How to Use Touch ID in Terminal

Contents

Preface

Since the introduction of Touch ID on Macs, we found a convenient way to unlock restricted areas quicker without having to enter the administrator's password. Therefore, administrators of a Mac are able to install Apps, make setting changes or purchase items with a simple scan of a finger.

If you are an administrator of a Mac, and often use the Terminal app, you would have to enter a password after a sudo command since Touch ID is disabled for Terminal. In order to use Touch ID after a sudo command, we would have to make some modifications to sudo_local.template.

To enable Touch ID on a Mac, please go to:

https://support.apple.com/guide/mac-help/use-touch-id-mchl16fbf90a/mac

Requirements:
- A Mac with Touch ID on the keyboard
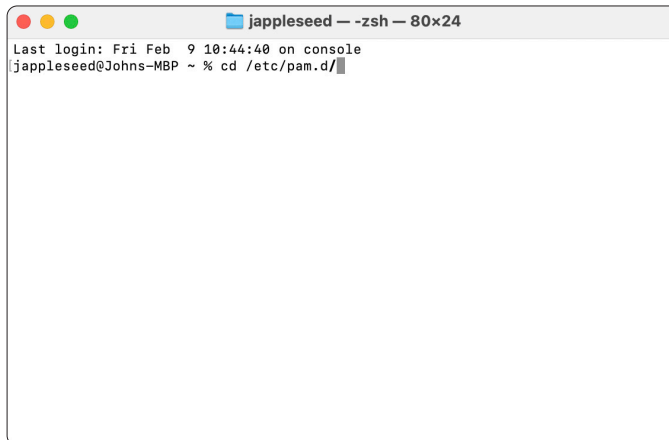- Touch ID must be enabled and setup.
- macOS Sonoma

Section 1: Duplicate sudo_local.template

1. In the Finder, open the /Applications/Utilities folder.
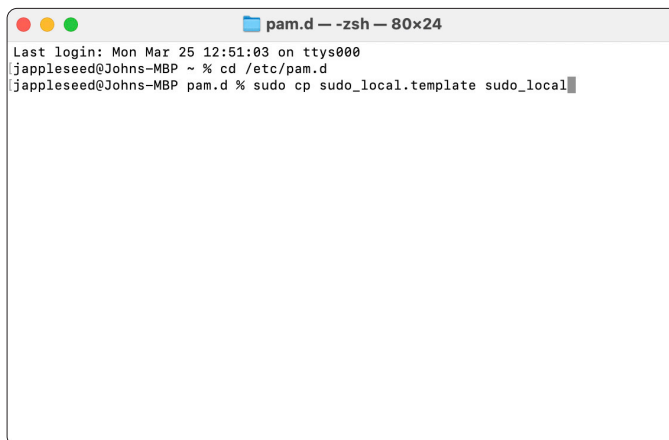
2. Open Terminal.

3. Enter the following and press Return:

`cd /etc/pam.d`

4. Make a copy of sudo_local.template and name it sudo_local.
   Enter the following and press Return:
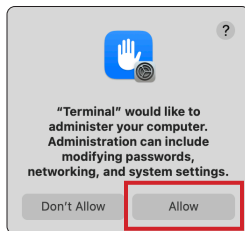
`sudo cp sudo_local.template sudo_local`

5. Enter the administrator's password, press Return.

```
●●●                        📁 pam.d — sudo — 80×24
Last login: Mon Mar 25 12:51:03 on ttys000
jappleseed@Johns-MBP ~ % cd /etc/pam.d
jappleseed@Johns-MBP pam.d % sudo cp sudo_local.template sudo_local
Password:
```

6. Confirm a window appears, Asking you to allow Terminal to administer your Mac. Click Allow.

```
                                              ?
                          ✋ ⚙️

                 "Terminal" would like to
                administer your computer.
                Administration can include
                    modifying passwords,
            networking, and system settings.

            Don't Allow          Allow
```

7. Enter the following and press Return:

`ls -a`

8. Confirm the file "sudo_local" has been created.

```
●●●                        📁 pam.d — -zsh — 80×24
Last login: Mon Mar 25 12:51:03 on ttys000
jappleseed@Johns-MBP ~ % cd /etc/pam.d
jappleseed@Johns-MBP pam.d % sudo cp sudo_local.template sudo_local
Password:
jappleseed@Johns-MBP pam.d % ls -a
.                    login                screensaver_new_ctk
..                   login.term           screensaver_new_la
authorization        other                smbd
authorization_aks    passwd               sshd
authorization_ctk    screensaver          su
authorization_la     screensaver_aks      sudo
authorization_lacont screensaver_ctk      sudo_local       ←
checkpw              screensaver_la       sudo_local.template
chkpasswd           screensaver_new
cups                screensaver_new_aks
jappleseed@Johns-MBP pam.d %
```

Section 2: Modify sudo_local file

1. While in Terminal, launch your favorite Text editor, we will be using Nano.
   Enter the following and press Return:

   sudo nano sudo_local

```
● ● ●                    📁 pam.d — -zsh — 80×24
Last login: Mon Mar 25 12:51:03 on ttys000
jappleseed@Johns-MBP ~ % cd /etc/pam.d
jappleseed@Johns-MBP pam.d % sudo cp sudo_local.template sudo_local
Password:
jappleseed@Johns-MBP pam.d % ls -a
.                       login                   screensaver_new_ctk
..                      login.term              screensaver_new_la
authorization           other                   smbd
authorization_aks       passwd                  sshd
authorization_ctk       screensaver             su
authorization_la        screensaver_aks         sudo
authorization_lacont    screensaver_ctk         sudo_local
checkpw                 screensaver_la          sudo_local.template
chkpasswd               screensaver_new
cups                    screensaver_new_aks
jappleseed@Johns-MBP pam.d % sudo nano sudo_local█
```

2. Using your arrow keys, navigate to octothorp (**#**) of the last line.

```
● ● ●                    📁 pam.d — nano sudo_Local — 80×24
  UW PICO 5.09                       File: sudo_Local

# sudo_local: local config file which survives system update and is included fo$
# uncomment following line to enable Touch ID for sudo
#auth           sufficient      pam_tid.so




















^G Get Help  ^O WriteOut  ^R Read File ^Y Prev Pg  ^K Cut Text  ^C Cur Pos
^X Exit      ^J Justify   ^W Where is  ^V Next Pg  ^U UnCut Text^T To Spell
```

3. Delete the octothorp (#).

```
● ● ●                    📁 pam.d — nano sudo_Local — 80×24
 UW PICO 5.09                      File: sudo_Local                      Modified

# sudo_local: local config file which survives system update and is included fo$
# uncomment following line to enable Touch ID for sudo
auth        sufficient      pam_tid.so












^G Get Help  ^O WriteOut  ^R Read File ^Y Prev Pg   ^K Cut Text  ^C Cur Pos
^X Exit      ^J Justify    ^W Where is  ^V Next Pg   ^U UnCut Text^T To Spell
```
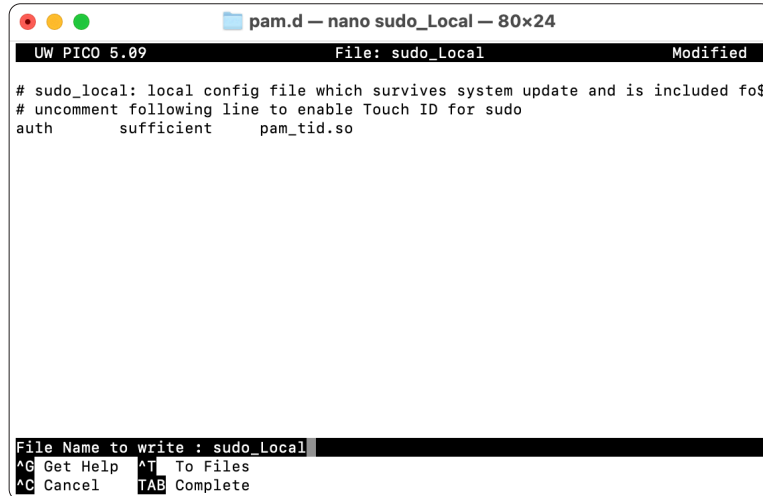
4. Save the changes by pressing Control (^) - X.

5. Enter Y .

```
● ● ●                    📁 pam.d — nano sudo_Local — 80×24
 UW PICO 5.09                      File: sudo_Local                      Modified

# sudo_local: local config file which survives system update and is included fo$
# uncomment following line to enable Touch ID for sudo
auth        sufficient      pam_tid.so












Save modified buffer (ANSWERING "No" WILL DESTROY CHANGES) ?
               Y Yes
^C Cancel      N No
```
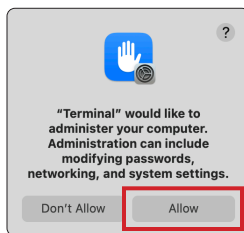
6. Press Enter.

```
 ●  ●  ●              📁 pam.d — nano sudo_Local — 80×24
  UW PICO 5.09                    File: sudo_Local                    Modified

# sudo_local: local config file which survives system update and is included fo$
# uncomment following line to enable Touch ID for sudo
auth           sufficient      pam_tid.so








File Name to write : sudo_Local
^G Get Help    ^T  To Files
^C Cancel      TAB Complete
```

7. Click Allow,

"Terminal" would like to administer your computer. Administration can include modifying passwords, networking, and system settings.
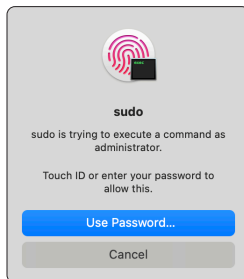
Don't Allow   Allow

Section 3: Testing the Touch ID for Terminal

1. In Terminal, create a new shell.

2. Enter the following and press Return:

   `sudo periodic Weekly`

   ```
   ● ● ●                    📁 jappleseed — sudo — 80×24
   Last login: Mon Mar 25 12:51:42 on ttys000
   jappleseed@Johns-MBP ~ % sudo periodic Weekly
   ▊
   ```

3. Confirm a window appears, with sudo asking to use Touch ID to authenticate.

   ```
                          🔴
                         sudo
          sudo is trying to execute a command as
                      administrator.

          Touch ID or enter your password to
                      allow this.
          ┌─────────────────────────────┐
          │        Use Password...       │
          └─────────────────────────────┘
          ┌─────────────────────────────┐
          │          Cancel              │
          └─────────────────────────────┘
   ```

4. Place your finger on the Touch ID to allow it to run.

5. Confirm the command ran as expected.

   ```
   ● ● ●                    📁 jappleseed — -zsh — 80×24
   Last login: Mon Mar 25 12:51:42 on ttys000
   jappleseed@Johns-MBP ~ % sudo periodic Weekly

   Mon Mar 25 14:12:13 EDT 2024
   jappleseed@Johns-MBP ~ % ▊
   ```