Configure Automatic su or sudo

73 admin December 11, 2025 Common Errors & Troubleshooting 20579

How to configure Automatic su or sudo /switch user CentOS/Freebsd/Ubuntu servers?

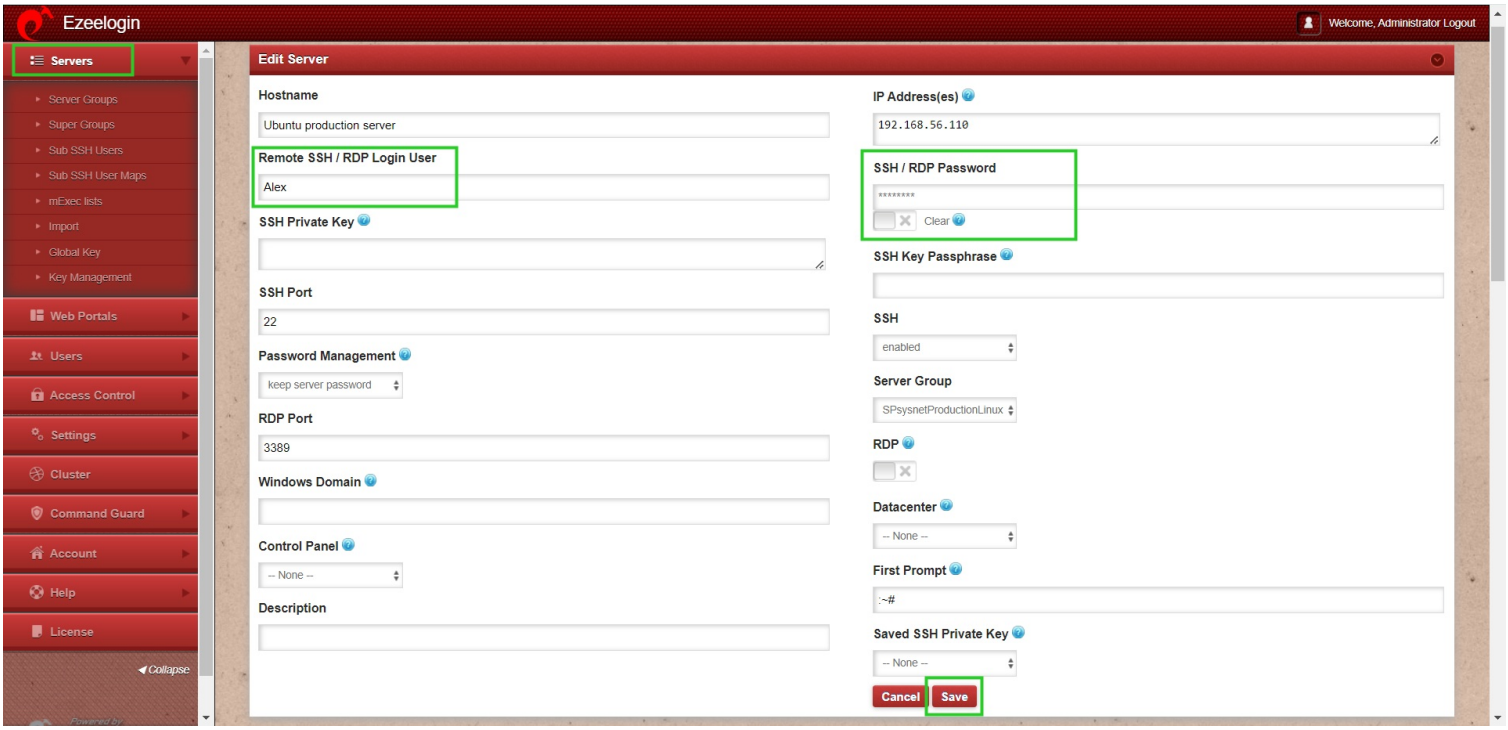
Overview: This article outlines how to add a remote server using a non-root user for SSH login and configure automatic sudo or su to switch to the root user.

Add a server by providing Hostname, IP Address , Remote SSH login user, and Password of the Remote SSH login user.

You can also **add a server using key and passphrase.** When adding a server using a key and passphrase, make sure to add the following line to the **sudoers** file of the remote server for automatic sudo to work:

```
root@remote_server ~]# visudo

alex ALL=(ALL:ALL) NOPASSWD: ALL
```

This configuration allows the user Alex to execute any command with sudo without being prompted for a password.



Create a new user on the remote server with a **home directory and bash shell to ensure 'automatic su' works correctly**.

Method 1: Create user with adduser command

example: adduser username

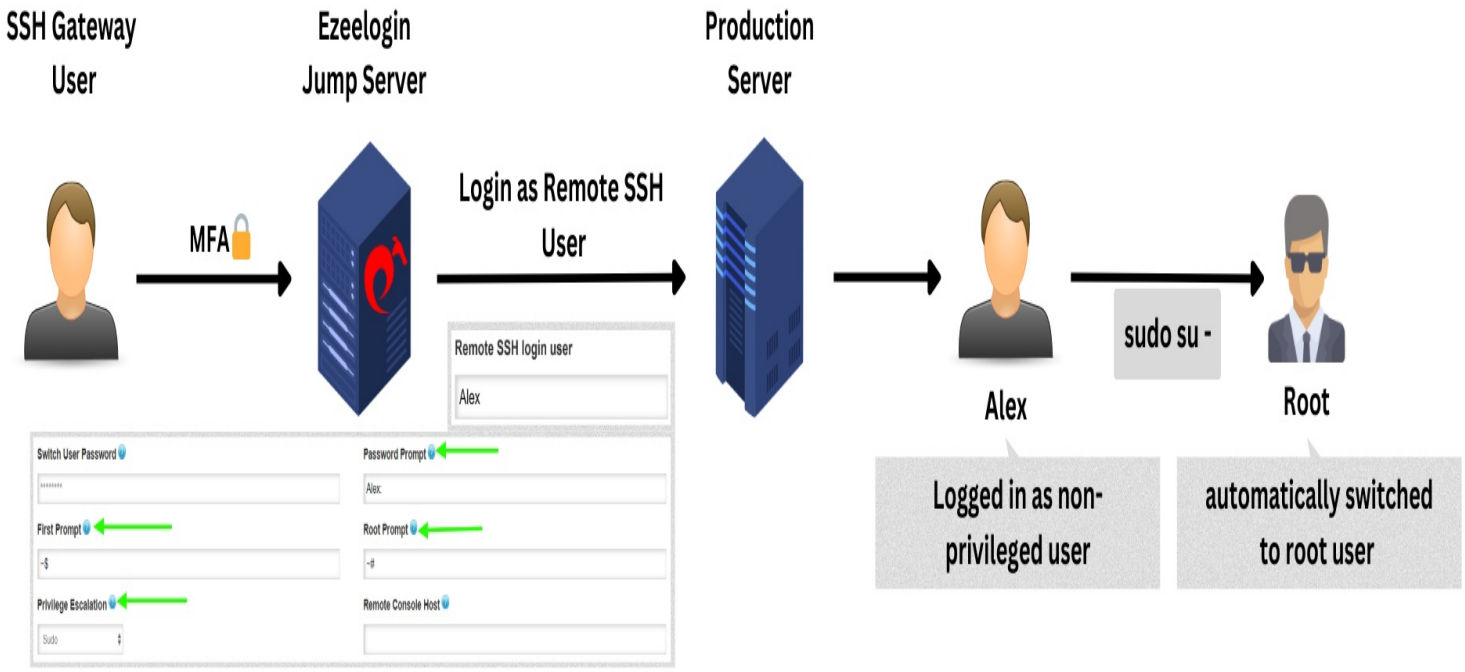
Method 2: Create user with useradd command

example: useradd -m -s /bin/bash username

The first prompt and root prompt will vary across different operating systems.
Make sure to login to the remote server manually, check the exact prompts for both the normal user and the root user, and update them in Ezeelogin accordingly. This is required for 'automatic su' to work correctly without any

errors.

METHOD 1



Step 1: Ensure that the remote ssh user has the **bash shell enabled**.

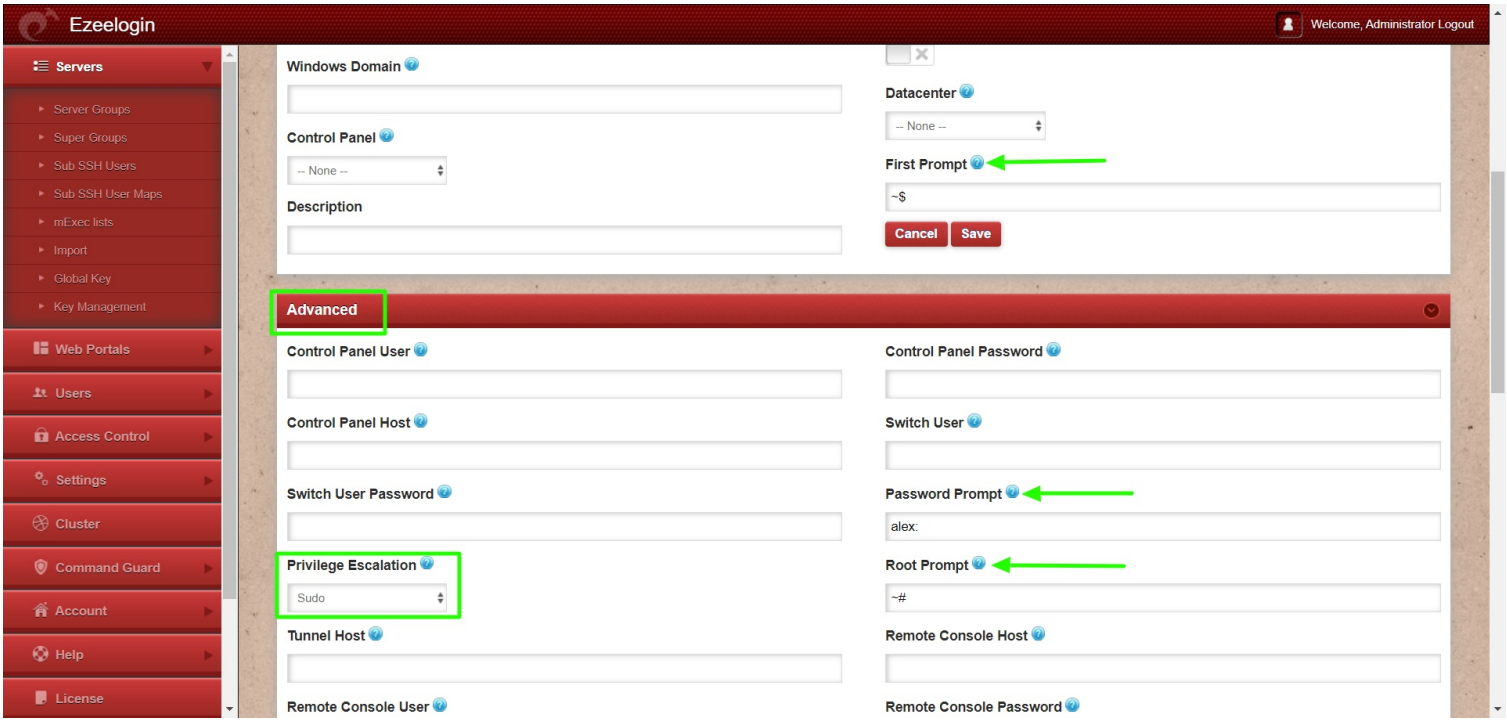
The finger command would let you know the shell currently assigned to the remote SSH user.

```
root@gateway:~# finger alex

Login: alex Name:

Directory: /home/alex Shell: /usr/local/bin/tsh
```

Step 1(A): Assign bash shell to the user using the command

```
root@gateway:~# chsh -s /usr/local/bin/bash alex
```

Step 2: Fill in the **first prompt**, **password prompt** and **root prompt** of the remote SSH login user**.** Follow below steps to find first prompt, password prompt and root prompt.



Step 2(A): To find "**First prompt**", log in as the remote ssh login user(**alex**)to the remote server and you will get the first prompt

```
alex@gateway :~$
```

In this case, the '**first prompt**' would be '**~$** '.

There is the space character included above, so a total of 3 characters are required.

Step 2(B): Refer to the below example to find the **password prompt**.

```
alex@gateway :~$ sudo su -
[sudo] password for alex:
```

Here the '**Password Prompt**' would be '**alex:**'

Step 2(C): To find the "**root prompt**" switch to superuser and you will find the root prompt.

```
root@gateway :~#
```

In this case, the '**Root Prompt**' would be '**~#** '

Step 3: After providing the first prompt, password prompt, and root prompt change **Privilege escalation** to **"sudo".**

Step 4: After filling in all the variables click on the **save** button.

Step 5: After saving, login to the Ezeelogin backend(**ezsh**). Upon successful login to the **Ezsh shell**, you will initially be logged in as the **Remote SSH login user(alex)**to the **remote server** and then automatically switched to the **root user** using **"sudo su -".**

Enable sudo only if you want the **sudo** command to **switch** privileges. If you are using the **'su'** command to escalate privileges, then leave the **Privilege Escalation** field as **"None"**

METHOD 2

If you are using "su" instead of "sudo" to switch to root user then you need not enter the 'root prompt' and should disable sudo from privilege escalation.

Step 1: Enter the field '**Switch User**' and '**Switch User Password**' along with **first prompt**, **password prompt**. '**Switch User**' would be '**root**' or any other user that you would need to swich to and '**Switch User Password**' would be the root password or the password of the user to which you are switching to.

Step 1(A): To find "**First prompt**", log in as the remote ssh login user(**alex**) and you will get the first prompt

```
alex@gateway :~$
```

In this case, the '**first prompt**' would be '**~$** '.

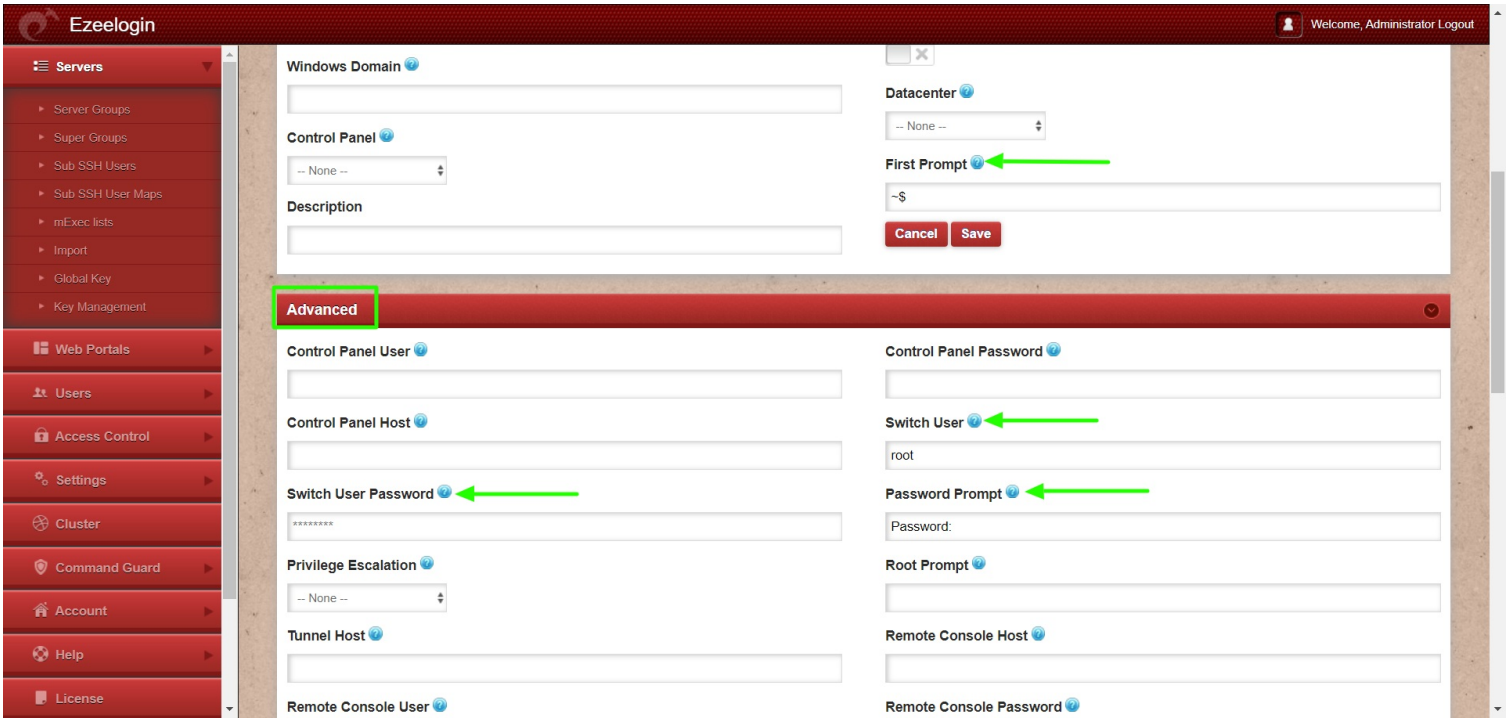
There is the space character included above, so total of 3 characters are required.

Step 1(B): Refer to the below example to find the **password prompt**.

```
alex@gateway :~$ su root
Password:
```

Here the '**Password Prompt**' would be ''**Password:**"

Step 2: After filling up all the variables click on "**Save**"



Step 3: Login to the **Ezsh shell**. Upon successful login to the **Ezsh shell**, you will initially be logged in as the **Remote SSH login user(alex)** to the **remote server** and then automatically switched to the **root user using "su".**

```
Alex@gateway:~$ su - root ; exit
Password:
root@gateway:~#
root@gateway:~#
```

Common errors when SSH'ing into remote server after configuring automatic su or sudo

Timeout waiting for server response.

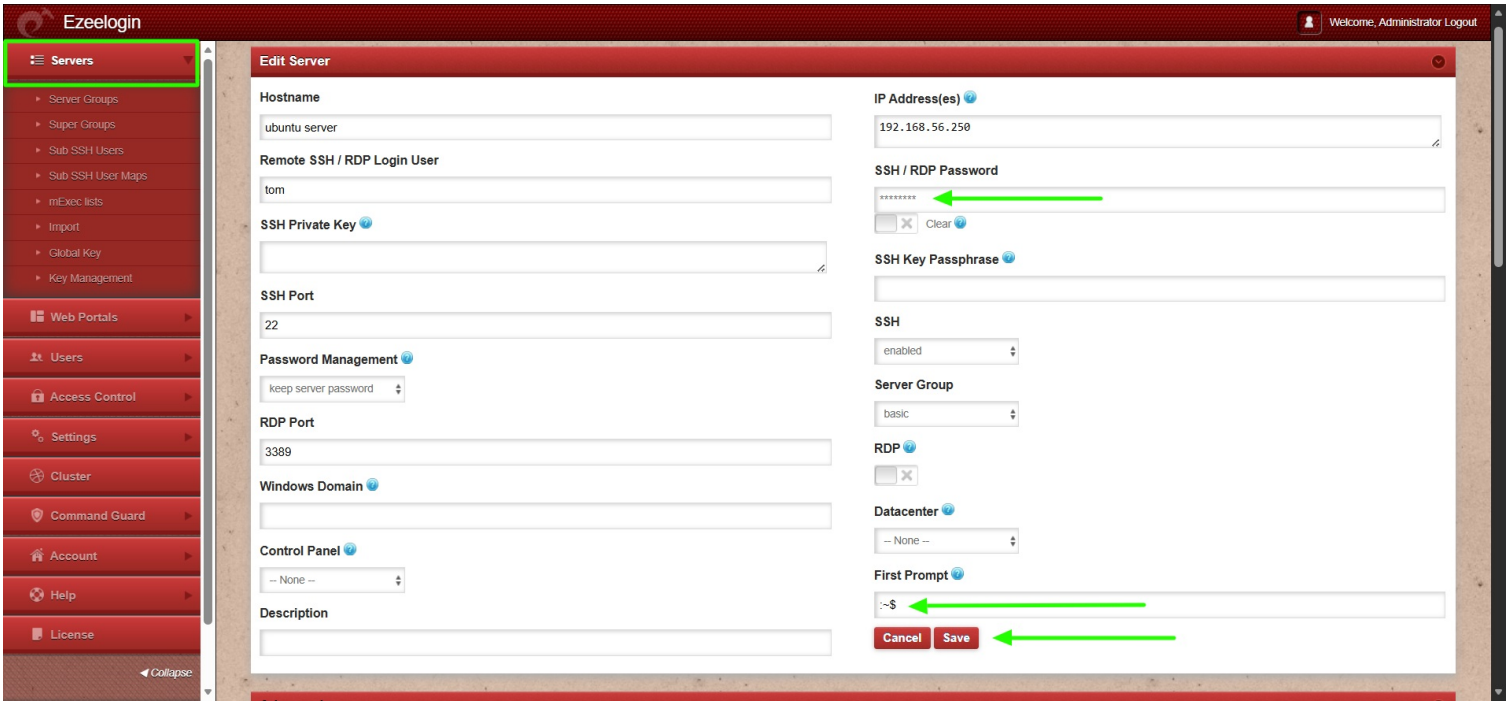
First prompt could not be found in server response. Make sure first prompt has been specified correctly.

How to fix the above error?

Step 1: Login to remote server manually and check the prompt of the user.

```
: $ ssh tom@
tom@          's password:

The programs included with the Ubuntu system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.

Ubuntu comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by
applicable law.

tom@remote-server: $
tom@remote-server: $
```

Step 2: Provide the correct 3 character in first prompt in the GUI, and ensure that the remote user's password is correct.



Step 3: Re-login to ezsh and check if the login works as expected. After logging in, it should automatically switch to the root user.

Related Articles:

Enabling Virtualshell did not allow automatic su or sudo

How to add a subssh user with non-privileged remote SSH login user

Enable root privilege for the group in the sudoers file

How to add sub ssh users on remote servers and restrict commands via sudoers file

How to allow the user to switch when the command guard is enabled

Online URL: https://www.ezeelogin.com/kb/article/configure-automatic-su-or-sudo-73.html