

Root log in by both socket and password

The fix: let root log in by socket or password

First, look at how `root` is currently set up. Don't paste the output here, since it contains the password hash:

bash

```
sudo mariadb -u root -p -e "SHOW CREATE USER 'root'@'localhost'\G"
```

You'll see something like `IDENTIFIED BY PASSWORD '*ABC...'` (the `mysql_native_password` plugin) or `IDENTIFIED VIA ...`. If it's the common native-password form, add the socket as an alternative while keeping the same hash, so the password stays unchanged:

bash

```
sudo mariadb -u root -p -e "ALTER USER 'root'@'localhost' IDENTIFIED VIA mysql_native_password USING '<hash from SHOW CREATE USER>' OR unix_socket;"
```

Replace `<hash from SHOW CREATE USER>` with the `*...` string from the previous command. If it shows a different plugin (for example `ed25519`), tell me the plugin name only and I'll adjust the statement.

Keep a second terminal logged in as `mariadb -u root -p` while you do this, so a typo can't lock you out.

Verify

bash

```
sudo mariadb -e "SELECT CURRENT_USER();"          # works without a password now
sudo mariadb -u root -p -e "SELECT 1;"           # password still works
sudo mariadb-admin --local flush-slow-log && echo "flush ok"
```

Catch up on skipped maintenance

Once the socket login works, run the start-up script once by hand. It runs `mariadb-upgrade` and the root-account check, both safe to repeat:

bash

```
sudo /etc/mysql/debian-start
```

You should see “Upgrading MariaDB tables if necessary” without the `FATAL ERROR` line. You have a dump from earlier if you ran the backup step, but for the medical instance I’d make a fresh one first.

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