

After buying a VPS

- [Step 1: Create a user](#)
- [Step 2: Read guides!](#)

Step 1: Create a user

If you logged in as root (which you probably did), you're gonna need to create a user. Logging in as root is very dangerous, even more when login via password is enabled. Hackers could get access to your machine and do literally anything with it, since they would also be root.

Creating a user

To create a new user, you can use: `adduser <username>`.

This tool is going to ask a bunch of questions, answer them as you see fit. Please choose a very strong password.

Allowing normal users to run commands as root

Using root as user is not recommended for many reasons, one is that every app you run would have the same root access and could do many malicious things. To avoid that, we use an unprivileged user and allow it to run commands as root, requiring the user's password.

To set that up, we first need to install `sudo`: `apt install sudo`.

After that, we're going to allow this user to run commands as root.

Try running: `visudo -f /etc/sudoers.d/<username>`.

This should open a text editor, add this to the file:

```
<username>    ALL=(ALL:ALL) ALL
```

This will allow your user to run commands as root, with your password.

If the text editor looks and/or feels weird (text not pasting, unable to write, ...), you landed in vim, a very weird place (I use it daily). To paste the text, you can press `Escape` and then `p`, probably. If that doesn't work then press `Escape`, then `i`, then `Ctrl+Shift+V`. Then press `Escape`, and type `:wq`.

If at this point you're in the terminal and not editing a file, you probably did everything right! (ADD SCREEN/VIDEO)

You can check if you did it right by running `cat /etc/sudoers.d/<username>` and checking that the content matches as above.

After that, you can try to logout, and login as that user: `ssh <username>@<hostname>`.

Step 2: Read guides!

At this point you are ready to configure your VPS as you like. I do have some guides I recommend reading to make your VPS a bit more secure. Read at least these guides:

- SSH
- Firewall