

How to Enable X11 When su to Another User ID

Many times we log on to the server and need to assume another ID for some specific task and or privileges. For example, a user logging in under their own user ID may need to su to being a root to perform a certain tasks or some other elevated ID. When this occurs the X11 setup for the original ID does not get passed along to the sudo'd ID. This means that as a user for example john when sudo as root, may not be able to use any GUI based application that he was able to use when logged in as john.

A simple work around is to pass along the original user's X11 set up to the ID that was sudo into.

First Step:

Let's assume the original user's ID is mkim02. As mkim02, do the following steps

On command prompt:

xauth list

A list of keys will appear

```
[mkim02@fclsasappprod08 ~]$ xauth list
fclsasappprod02/unix:10 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 97cf0f53cb70a076803401a4b6586b52
fclsasappprod06/unix:10 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 063d315f394aea8c6d402ffbde292641
fclsasappprod05/unix:10 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 933f6036ec2fec5b11988cf4ca887b90
fclsasappprod04/unix:10 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 b0fb922afd2ea7c001c549a71a59a880
fclsasappprod07/unix:11 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 d2b46984caaea0408104bb9e936b31c
fclsasappprod07/unix:10 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 db7d01097d23f73082fcc5dec151205b
fclsasappprod01/unix:10 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 d04832dc943c00119e0f7e7609bcc0c7
fclsasappprod01/unix:12 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 46d965fbd740854976d8830d43a10b34
fclsasappprod01/unix:11 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 5525f7784d71234f87fca1661003be9f
fclbioappprd01/unix:10 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 e074ddabae8a821c7d8b9b2e84c255bc
fclsasappprod01/unix:13 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 7c3beab6c03aa24d890d861ebe29a50d
fclsasappprod01/unix:14 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 564749b6f17b91f8bd451b5eb3e3db59
fclsasappprod01/unix:15 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 5e813b2f932fd7307fc37aaa989bc086
fclsasappprod07/unix:17 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 4e825b4e1bc57d03c019eeb620f60047
fclsasappprod05/unix:13 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 d3a5d3e1202f580c3c23118ba86b1596
fclsasappprod01/unix:16 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 106e5a7e83f42110ee226e344c961652
fclsasappprod05/unix:14 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 4ddfdc5a9a6c46feaf2fb6f16107f70f
fclsasappprod08/unix:11 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 07bb1e7e69d3310e2bc7e500abf29531
fclsasappprod08/unix:10 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 094438479baff42f67b6355c18302b6e
[mkim02@fclsasappprod08 ~]$
```

Second Step:

Highlight and copy the key listed at the very end of the generated list (shown below)

```
[mkim02@fclsasappprod08 ~]$ xauth list
fclsasappprod02/unix:10 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 97cf0f53cb70a076803401a4b6586b52
fclsasappprod06/unix:10 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 063d315f394aea8c6d402ffbde292641
fclsasappprod05/unix:10 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 933f6036ec2fec5b11988cf4ca887b90
fclsasappprod04/unix:10 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 b0fb922afd2ea7c001c549a71a59a880
fclsasappprod07/unix:11 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 d2b46984caaea0408104bb9e936b31c
fclsasappprod07/unix:10 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 db7d01097d23f73082fcc5dec151205b
fclsasappprod01/unix:10 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 d04832dc943c00119e0f7e7609bcc0c7
fclsasappprod01/unix:12 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 46d965fbd740854976d8830d43a10b34
fclsasappprod01/unix:11 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 5525f7784d71234f87fca1661003be9f
fclbioappprd01/unix:10 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 e074ddabae8a821c7d8b9b2e84c255bc
fclsasappprod01/unix:13 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 7c3beab6c03aa24d890d861ebe29a50d
fclsasappprod01/unix:14 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 564749b6f17b91f8bd451b5eb3e3db59
fclsasappprod01/unix:15 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 5e813b2f932fd7307fc37aaa989bc086
fclsasappprod07/unix:17 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 4e825b4e1bc57d03c019eeb620f60047
fclsasappprod05/unix:13 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 d3a5d3e1202f580c3c23118ba86b1596
fclsasappprod01/unix:16 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 106e5a7e83f42110ee226e344c961652
fclsasappprod05/unix:14 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 4ddfdc5a9a6c46feaf2fb6f16107f70f
fclsasappprod08/unix:11 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 07bb1e7e69d3310e2bc7e500abf29531
fclsasappprod08/unix:10 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 094438479baff42f67b6355c18302b6e
[mkim02@fclsasappprod08 ~]$
```

Step Three:

As root type:

xauth add <paste the copied key> and ENTER

```
root@fclsasappprod08 mkim02]# whoami
root
root@fclsasappprod08 mkim02]# xauth add fclsasappprod08/unix:10 MIT-MAGIC-COOKIE-1 094438479baff42f67b6355c18302b6e
```

That is it, now the same GUI user mkim02 was able to use is also usable by root.