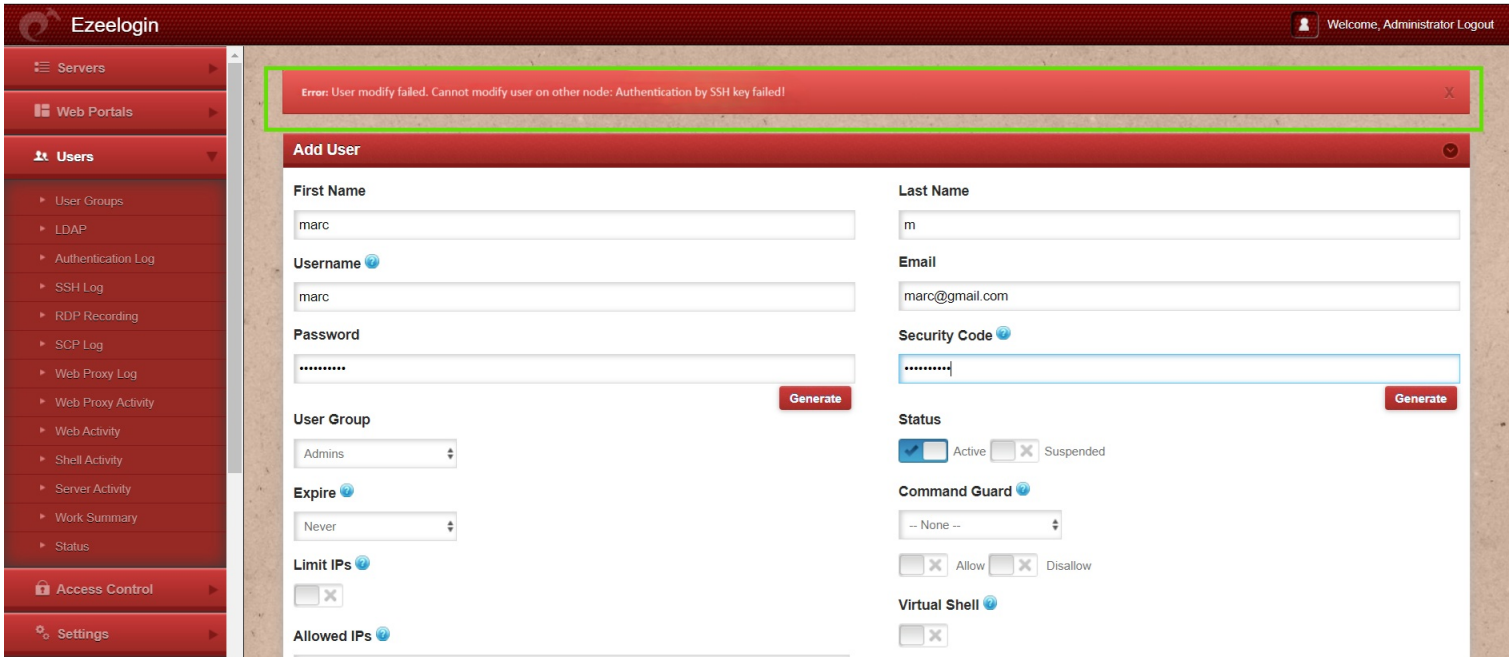
Error: User modify failed. Cannot modify user on other node: Authentication by SSH key failed!

255 Manu Chacko October 21, 2026 Common Errors & Troubleshooting 7782

Error: failed to modify user on other node. SSH key authentication to remote node failed

Overview: This article addresses the error: "failed to modify user on other node. SSH key authentication to remote node failed," providing troubleshooting steps for missing public keys, SSH port settings, sshd_config configurations, and more.



Check the following on the slave/secondary node

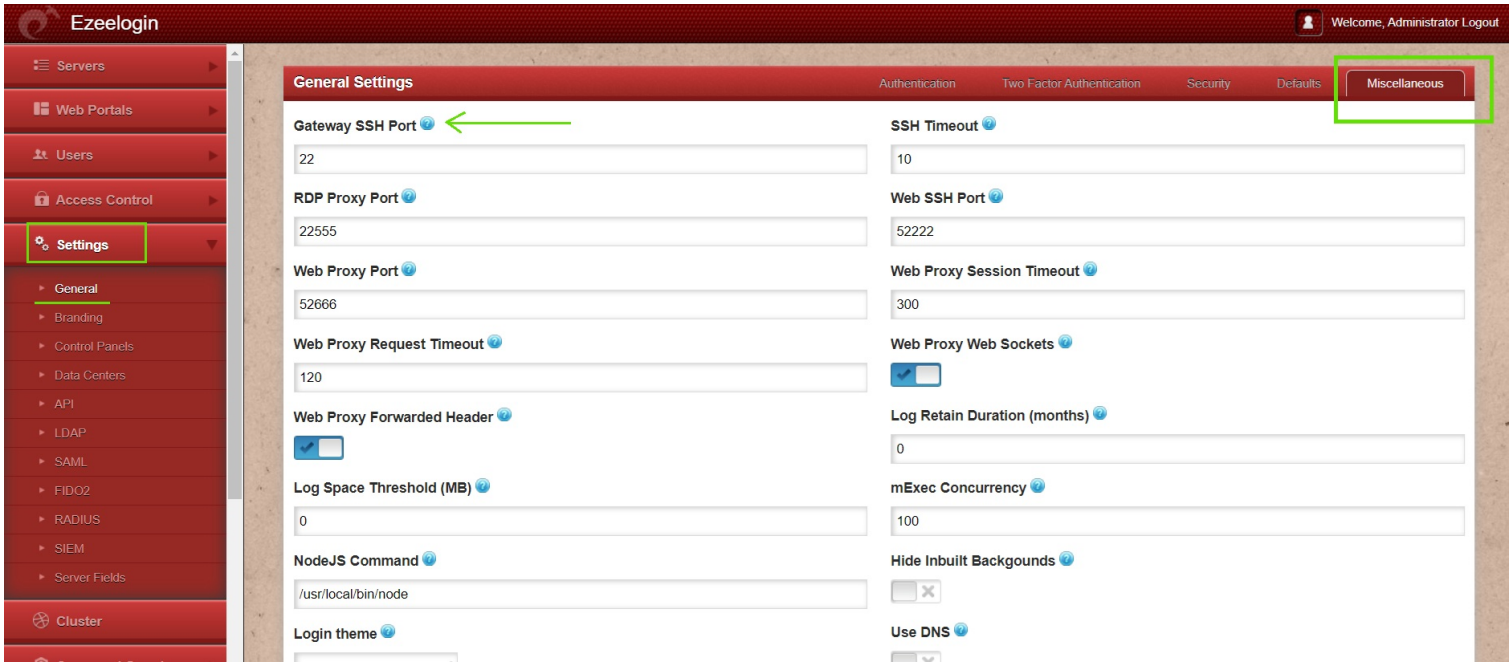
Step 1. The error 'User modify failed Cannot modify user on other node: Authentication by ssh key failed' would occur when the Ezeelogin installed node has its public key missing in /root/.ssh/authorized_keys. To add the key, execute the following command

```
root@gateway:~# cat /usr/local/etc/ezlogin/id_clkey.pub >> /root/.ssh/authorized_keys
```

Check if the key is back in the file.

```
root@gateway:~# cat /root/.ssh/authorized_keys
```

Step 2. Also, make sure that the port sshd is listening on the servers is given as the gateway port in **Settings-> General-> Miscellaneous-> Gateway SSH port**



Step 3. Also, make sure PubkeyAuthentication is set to 'YES' in your sshd_config (sshd configuration) file. In Centos/RHEL/Fedora it would be

```
root@gateway:~# vi /etc/ssh/sshd_config

#set PubkeyAuthentication to yes

PubkeyAuthentication yes

root@gateway ~]# service sshd restart
```

Also, run the following command to check if you have enabled the recommended sshd settings in /etc/ssh/sshd_config

```
root@gateway:~# sshd -T | grep -i
'AllowTcpForwarding\|PermitRootLogin\|PubkeyAuthentication\|PasswordAuthentication\|pubkeyacceptedalgorithms\|Port'

port 22
permitrootlogin yes
pubkeyauthentication yes
passwordauthentication yes
gatewayports no
allowtcpforwarding yes
pubkeyacceptedalgorithms ssh-ed25519-cert-v01@openssh.com,ecdsa-sha2-nistp256-cert-v01@openssh.com,ecdsa-sha2-
nistp384-cert-v01@openssh.com,ecdsa-sha2-nistp521-cert-v01@openssh.com,sk-ssh-ed25519-cert-v01@openssh.com,sk-
ecdsa-sha2-nistp256-cert-v01@openssh.com,rsa-sha2-512-cert-v01@openssh.com,rsa-sha2-256-cert-
v01@openssh.com,ssh-ed25519,ecdsa-sh
```

Step 4. Make sure root login is permitted on the gateway server. You can check it by using the following command:

```
ssh root@localhost
```

And it should log you in; otherwise, edit /etc/ssh/sshd_config and set PermitRootLogin yes.

```
root@gateway:~# vi /etc/ssh/sshd_config

#Add the following lines to the end of  /etc/ssh/sshd_config to allow root login from localhost only

Match Address 127.0.0.1

PermitRootLogin yes

PubkeyAuthentication yes

#Replace MASTER_NODE_IP with your master node Ezeelogin IP ADDRESS
```

```
Match Address MASTER_NODE_IP
PermitRootLogin yes
PubkeyAuthentication yes


root@gateway:~# service sshd restart
```

After, try to authenticate with the command. Make sure you are able to login after entering the password.

```
ssh root@localhost
```

Step 5. Also, make sure that the web user(apache, nobody, etc) that the webserver(apache/nginx) runs as is able to read the keys in the dir /usr/local/etc/ezlogin. Make sure to grant the read privileges to

```
chmod o r /usr/local/etc/ezlogin/id_clkey
chmod o r /usr/local/etc/ezlogin/id_clkey.pub
                        OR
usermod -G <current_groupname_of_id_clkey_files> <webserver_user>
```

Step 6. Find out which key type is used by the gateway server by running the below command.

```
root@gateway:~# ssh-keygen -l -f /usr/local/etc/ezlogin/id_key.pub

4096 SHA256:n4lmX53/gwkKB4+nSQ30hZXxXK+DRG1LPc7N1KN/1Ag ezlogin (RSA)
```

Step 6(A): Open **/etc/ssh/sshd_config** file and append the below line to **enable RSA** key type and restart SSHD.

```
root@gateway:~# vi /etc/ssh/sshd_config

PubkeyAcceptedKeyTypes +ssh-rsa

root@gateway:~# systemctl restart sshd
```

If you are running **Ezeelogin version 7.37.8** or above and using **ssh-rsa** or **ssh-dss** keys, it is recommended to change them to **ed25519** for better security and performance.

How to reset cluster keys in ezeelogin Master-slave Configuration ?

Step 6(B): Check for the SSHD error logs of the gateway server.

```
For CentOS

root@gateway:~# /var/log/secure

For Ubuntu

root@gateway:~# /var/log/auth.log
```

Refer to the below article if you get "**userauth_pubkey: signature algorithm ssh-rsa not in PubkeyAcceptedAlgorithms**"

> userauth_pubkey: signature algorithm ssh-rsa not in PubkeyAcceptedAlgorithms
>
> signature algorithm ssh-dss not in PubkeyAcceptedAlgorithms

Note: If you have enabled Allow Or Deny SSH Access To A Particular User Or Group in sshd.conf, make sure that the **user root is allowed.**

Step 7: Check if the **LoginGraceTime** parameter is enabled and set to a safe value.

```
root@server:~# vim /etc/ssh/sshd_config

LoginGraceTime 30
```

Related Articles:

Error: User modify failed. Cannot modify user on other node: usermod: user luca does not exist.

Error: User modify failed. Cannot modify user on this node: Authentication by SSH key failed!

error: User modify failed Cannot modify user on this node: OS=FreeBSD: Command not found. OS: Undefined

Online URL: https://www.ezeelogin.com/kb/article/error-user-modify-failed-cannot-modify-user-on-other-node-authentication-by-ssh-key-failed-255.html