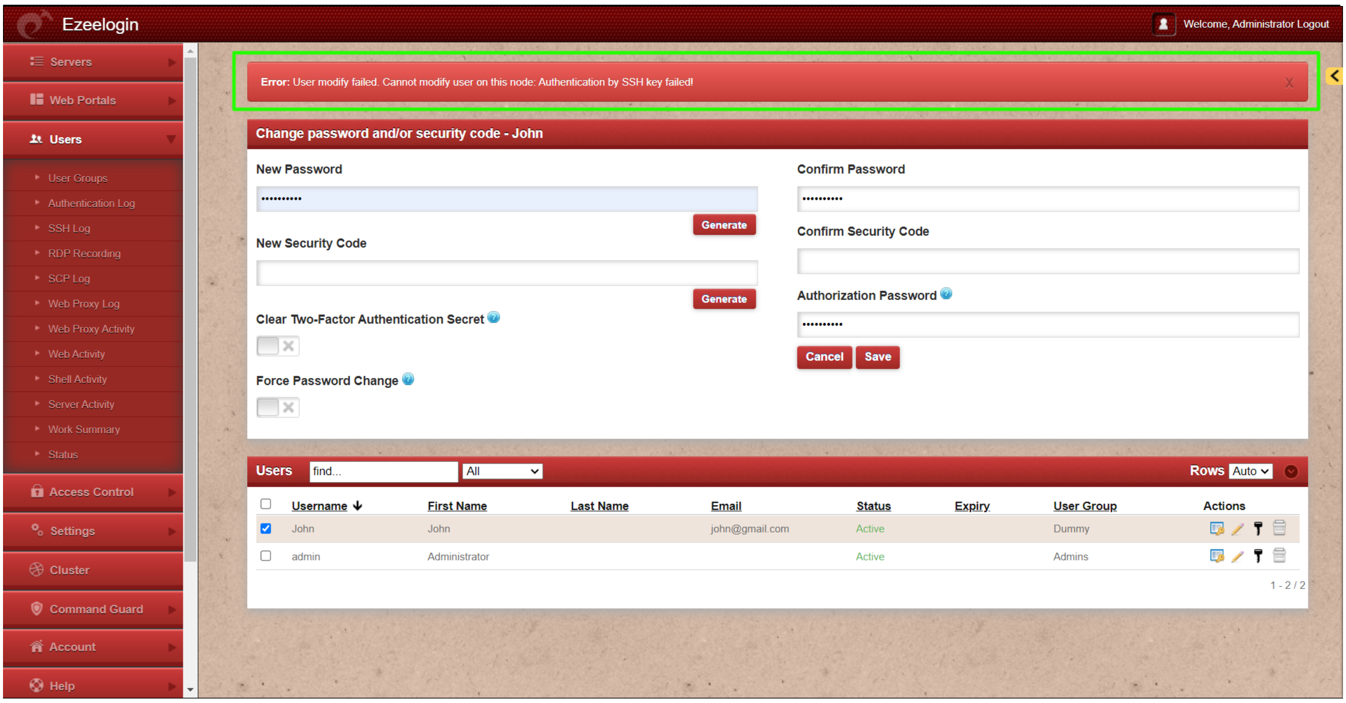
Error: User modify failed. Cannot modify user on this node: Authentication by SSH key failed!

24 admin September 26, 2024 [Common Errors & Troubleshooting](#) 10126

How to solve Error: User modify failed. Cannot modify user on this node: Authentication by SSH key failed!?

Overview: This article provides step-by-step instructions for troubleshooting the error "Error: User modify failed. Cannot modify user on this node: Authentication by SSH key failed!" encountered when modifying the gateway user.



Error: User modify failed. Cannot modify user on this node: Authentication by SSH key failed!

Change password and/or security code - John

New Password: ••••••••••

Confirm Password: ••••••••••

New Security Code:

Confirm Security Code:

Authorization Password: ••••••••••

Clear Two-Factor Authentication Secret

Force Password Change

Users find... All

□	Username ↓	First Name	Last Name	Email	Status	Expiry	User Group	Actions
☑	John	John		john@gmail.com	Active		Dummy	
□	admin	Administrator			Active		Admins	

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Step 1: Check if the Gateway server (Ezeelogin installed server) is missing its public key from **/root/.ssh/authorized_keys** file. If the key is missing, run the following command to add it:

```
root@gateway:~# cat /usr/local/etc/ezlogin/id_clkey.pub >>
/root/.ssh/authorized_keys
```

Step 1(A): Run the below command to check if the key is back in the file.

```
root@gateway:~# cat /root/.ssh/authorized_keys
```

Step 2: Run the following command to verify if the recommended SSHD settings are enabled in the **/etc/ssh/sshd_config** file.

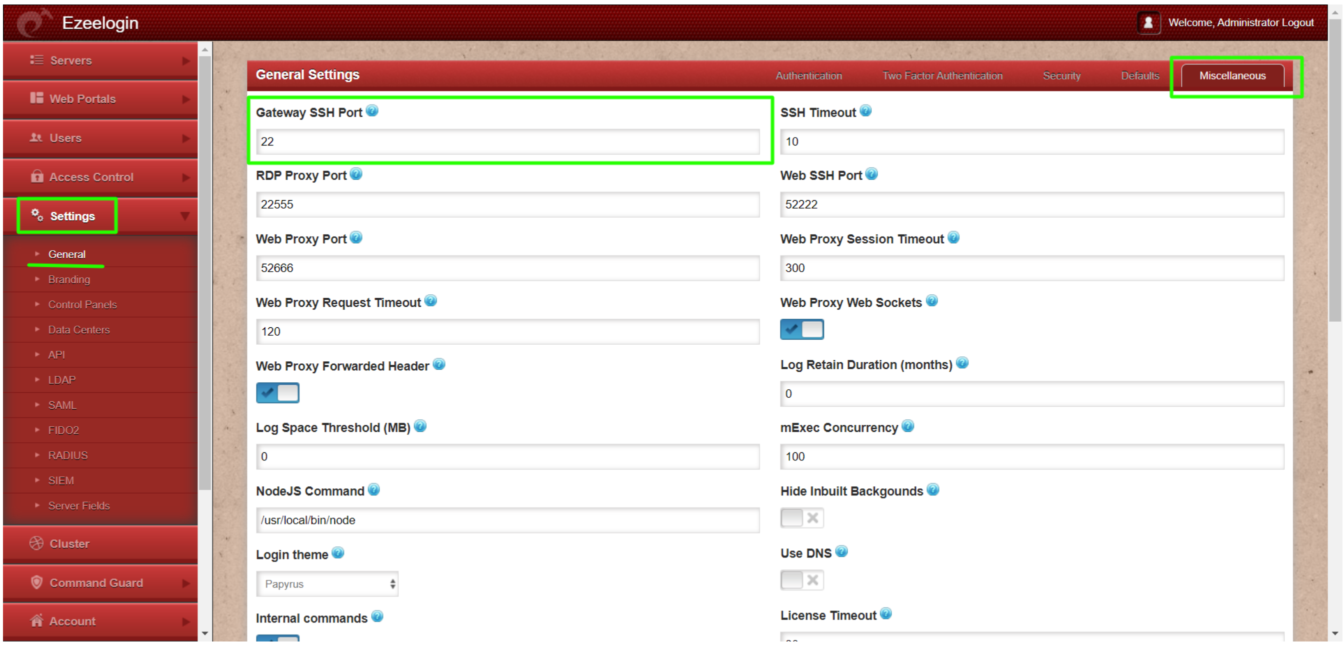
```
root@gateway:~# sshd -T | grep -i 'AllowTcpForwarding|PermitRootLogin
|PubkeyAuthentication|PasswordAuthentication|pubkeyacceptedalgorithms
|Port'

port 22
permitrootlogin yes
pubkeyauthentication yes
passwordauthentication yes
gatewayports no
allowtcpforwarding no
pubkeyacceptedalgorithms ssh-ed25519-cert-v01@openssh.com,ecdsa-sha2-
nistp256-cert-v01@openssh.com,ecdsa-sha2-nistp384-cert-v01@openssh.co
m,ecdsa-sha2-nistp521-cert-v01@openssh.com,sk-ssh-ed25519-cert-v01@op
enssh.com,sk-ecdsa-sha2-nistp256-cert-v01@openssh.com,rsa-sha2-512-ce
rt-v01@openssh.com,rsa-sha2-256-cert-v01@openssh.com,ssh-ed25519,ecds
a-sha2-nistp256,ecdsa-sha2-nistp384,ecdsa-sha2-nistp521,sk-ssh-
ed25519@openssh.com,sk-ecdsa-
sha2-nistp256@openssh.com,rsa-sha2-512,rsa-sha2-256,ssh-rsa
```

Step 3: Verify the SSH port used on the gateway server with the following command.

```
root@gateway:~# cat /etc/ssh/sshd_config | grep Port
Port 22
#Gateway Ports no
```

Step 3(A): If a custom SSHD port is being used on the gateway server, ensure it is updated under **Settings** -> **General** -> **Miscellaneous** -> **Gateway SSH Port** to match the current SSHD listening port on the SSH gateway server.



General Settings

Gateway SSH Port: 22

SSH Timeout: 10

RDP Proxy Port: 22555

Web SSH Port: 52222

Web Proxy Port: 52666

Web Proxy Session Timeout: 300

Web Proxy Request Timeout: 120

Web Proxy Web Sockets: ☑

Web Proxy Forwarded Header: ☑

Log Retain Duration (months): 0

Log Space Threshold (MB): 0

mExec Concurrency: 100

NodeJS Command: /usr/local/bin/node

Hide Inbuilt Backgounds: ☒

Login theme: Papyrus

Use DNS: ☒

Internal commands

License Timeout

Step 4: Make sure **PubkeyAuthentication** is set to '**YES**' in the **SSHD configuration file**.

```
root@gateway:~# vi /etc/ssh/sshd_config

#set PubkeyAuthentication to yes

PubkeyAuthentication yes
```

Stepp 4(A): After making changes restart SSHD

```
root@gateway:~# systemctl restart sshd
```

Step 5: Ensure that **root login** is permitted on the gateway server. You can check this by running the command:

```
root@gateway:~# ssh root@localhost
```

Step 5(A): If it does not log you in, edit **/etc/ssh/sshd_config** and set **PermitRootLogin** to **yes** and restart SSHD.

```
root@gateway:~# vi /etc/ssh/sshd_config

#Add the following lines to the end of  /etc/ssh/sshd_config to allow root login from localhost only

Match Address 127.0.0.1

PermitRootLogin yes



root@gateway:~# service sshd restart
```

Step 5(B): After making the changes, ensure that you can log in as root by using the following command and entering the password:

```
ssh root@localhost:~#
```

Step 6: Ensure that the **web user** (such as Apache or nobody) that the web server (Apache/Nginx) runs has **read** access to the keys in the directory **/usr/local/etc/ezlogin** by granting **read privileges** with the following command:

```
root@gateway:~# chmod o+r /usr/local/etc/ezlogin/id_clkey
root@gateway:~# chmod o+r /usr/local/etc/ezlogin/id_clkey.pub
  or
root@gateway:~# usermod -G <current_groupname_of_id_clkey_files>
<webserver_user>
```

Step 7: Find out which key type is used by the gateway server by running the below command.

```
root@gateway:~# ssh-keygen -l -f
/usr/local/etc/ezlogin/id_key.pub
```

```
4096 SHA256:n4lmX53/gwkKB4+nSQ30hZXxXK+DRG1LPc7N1KN/1Ag ezlogin (RSA)
```

Step 7(A): Open **/etc/ssh/sshd_config** file and append the below line to **enable RSA** key type and restart SSHD.

```
root@gateway:~# vi /etc/ssh/sshd_config


PubkeyAcceptedKeyTypes +ssh-rsa




root@gateway:~# systemctl restart sshd
```

Step 8: Check for the SSHD error logs of the gateway server.

```
For CentOS

root@gateway:~# /var/log/secure


For Ubuntu

root@gateway:~# /var/log/auth.log
```

Refer to the below article if you get "**userauth_pubkey: signature algorithm ssh-rsa not in PubkeyAcceptedAlgorithms**"

> userauth_pubkey: signature algorithm ssh-rsa not in PubkeyAcceptedAlgorithms

Related Articles:

Error: User modify failed. Cannot modify user on other node: Authentication by SSH key failed!

Error: User modify failed Cannot modify user on this node: OS=FreeBSD: Command not found. OS: Undefined

Reset Ezeelogin keys used for privilege escalation.

Online URL:
https://www.ezeelogin.com/kb/article/error-user-modify-failed-cannot-modify-user-on-this-node-authentication-by-ssh-key-failed-24.html