

/etc/nologin file disappears

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.security.ssh/2003-06/0239.html>

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I am trying to make my system at home as secure as possible. One thing I tried was to create a /etc/nologin file. It worked in that I couldn't log in to ssh as me, but I could as root. After shutting down for the night, the next day the file was gone! File privileges were set to 444. What's going on?

I also want to prevent root from logging in. The /etc/ssh/sshd_config file has the following:

```
#PermitRootLogin yes
```

Because it is commented out, I am assuming that the default is no. Do I need to explicitly set it to no?

One other issue, the contents of /etc/nologin is not echoed when I attempt to log in as me. It simply fails after three tries and hangs up. When I ssh in as root, the contents of /etc/nologin are echoed. This is not working as advertised.

I am running Redhat 9.1 with openssh-3.5p1-6.

Thanks,

-- Wayne.