Filename: comptia-linuxxk0004-2-1-1-super_user_privileges
Show Name: CompTIA Linux+ (XK0-004)
Topic: Managing Users and Groups
Episode Name: Super User Privileges
Description: In this episode, Zach and Don discuss the best practices that should be used when applying administrative access. They then demonstrate how the su, sudo and sudoedit commands can be used to temporarily assume administrative access to prevent inadvertently using admin accounts for routine access.

Super User Privileges

[?] When do we need super user privileges?

- System-wide changes
- Changes that affect other users
- Configuring some services

[?] What is the easiest way to access super user privileges?

- `su`

    - Substitute user

- `su -`

    - Switch to root
    - – loads normal environment

- `su - <username>`

    - Switch to user

[?] What if I just want to perform a single command?

- `sudo <command>`

    - Executes command as root
    - Password cached for five minutes by default

[?] Who is allowed to use the sudo command?

- User must be authorized to run sudo

    - In some distros (like Ubuntu) simply add 'sudo' group as a secondary group
    - In others (like Red Hat) you must create your own group and add it to `/etc/sudoers`

- `visudo <user/group> <machine>=<commands>`
- `dpezet ALL=(ALL)`

[?] What would it look like if we only wanted to grant access to a few commands?

- `%techsupport localhost=/sbin/mount /mnt/cdrom, /sbin/umount /mnt/cdrom`

[?] Are there any shortcuts or aliases to help with all this?

- `sudoedit`

    - Useful when editing a single write-protected file
    - `sudoedit /etc/hosts`