to be notified of new articles, you can either sign up for the newsletter (which is spam free) or you can use push notifications and your browser will happily tell you when there's something new published. If you sign up for the newsletter, I promise to not send any spam. I'll only ever use it for article notifications or very important site notices.

USN-4757-1: wpa_supplicant and hostapd vulnerability

It was discovered that wpa_supplicant did not properly handle P2P (Wi-Fi Direct) provision discovery requests in some situations. A physically proximate attacker could use this to cause a denial of service or possibly execute arbitrary code.

USN-4754-4: Python 2.7 vulnerability

USN-4754-1 fixed vulnerabilities in Python. Because of a regression, a subsequent update removed the fix for CVE-2021-3177. This update reinstates the security fix for CVE-2021-3177. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Original advisory details:

It was discovered that Python incorrectly handled certain inputs.

An attacker could possibly use this issue to execute arbitrary code

or cause a denial of service. (CVE-2020-27619, CVE-2021-3177)

[CentOS-announce] CentOS Stream Container images available on quay.io

NOTE: This message was intended to go to centos-devel and centos-announce on 11-Feb-2021 but it only made it to centos-devel. Thanks to folks on IRC for mentioning that this never made it to the proper announcement channels.

Hi folks,

CentOS Stream container images are now readily available!

```
podman pull quay.io/centos/centos:stream
```

OR

```
podman pull quay.io/centos/centos:stream8
```

Tags

We expect the 'stream' tag to automatically move forward to new Streams as they come on board. This means when CentOS Stream 9 becomes the Live Stream, quay.io/centos/centos:stream will have 9 based content.

The 'stream8' tag can be used while Stream 8 is Live, and during the overlap

period between Stream 8 and Stream 9.

A 'stream9' tag will be created at the appropriate time to serve the same purpose.

You can browse through all of the tags for the CentOS repository here:

<https://quay.io/repository/centos/centos?tab=tags>

Next Steps

– We are still in discussions on how to push these properly to Dockerhub. Since

CentOS is an Official Image, there are some extra requirements here that we're working through.

If you have questions you can find us on the [centos-devel mailing list](#)

([\[hidden email\]](#)) or in [#centos-stream](#) on Freenode

Cheers!

–

Brian Stinson

On behalf of the CentOS Stream Team

CentOS-announce mailing list

[hidden email]

<https://lists.centos.org/mailman/listinfo/centos-announce>

New Mobile Native Foundation to Foster Development Collaboration

Linux Foundation hosts effort to improve processes and technologies for large-scale mobile Android and iOS applications; Lyft makes initial contributions

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., March 2, 2021 – The Linux Foundation, the nonprofit organization enabling mass innovation through open source, today announced the Mobile Native Foundation (MNF). The MNF will bring developers together to improve processes and technologies that support large-scale Android and iOS applications. Organizations contributing to this effort include Airbnb, Capital One, Corellium, Elotl, Flare.build, GitHub, GogoApps, Haystack, Line, LinkedIn, Lyft, Microsoft, Peloton, Robinhood, Sauce Labs, Screenplay.dev, Slack, Solid Software, Spotify, Square and Uber.

“Like many of our industry peers, Lyft discovered that platform vendors did not solve all of the problems we faced as our mobile team grew from a dozen engineers to hundreds of active contributors,” said Keith Smiley, Staff Engineer, Lyft. “The Mobile Native Foundation will foster a diverse community that encourages collaboration and builds libraries and tools to move the industry forward.”

The MNF is a forum for collaboration on open source software,

standards and best practices that can result in common UI frameworks, architectural patterns, build systems and networking stacks that can accelerate time to market and reduce duplicative work across companies.

“The mobile developer community is innovating and we know that open source and collaboration can ensure that continues,” said Mike Dolan, executive vice president and GM of Projects at the Linux Foundation. “The MNF will accelerate and smooth mobile app development and brings new contributions to the Linux Foundation ecosystem.”

Lyft is making early project contributions to the MNF that includes Kronos, index-import and set-simulator-location. Matthew Edwards is also contributing Flank.

For more information and to begin contributing, please visit: <https://mobilenativefoundation.org>

Partner Statements

Elotl

“We are excited to pioneer the state of art Kubernetes stack to build, test, and run modern mobile applications at cloud scale. We appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with industry leaders on this vision!” said Madhuri Yechuri, Founder & CEO, Elotl.

Flare.build

“We look forward to collaborating with the community on many projects related to our core vision of decreasing friction and boosting productivity for teams creating applications at scale,” said Zach Gray, co-founder and CEO, Flare.build.

LinkedIn

“The Mobile Native Foundation will advance the state-of-the-art in mobile development by bringing together open source

developers and leading tech companies in a place where we can collaborate and enable anyone to build and operate large scale mobile applications. We are excited to be part of the launch and look forward to what we can accomplish together,” said Oscar Bonilla, Engineer, LinkedIn.

Microsoft

“We see this as a great opportunity to more inclusively collaborate on challenges we face across the industry and we can’t wait to see the improvements to mobile development we can make when we all work together,” said Mike Borysenko, distinguished engineer, Microsoft.

Robinhood

“Robinhood’s award-winning mobile apps wouldn’t be possible without the open source tools we rely on and contribute back to. We look forward to working together with the open source community as we continue to scale and address shared technical challenges,” said Lee Byron, Engineering Manager, Robinhood.

Screenplay.dev

“We could not be more humbled or more excited to have the opportunity to work with industry leaders to push the state of mobile development forward,” said Tomas Reimers, Co-founder, Screenplay.

Slack

Slack’s mobile engineering has benefited tremendously from the open source community. We’re excited to see the energy and experience behind MNF and look forward to participating in shaping the future of mobile development at scale,” said Valera Zakharov, Tech Lead of the Mobile Developer Experience Team.

Spotify

“We are excited to join forces with the community in the mission of solving issues and providing better technologies to ship mobile apps at scale,” said Patrick Balestra, iOS Infrastructure Engineer, Spotify.

Uber

“Uber mobile apps have scaled with the help of a thriving open source community and we are now proud to collaborate with other organizations on the Mobile Native Foundation to further give back,” said Ty Smith, Android Tech Lead, Uber.

About the Linux Foundation

Founded in 2000, the Linux Foundation is supported by more than 1,000 members and is the world’s leading home for collaboration on open source software, open standards, open data, and open hardware. Linux Foundation’s projects are critical to the world’s infrastructure including Linux, Kubernetes, Node.js, and more. The Linux Foundation’s methodology focuses on leveraging best practices and addressing the needs of contributors, users and solution providers to create sustainable models for open collaboration. For more information, please visit us at linuxfoundation.org.

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