Enforcing ssh login shell for ssh gateway users selectively in sshd_config file

Enforce login shell for SSH users in the sshd configuration file.

Overview: This article describes how to enforce the ezsh shell for SSH users, excluding root, ted, and ben, in the sshd_config file, followed by restarting the SSH service.

- By default, the [Ezeelogin gateway users](#) are assigned the shell */usr/local/bin/ezsh* however you may want the gateway users to have OS-level access (/bin/bash shell) when they log in via ssh.

This article describes how to enforce a specific shell for SSH users:

Step 1: Identify Current Shell:

- Determine the current shell assigned to the user by using the finger command.

```
root@jumpbox :~# finger ezadmin

  Login: ezadmin    Name:

  Directory: /home/ezadmin    Shell: /usr/local/bin/ezsh
```

Step 2: Modify sshd_config:

Edit the sshd configuration file (/etc/ssh/sshd_config) on your gateway server:

- You can force every user into the /usr/local/bin/ezsh shell and exclude selected users by having the following parameters included in the /etc/ssh/sshd_config file of the gateway box. Append the following lines to the config file and restart the config file to apply the made changes.

```
root@jumpbox :~# /etc/ssh/sshd_config

Match User !root,!ted,!ben,?*
```

```
ForceCommand /usr/local/bin/ezsh

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

- In the above eg., it would enforce <u>all the users</u> to default to the shell ***/usr/local/bin/ezsh*** on ssh login except for the user's ***root, ted, ben.***

This would be the recommended way as it improves security by denying a /bin/bash shell for the SSH gateway users who do not need OS-level access on the gateway server and forcing them into the ezsh shell.

The users ***root, ted, and ben*** have been excluded hence would get OS-level access (/bin/bash shell on ssh login) and need to simply run the command ***ezsh*** to get the ezsh shell interface.

Adjust User Shell

To force the ezadmin user to the /bin/bash shell, run the following on the gateway box and exclude the user ezadmin in the /etc/ssh/sshd_config file only if ForceCommand parameters are in use.

```
root@jumpbox :~# chsh -s /bin/bash ezadmin.
```

Related Articles:

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