

Sudo workshop: Giving access while staying in control

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About me

- Working at the Budapest office of One Identity (formerly known as Balabit)
- syslog-ng upstream
- Helping in RPM and FreeBSD packaging
- Blogger and speaker



Why sudo?

- Todd Miller, maintainer of sudo, became my colleague through our acquisition.
- Learned that sudo is a lot more than a prefix.
- Blogs, talks, articles about its lesser-known features.
- Brainstorming new features, testing, bug-reporting.
- Not a practicing sysadmin anymore -> I know the basics and the most advanced stuff. ©



What is sudo?

- Is sudo a prefix for administrative commands?
- Yes, but also a lot more:
 - Control and log access
 - Record and play back terminal input and output
 - Modular: extend with your own code, now even in Python!
 - It even has humor! ©



What is covered in this workshop?

- Configuration basics
- Sysadmin humor: insults :-)
- The advanced stuff:
 - Session recording, server, relays
 - Plugins, both native and Python
 - JSON-formatted logging
 - Chroot, working directory
 - Logging sub-commands
 - Getting more precise information



What do you need?

- A host (vm) running sudo 1.9.15
- If a demo is not enough for you:
 - Two hosts for sudo_logsrvd
 - Three hosts if also testing a relay
- Latest sudo: https://www.sudo.ws/getting/packages/
- Configurations from git repo: https://github.com/czanik/sudo_workshop



Before configuring sudo

- Use visudo for syntax check.
- Use EDITOR to use another text editor. :)
- Don't forget that a syntactically correct config does not mean that you can execute anything. :)
- You need a root password (even for Ubuntu!)



Configuration

- Read from top to bottom.
- Start with generic.
- Add exceptions at the end.



A basic /etc/sudoers

Default config

%wheel

ALL

- (Almost) all permissions to the wheel group
- Still useful:
 - Controls access
 - No shared password
 - You see who did what



Defaults

Changes the default behavior:

```
Defaults secure_path="/usr/sbin:/usr/bin:/sbin:/bin"
Defaults env_keep = "LANG LC_ADDRESS LC_CTYPE"
Defaults !insults
```

Can be user/host/etc specific

Defaults: % wheel insults



Insults

• Fun, but not always PC:)

```
czanik@linux-mewy:~> sudo ls
[sudo] password for root:
Hold it up to the light --- not a brain in sight!
[sudo] password for root:
My pet ferret can type better than you!
[sudo] password for root:
sudo: 3 incorrect password attempts
czanik@linux-mewy:~>
```



Find the problem

```
Defaults
         !visiblepw
Defaults
         always set home
Defaults match group by gid
Defaults
         always query group plugin
Defaults env reset
Defaults env keep = "COLORS DISPLAY HOSTNAME HISTSIZE KDEDIR LS COLORS"
Defaults env keep += "MAIL PS1 PS2 QTDIR USERNAME LANG LC ADDRESS LC CTYPE"
Defaults secure path = /sbin:/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin
root ALL=(ALL) ALL
%wheel ALL=(ALL) ALL
Defaults: % wheel insults
Defaults !insults
Defaults log output
```



Find the problem (solution)

Defaults log output

```
Defaults
         !visiblepw
Defaults always set home
Defaults match group by gid
Defaults always query group plugin
Defaults env reset
Defaults env keep = "COLORS DISPLAY HOSTNAME HISTSIZE KDEDIR LS COLORS"
Defaults env keep += "MAIL PS1 PS2 QTDIR USERNAME LANG LC ADDRESS LC CTYPE"
Defaults secure path = /sbin:/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin
root ALL=(ALL) ALL
%wheel ALL=(ALL) ALL
Defaults: % wheel insults
Defaults !insults
```



Practice

- Copy the standard sudoers to /etc/
- Visudo
- Enable insults for the wheel group (or your group)

Cheating: insults directory



Aliases

- Simplify configuration
- Less error-prone

```
Host_Alias WEBSERVERS = www1, www2, www3
User_Alias ADMINS = smith, johnson, williams
Cmnd_Alias REBOOT = /sbin/halt, /sbin/reboot
```

ADMINS WEBSERVERS = REBOOT



Digest verification

```
peter ALL =
sha244:11925141bb22866afdf257ce7790bd6275feda80b3b241c
108b79c88 /usr/bin/passwd
```

- Modified binaries do not run
- Difficult to maintain
- Additional layer of protection



Session recording

- Recording the terminal
- Playback
- Difficult to modify (not cleartext)
- Saved locally, therefore easy to delete with unlimited access

Sudo 1.9: central session recording using sudo_logsrvd



Session recording

Enable in the sudoers file:

Defaults log_output

List recordings:

sudoreplay -1

Play back recordings:

sudoreplay 00/00/01



Practice

- Copy the standard sudoers to /etc/
- Visudo
- Enable session recording
- List sessions
- Play back the last session

Cheating: session_recording directory



Logging and alerting

- Email alerts often there is nothing to deliver them
- Debug logs way too verbose
 - Debug rules
 - Report problems
- All events to syslog
 - Make sure logs are centralized
 - Using syslog-ng sudo logs are automatically parsed and you can also push alerts to Slack, Splunk, Elasticsearch, etc.



syslog-ng

- Logging
 - Recording events, such as:

```
Jan 14 11:38:48 linux-0jbu sshd[7716]: Accepted publickey for root from 127.0.0.1 port 48806 ssh2
```

- syslog-ng
 - Enhanced logging daemon with a focus on portability and high-performance central log collection. Originally developed in C.



Configuring syslog-ng

- "Don't panic!"
- Simple and logical, even if it looks difficult at first
- Pipeline model:
 - Many different building blocks (sources, destinations, filters, parsers, etc.)
 - Connected to a pipeline using "log" statements



syslog-ng.conf: getting started

```
Qversion: 3.23
@include "scl.conf"
# this is a comment :)
options {flush lines (0); keep hostname (yes); };
source s sys { system(); internal();};
destination d mesg { file("/var/log/messages"); };
filter f default { level(info..emerg) and not
(facility(mail)); };
log { source(s sys); filter(f default);
destination (d mesg); };
```



syslog-ng.conf: sudo building blocks

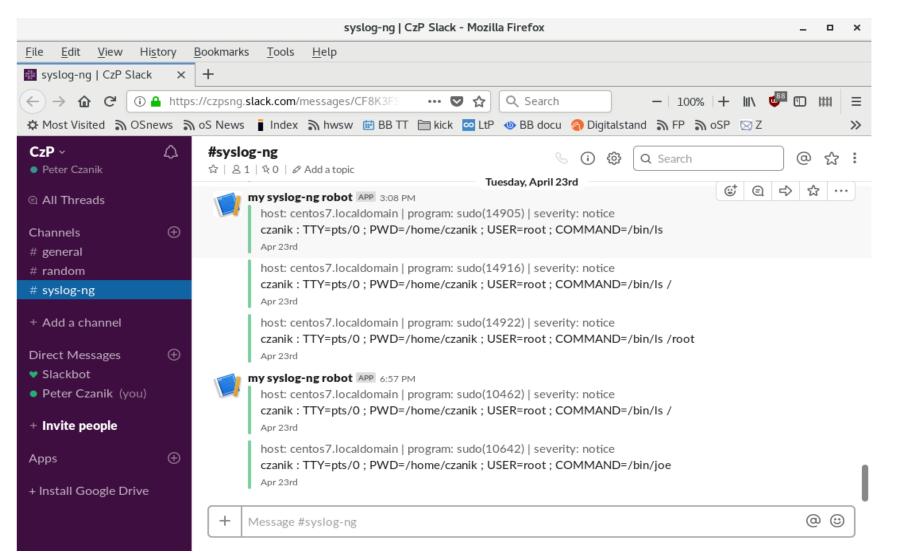
```
filter f sudo {program(sudo)};
destination d test {
  file("/var/log/sudo.json"
  template("$(format-json --scope nv pairs --scope dot nv pairs
-scope rfc5424) \n\n"));
};
destination d slack {
  slack(hook-
url("https://hooks.slack.com/services/TF8LZ3CSF/BF8CJKVT3/C2qdnMX
CwDD3ATOFVMyxMyHB")
```

syslog-ng.conf: sudo log statement

```
# name-value pairs come from the sudo parser
loq {
    source(s sys);
    filter(f sudo);
    if (match("czanik" value(".sudo.SUBJECT"))) {
        destination { file("/var/log/sudo filtered"); };
        destination(d slack);
    destination(d test);
```



sudo logs in Slack





Practice

- Check the logs
- Stored differently on different operating systems:
 - Systemd: journalctl
 - Syslog: /var/log in various files

```
Nov 18 12:31:33 centos7sudo sudo[30666]: czanik: 3 incorrect password attempts; TTY=pts/0; PWD=/home/czanik; USER=root; COMMAND=/bin/bash
Nov 18 12:31:43 centos7sudo sudo[30670]: czanik: TTY=pts/0; PWD=/home/czanik; USER=root; COMMAND=/bin/bash
```



Plugin-based architecture

- Since version 1.8
- Most features can be replaced or extended using plugins
- sudo_pair
 - Making sure that no user can enter commands on their own
 - Terminate session on suspicious activity
 - Developed in Rust
 - https://github.com/square/sudo_pair



sudo_pair

• demo



Sudo 1.9.0

- Central session recording collection
- New APIs (audit and approval)
- Python support for plugins



Central session recording collection

- Using the new sudo_logsrvd application
- Attacker (or user with too many privileges) cannot delete recordings locally
- Encrypted connections available

```
Defaults log_output
Defaults log servers=172.16.167.128
```



Demo / Practice

• If you have a second host (vm), you can also try

```
Defaults log_output
Defaults log servers=172.16.167.128
```

Cheating: log_servers directory



Audit plugin

- Not user visible
- API to access to all kinds of sudo logs
- Useful from Python
- Logging / alerting to Elasticsearch, cloud providers, etc.
 - without external tools (like syslog-ng)



Approval plugin

- Session approval
- No third-party plugin necessary (like sudo_pair)
- Using Python, you can connect sudo with ticketing systems
 - Allow session only with open ticket



Python support

- Extending sudo using Python
- Using the same APIs as C plugins
- API: https://www.sudo.ws/man/sudo_plugin.man.html
 - Python plugin documentation: https://www.sudo.ws/man/sudo_plugin_python.man.html
- No development environment or compilation needed
- Enabled in /etc/sudo.conf

```
Plugin python_io python_plugin.so
ModulePath=/root/kick.py ClassName=MyIOPlugin
```



Policy plugin API

- Decides who can do what
- Only one policy plugin allowed
- Enabled in /etc/sudo.conf
- Example: only allow to run the command "id"



Policy plugin API example: code



Policy plugin API example: Screenshot

```
[czanik@centos7 ~]$ sudo ls
You are not allowed to run this command!
[czanik@centos7 ~]$ sudo id
uid=0(root) gid=0(root) groups=0(root)
```



IO logs API

- Access input and output from user sessions
- Examples:
 - Break connection if a given text appears on screen
 - Break connection if "rm -fr" is typed in the command line



IO logs API example: code

```
import sudo

class MyIOPlugin(sudo.Plugin):
    def log_ttyout(self, buf):
        if "MySecret" in buf:
            sudo.log_info("Don't look at my secret!")
            return sudo.RC_REJECT
```



IO logs API example: Screenshot

```
[czanik@centos7 ~]$ sudo -s
[root@centos7 czanik]# cd /root/
[root@centos7 ~]# ls
DoNotEnter kick.py v1 policy.py v1
                                     sng
kick.py policy.py pycache
                                     sudo
[root@centos7 ~]# cd DoNotEnter/
[root@centos7 DoNotEnter]# ls
Don't look at my secret!
                       Hangup
[czanik@centos7 ~]$
```



Practice

- Works only if sudo is compiled / installed with Python support
- The sample code expects to see "MySecret" on screen

Cheating: python directory



Sudo 1.9+ features

- New features are still coming:
 - JSON-formatted logging
 - Logging sub-commands
 - Built-in chroot / CWD support
 - Many small improvements



JSON-formatted logs

- Introduced in sudo 1.9.4
- Traditionally plain-text logs with minimal information
- Feature introduced due to old syslog constraints
- Nov 18 12:31:33 centos7sudo sudo[30666]: czanik : 3 incorrect password attempts ; TTY=pts/0 ; PWD=/home/czanik ; USER=root ; COMMAND=/bin/bash
- Nov 18 12:31:43 centos7sudo sudo[30670]: czanik: TTY=pts/0; PWD=/home/czanik; USER=root; COMMAND=/bin/bash
- Nov 18 12:31:49 centos7sudo sudo[30670]: czanik : command rejected by I/O plugin ; TTY=pts/0 ; PWD=/home/czanik ; USER=root ; COMMAND=/bin/bash



JSON-formatted logs

JSON-formatted logs have more information in a structured format

```
Defaults log format=json
```

```
Nov 18 12:40:30 centos7sudo sudo[30891]:
@cee:{"reject":{"reason":"command rejected by I/O
plugin", "server time":{"seconds":1605699630, "nanoseconds":933
293911, "iso8601":"20201118114030Z", "localtime":"Nov 18
11:40:30"}, "submit time":{"seconds":1605699620, "nanoseconds":
130500349, "iso8601":"20201118114020Z", "localtime":"Nov 18
11:40:20"}, "submituser":"czanik", "command":"/bin/bash", "runus
er":"root", "runcwd":"/home/czanik", "ttyname":"/dev/pts/0", "su
bmithost":"centos7sudo.localdomain", "submitcwd":"/home/czanik
","runuid":0, "columns":118, "lines":60, "runargv":["/bin/bash"]
}}
```



JSON-formatted logs

 Use jq or similar to make logs more human readable on the terminal: "sudo": { "accept": { "uuid": "616bc9efcf-b239-469d-60ee-deb5af8ce6", "server_time": { "seconds": 1643374700, "nanoseconds": 222446715, "iso8601": "20220128125820Z", "localtime": "Jan 28 13:58:20" "submituser": "czanik", [...]



Practice

- Turn on JSON-formatting
- Check the logs

Cheating: json directory



Using sudo_logsrvd in relay mode

- Sudo_logsrvd collects session recordings to a central location
- Originally, all sudo clients sent recordings directly
- Sudo version 1.9.7 introduced relay mode
- You can have multiple levels of relays to structure your network



Why relay mode?

- Collect recordings even when a central server is unavailable (maintenance or network problem).
- Have a single network connection through the firewall instead of granting each host access.
- Run it on a gateway host to relay from networks without direct Internet access, like AWS private networks.



Configuring relay mode

- Configuring the client or the central server is the same
- On the relay:
 - Where to forward
 - In case of unreliable networks, store first (default: false)

```
relay_host = 172.16.167.161
store_first = true
```

TLS encryption available



Demo / Practice

You need at least three hosts (VMs): client – relay – server

Cheating: relay directory



Using chroot and cwd

 Previously, full root shell access was needed to start an application from a user-inaccessible directory.

Full root access easily gained using chroot.

 Starting with sudo 1.9.3, both can be configured from /etc/sudoers



Using cwd

- By default, the working directory is the current directory.
- It could cause problems if an app expects /root/ or another closed directory.

```
[czanik@centos7 ~]$ sudo --chdir /root pwd
/root
```



Configuring cwd

• It needs to be enabled explicitly in /etc/sudoers

• Defaults:%wheel runcwd=/var/lib/mock/epel-7-x86 64/root

• Defaults: %wheel runcwd=*



Using chroot

- The chroot command needs root privileges.
- Using with sudo, it is still possible to sudo chroot
- Chroot support must be explicitly enabled in sudoers.



Using chroot

• If directory is not restricted in sudoers:

```
Defaults: %wheel runchroot=*
```

- sudo --chroot / -s can do the same :-)
- But at least it is nicely logged:

```
Sep 24 15:58:55 centos7sudo sudo[8149]: czanik
: TTY=pts/0 ; CHROOT=/ ; PWD=/home/czanik ;
USER=root ; TSID=00001G ; COMMAND=/bin/bash
```



Using chroot

• Directory can be restricted in sudoers:

```
Defaults:%wheel runchroot=/var/lib/mock/epel7-x86 64/root
```

If chroot or a given directory is not allowed, it is logged:

```
Sep 25 08:43:32 centos7sudo sudo[2640]: czanik :
user not allowed to change root directory to
/an/interesting/directory; TTY=pts/0;
CHROOT=/an/interesting/directory; PWD=/home/czanik
; USER=root; COMMAND=/bin/bash
```



Practice

- Testing CWD, as it's easier
- Test script only starts if CWD is /root/

Cheating: runcwd directory



Logging and intercepting sub-commands

- Before sudo 1.9.8, only session recording helped in case of shell or editor access.
- Watching recordings is boring and time-consuming.
- 1.9.8 introduced:
 - Logging
 - Intercepting
- Works in most cases (does not work for built-in commands, etc.)



• Enable with:

Defaults log subcmds

Turn on JSON formatting (optional, but gives more info):

Defaults log_format=json



Logging sub-commands: editor screenshot

```
Unnamed (Modified)
                                                        Row 14
                                                                Col 1
czplaptop:/home/czanik # id
uid=0 (root) gid=0 (root) groups=0 (root)
czplaptop:/home/czanik # ls /usr/share/syslog-ng/include/scl/
apache
                                     logmatic snmptrap
                       ewmm
                                              solaris
                       fortigate
                                    mbox
cee
checkpoint
                       graphite netskope
                                              sudo
cim
                       graylog2 nodejs
                                              sumologic
cisco
                       iptables
                                              syslogconf
                                    osquery
collectd
                       junos
                                pacct
                                              system
default-network-drivers linux-audit
                                    paloalto
                                              telegram
                       loadbalancer rewrite
discord
                                              websense
elasticsearch
                                              windowseventlog
                       loggly
                               slack
czplaptop:/home/czanik # exit
```



Log without logging subcommands:

```
Aug 30 13:03:00 czplaptop sudo[10150]: Czanik
: TTY=pts/1 ; PWD=/home/Czanik ; USER=root ;
COMMAND=/usr/bin/joe
```



Logs when logging subcommands:

```
Aug 30 13:13:14 czplaptop sudo[10874]:
                                            czanik: TTY=pts/1; PWD=/home/czanik; USER=root; COMMAND=/usr/bin/joe
Aug 30 13:13:37 czplaptop sudo[10874]:
                                            czanik: TTY=pts/1; PWD=/home/czanik; USER=root; COMMAND=/bin/sh -c /bin/bash
Aug 30 13:13:37 czplaptop sudo[10874]:
                                            czanik : TTY=pts/1 ; PWD=/home/czanik ; USER=root ; COMMAND=/bin/bash
Aug 30 13:13:37 czplaptop sudo[10874]: /proc/10889/exe
                                            czanik : TTY=pts/1 ; PWD=/home/czanik ; USER=root ; COMMAND=/usr/bin/readlink
Aug 30 13:13:37 czplaptop sudo[10874]:
                                            czanik: TTY=pts/1; PWD=/home/czanik; USER=root; COMMAND=/usr/bin/dircolors -b
/etc/DIR COLORS
[...]
Aug 30 13:13:37 czplaptop sudo[10874]: s@/*:|([^\]):@\1\n@g;H;x;s@/\n@
                                            czanik: TTY=pts/1; PWD=/home/czanik; USER=root; COMMAND=/usr/bin/sed -r
Aug 30 13:13:37 czplaptop sudo[10874]:
                                            czanik : TTY=pts/1 ; PWD=/home/czanik ; USER=root ; COMMAND=/usr/bin/tty
Aug 30 13:13:42 czplaptop sudo[10874]:
                                            czanik: TTY=pts/1; PWD=/home/czanik; USER=root; COMMAND=/usr/bin/id
Aug 30 13:13:56 czplaptop sudo[10874]: czanik : TTY=pts/1 ; PWD=/home/czanik ; USER=root ; COMMAND=/usr/bin/ls -A -N -- color=none -T 0 /usr/share/syslog-ng/include/scl/
```



Log with JSON formatting:

```
Aug 30 13:29:28 czplaptop sudo[11740]:
@cee:{"sudo":{"accept":{"uuid":"18f25b2438-0c44-ddaf-a264-
c70998d319", "server time":{"seconds":1630322968, "nanoseconds":12453
4283, "iso8601":"202T0830112928Z", "localtime":"Aug 30
11:29:28"}, "submit time":{"seconds":1630322965, "nanoseconds":357407
987, "iso8601":"202T0830112925Z", "localtime":"Aug 30
11:29:25"}, "submituser":"czanik", "command":"/usr/bin/joe", "runuser"
:"root", "runcwd":"/home/czanik", "ttyname":"/dev/pts/1", "submithost"
:"czplaptop", "submitcwd":"/home/czanik", "runuid":0, "columns":80, "li
nes":24, "runargv":["joe", "/etc/issue"], "runenv":["LANG=en_US.UTF-
8", "COLORTERM=truecolor", "TERM=xterm-
256color", "MAIL=/var/mail/root", "PATH=/usr/sbin:/usr/bin:/sbin:/bin
:/usr/local/bin:/usr/local/sbin", "LOGNAME=root", "USER=root", "HOME=/
root", "SHELL=/bin/bash", "SUDO COMMAND=/usr/bin/joe
/etc/issue", "SUDO_USER=czanik", "SUDO_UID=1000", "SUDO_GID=100"]}}}
```



Practice

- Enable sub-command logging.
- Start a shell.
- Check the logs.

Cheating: log_subcmds directory



Intercepting sub-commands

- Can prevent applications from running.
- Enabling is a two-step process in sudoers.

Defaults intercept

And the actual rule:

czanik ALL = (ALL) ALL, !/usr/bin/who



Intercepting sub-commands

Even if running a shell with full root access:

```
czanik@czplaptop:~> sudo -s
czplaptop:/home/czanik # who
Sorry, user czanik is not allowed to execute
'/usr/bin/who' as root on czplaptop.
bash: /usr/bin/who: Permission denied
```



Practice

• Deny running the "who" command for your user

Cheating: intercept directory



Hiding passwords in recordings

- Visibility is not always good.
- Session recordings can include passwords.



Hiding passwords in recordings

- Recordings are saved under /var/log/sudo-io/
- No sudo tool to display input
- Files are compressed

zless /var/log/sudo-io/00/00/01/ttyin

passwd bla^Mblabla^Mblabla^M^D



Hiding passwords in recordings

• In /etc/sudoers:

Defaults !log passwords

Passwords are masked in session recordings:

passwd bla^M******^M******



Practice

 Change password for a user before and after enabling password hiding.

Cheating: hiding directory



Listing privileges

- The list pseudo-command allows regular users to list other user's privileges.
- Audit without full admin access.
- Introduced in sudo version 1.9.13.

bla ALL=(ALL) list



List privileges

```
bla@czplaptop:~> sudo -1
bla's password:
Matching Defaults entries for bla on czplaptop:
    always set home,
    secure path=/usr/sbin\:/usr/bin\:/usr/local/bin\:/usr/local/sbin,
    env reset, env keep="LANG LC ADDRESS LC CTYPE LC COLLATE LC IDENTIFICATION
    LC TELEPHONE LC ATIME LC ALL LANGUAGE LINGUAS XDG SESSION COOKIE",
    !insults, ignore iolog errors, log output, log input
User bla may run the following commands on czplaptop:
    (ALL) list
bla@czplaptop:~> sudo -U czanik -l
Matching Defaults entries for czanik on czplaptop:
    always set home,
    secure path=/usr/sbin\:/usr/bin\:/bin\:/usr/local/bin\:/usr/local/sbin,
    env reset, env keep="LANG LC ADDRESS LC CTYPE LC COLLATE LC IDENTIFICATION
    LC TELEPHONE LC ATIME LC ALL LANGUAGE LINGUAS XDG SESSION COOKIE",
    !insults, ignore iolog errors, log output, log input
User czanik may run the following commands on czplaptop:
    (ALL) ALL
```



List privileges

- The long list (-II) option now also prints the file name
- Arrived in sudo version 1.9.15



List privileges with -II

```
[czanik@sudo ~]$ sudo -U bla -ll
Matching Defaults entries for bla on sudo:
    env keep+="LANG LANGUAGE LINGUAS LC *
    XKB_CHARSET", env_keep+="QTDIR KDEDIR"
```

User bla may run the following commands on sudo:

Sudoers entry: /etc/sudoers.d/foo

RunAsUsers: ALL

Commands:

list



Practice

- Test the "list" privilege
- Requirement: You need a second, unprivileged user to test the "list" privilege.

Cheating: list directory



SOURCE in JSON logs

- The file name and line number for the rule in the SOURCE field of JSON-formatted logs
- Arrived in sudo version 1.9.15

```
"source":"/etc/sudoers:66:23"
"source":"/etc/sudoers.d/foo:1:15"
```



Practice

- Enable JSON-formatted logging, and run something through sudo.
- Check the log and the sudoers file.

Cheating: json directory



Questions?

- Sudo website: https://www.sudo.ws/
- My email: peter.czanik@oneidentity.com
- Twitter: @Pczanik







