

Using Touch ID on Macbook Pro for sudo Authentication

Full credit goes to [Cabel Sasser \(@cabel\)](#) on this one for sharing the original tip. I'm simply sharing it here and showing the process to prove the awesomeness of this capability.

Pro MacBook Pro Tip: have a Touch Bar with Touch ID? If you edit `/etc/pam.d/sudo` and add the following line to the top...

```
auth sufficient pam_tid.so
```

...you can now use your fingerprint to sudo!

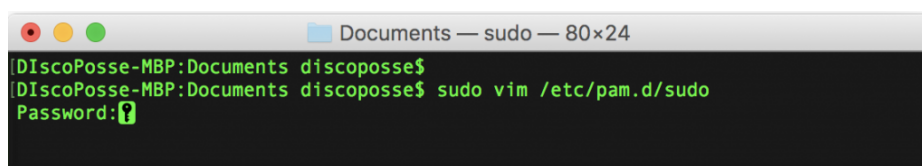
— Cabel Sasser (@cabel) [November 16, 2017](#)

If you run a MacBook Pro with the Touch ID option, you have already discovered the speed at which you can authenticate for a number of GUI-driven products. Running `sudo` in the command line does not give you that luxury, usually.

By making a small change

First, you have to edit the `/etc/pam.d/sudo` file with your editor of choice. It's a read only file and you need admin privileges to do so. Oh the irony!

I'm going to use `sudo vim /etc/pam.d/sudo` to open up the file. This prompts me for credentials in the terminal session, as it should:

A screenshot of a macOS terminal window. The title bar shows 'Documents — sudo — 80x24'. The terminal content shows the prompt 'DIscoPosse-MBP:Documents discoposse\$' followed by the command 'DIscoPosse-MBP:Documents discoposse\$ sudo vim /etc/pam.d/sudo'. Below the command, the prompt 'Password:' is visible with a cursor.

Add the following to the first line in the file after the comment:

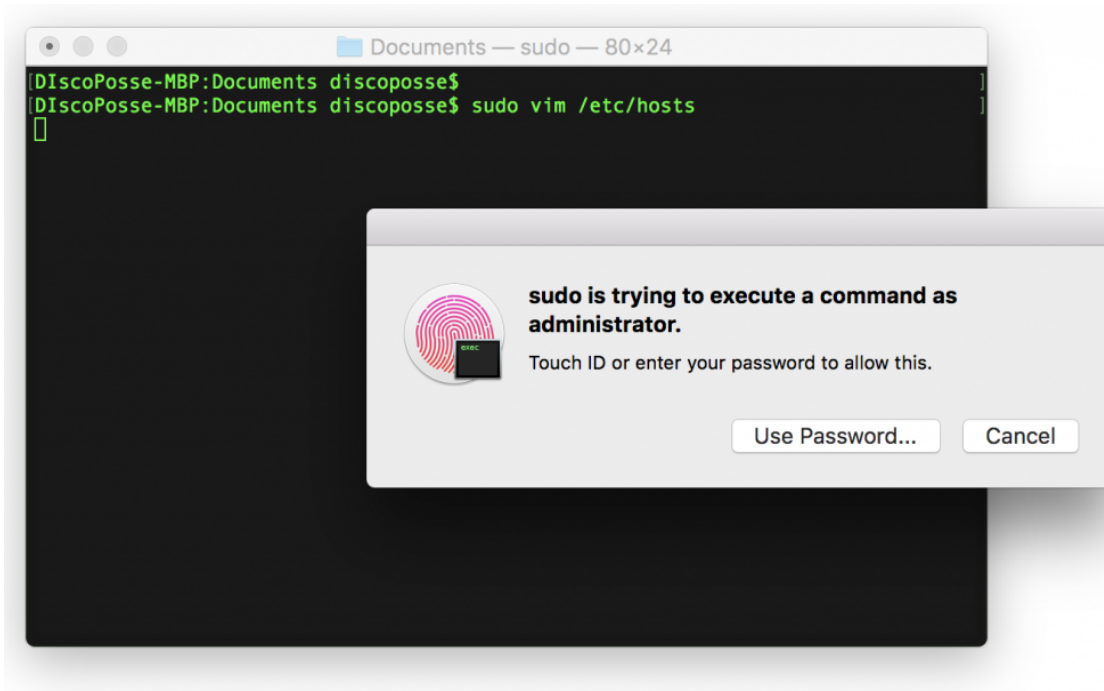
```
auth sufficient pam_tid.so
```

You can space it out for consistency with the other lines:



Save the file. It's read-only, so I have to use `w!` to save, and then exit back to the shell and close your terminal.

Launch a new terminal session so that you have no cached sudo session credentials and try a new sudo command such as `sudo vim /etc/hosts` and watch the magic happen:



This should be a nice time saver for you, especially when you use complex passwords...like you should ☐