

# root login debian vps cloud instance

Asked 2 years, 2 months ago   Active 2 years, 2 months ago   Viewed 406 times



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Can't seem to be able to allow root login any more. I have an other vps that is a debian 10 too with same hosting (infomaniak) where I did get root login to work some time ago where I can login as root. I did a `git diff server1/etc server2/etc` and can't seem no see what I'm missing

so in `/etc/cloud/cloud.cfg`

```
users:  
- default  
  
disable_root: false
```

and in `/etc/ssh/sshd_config` I've tried both of those (auth is done via ssh key)

```
# PermitRootLogin prohibit-password  
PermitRootLogin yes
```

but I keep getting

```
$ ssh root@server2  
Please login as the user "debian" rather than the user "root".
```

It's a fresh install of debian 10 did `apt update` etc...

on both server `/etc/pam.d` and `/etc/pam.conf` are identical

please help... this is driving me nuts!

what i get in `auth.log` (so pam does let me in but what kicks me out then?)

```
Sep 22 00:45:52 wlt2 sshd[3528]: Accepted publickey for root from 152.156.217.156 port  
38902 ssh2: RSA SHA256:avR910sytySAwPa2M0doudS\MDm0L2cy1JtQH/Sce3s  
Sep 22 00:45:52 wlt2 sshd[3528]: pam_unix(sshd:session): session opened for user root  
by (uid=0)  
Sep 22 00:45:52 wlt2 systemd-logind[467]: New session 16 of user root.  
Sep 22 00:45:52 wlt2 systemd: pam_unix(systemd-user:session): session opened for user
```

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```
Sep 22 00:46:13 wlt2 systemd: pam_unix(systemd-user:session): session closed for user root
```

debian vps

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edited Sep 22 '19 at 7:54

asked Sep 21 '19 at 22:37



Antony Gibbs

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1 Answer

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Finally found the issue.

1



The problem came from the install made by the hosting service infomaniak that automatically puts the key in `/root/.ssh/authorized_keys` but with a command that displays the message and dies...



```
no-port-forwarding,no-agent-forwarding,no-X11-forwarding,command="echo 'Please login as the user \"debian\" rather than the user \"root\". ';echo;sleep 10" ssh-rsa AAAAB3Nz....
```

I didn't know we could do things like that in that file!

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answered Sep 22 '19 at 7:52



Antony Gibbs

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