

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

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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,?*
    ForceShell /usr/local/bin/ezsh
```

```
ForceCommand /usr/local/bin/ezsh  
  
root@jumpbox :~# service sshd restart
```

- In the above eg., it would enforce all the users 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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[Changed settings when listening to a custom port.](#)

Online URL:

https://www.ezeelogin.com/kb/article/enforcing-ssh-login-shell-for-ssh-gateway-users-selectively-in-sshd_config-file-336.html