



## Action required: Update Linux, Unix systems ASAP to fix sudo vulnerability

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### Summary

An urgent vulnerability has been discovered in the sudo utility within Unix and Linux operating systems. Users should ensure their devices are up to date with currently-available patches.

### Details

- A vulnerability has been discovered in the sudo utility within Unix and Linux operating systems. Successful exploitation of this vulnerability allows any unprivileged user to gain root privileges on the host.
- The vulnerability affects all legacy versions, from 1.8.2 to 1.8.31p2, and all stable versions, from 1.9.0 to 1.9.5p1, in their default configuration.

### Impact

The University of Utah's **Information Security Office (ISO)** is aware of the issue and is closely monitoring developments. The ISO requests that Linux and Unix users verify that all applicable machines have their sudo utility updated to the newest version or apply the patch distributed by the vendor.

To verify whether your version of sudo is vulnerable, you can perform the following:

- Log in to the system as a non-root user
- Run command "sudoedit -s /"
- If the system is vulnerable, it will respond with an error that starts with "sudoedit:"
- If the system is patched, it will respond with an error that starts with "usage:"

### More information

- Qualys: <https://blog.qualys.com/vulnerabilities-research/2021/01/26/cve-2021-3156-heap-based-buffer-overflow-in-sudo-baron-samedit>

If you have questions, your local IT support staff may be able to assist, or you may contact your respective central help desk: UIT Help Desk (801-581-4000, option 1) or the ITS Service Desk (801-587-6000).

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