#3 Switching Authentication Method in BookStack

If you choose to use Google authentication, you need to manually switch the authentication method to standard to log in as a local admin and enable user registration. Then turn in back to OIDC.

- One-Time Setup for Google Authentication

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Follow these steps:

Step 1: Connect to Your EC2 Instance

1. Go to the **AWS Console** → **EC2**.

2. Locate your **BookStack instance** (named something like `bookstack-dev-asg-instance`).

3. Use **Systems Manager** to connect to the instance. In new window appear, enter in prompt: `sudo su - ec2-user` and hit enter

```
sh-5.2$ sudo su - ec2-user

Last login: Wed Feb 26 07:36:32 UTC 2025 on pts/1

Welcome to your EC2 instance!

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Operating System: GNU/Linux

Hostname: ip-172-31-42-121.ec2.internal

Current Date and Time: Wed Feb 26 08:33:35 UTC 2025
```

Step 2: Modify the Authentication Method

In the **.env** file, change the authentication method from **OIDC** to **Standard** by modifying or adding the following lines:

```
nano bookstack/.env
#AUTH_METHOD="oidc" # comment in or edit exist line
AUTH_METHOD="standard" # or add the new one with value =standard
```

Save and exit the file.

Step 3: Restart BookStack

Run the following command to restart the BookStack service:

```
docker-compose --env-file bookstack/.env -f bookstack/docker-compose.yml up -d


# After a few seconds, you should see:
[+] Running 1/1
✔ Container bookstack  Started
```

Step 4: Log in as Admin

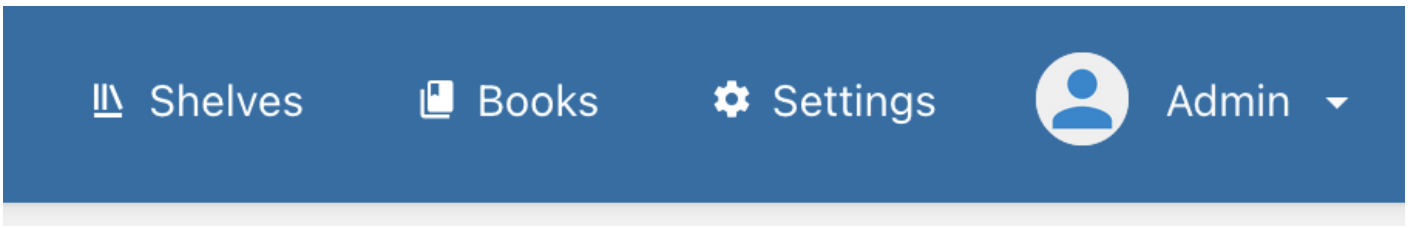
Now, access BookStack through your **AppURL** and log in using the default credentials:

• **Email:** `admin@admin.com`

• **Password:** `password`

Step 5: Enable User Registration

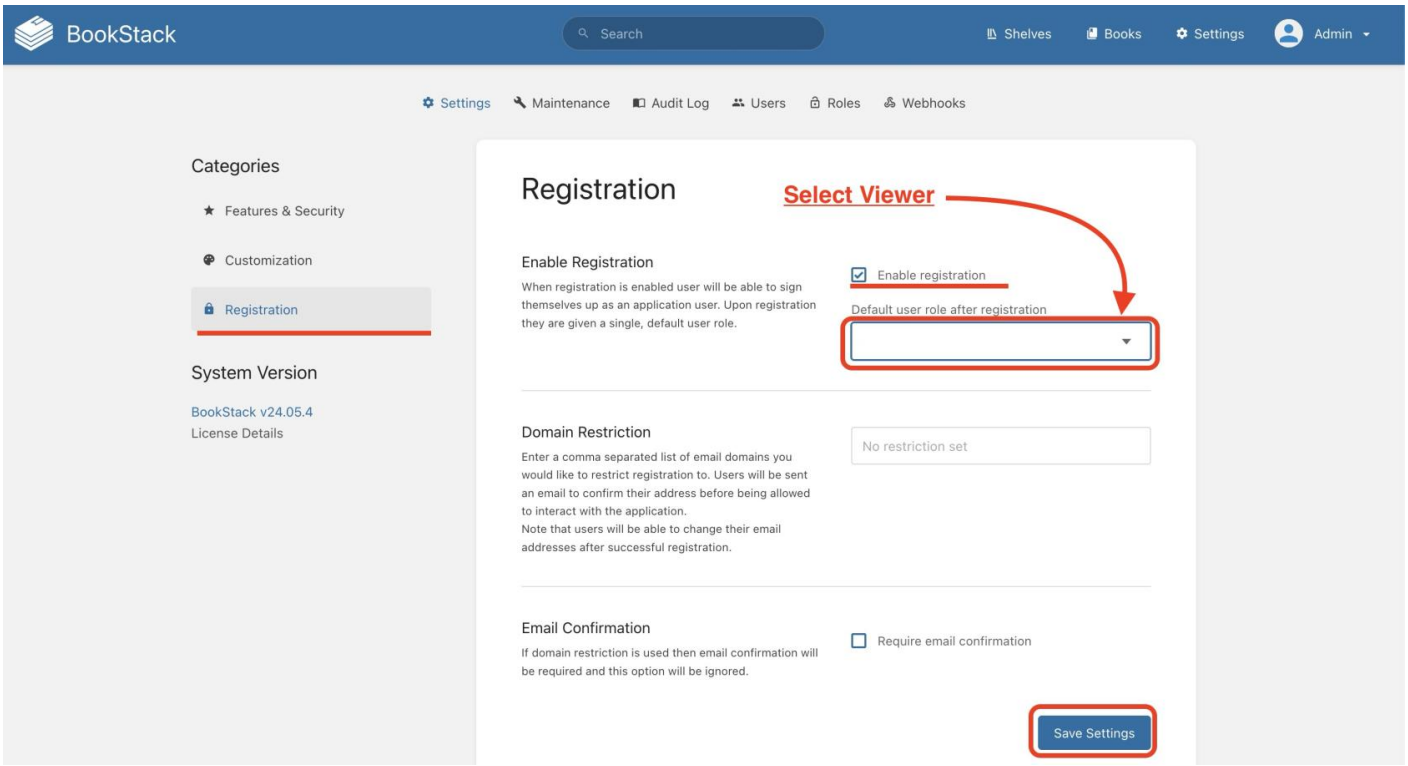
1. Click on **Settings** in the top navigation bar.



2. Under **Categories**, select **Registration**.

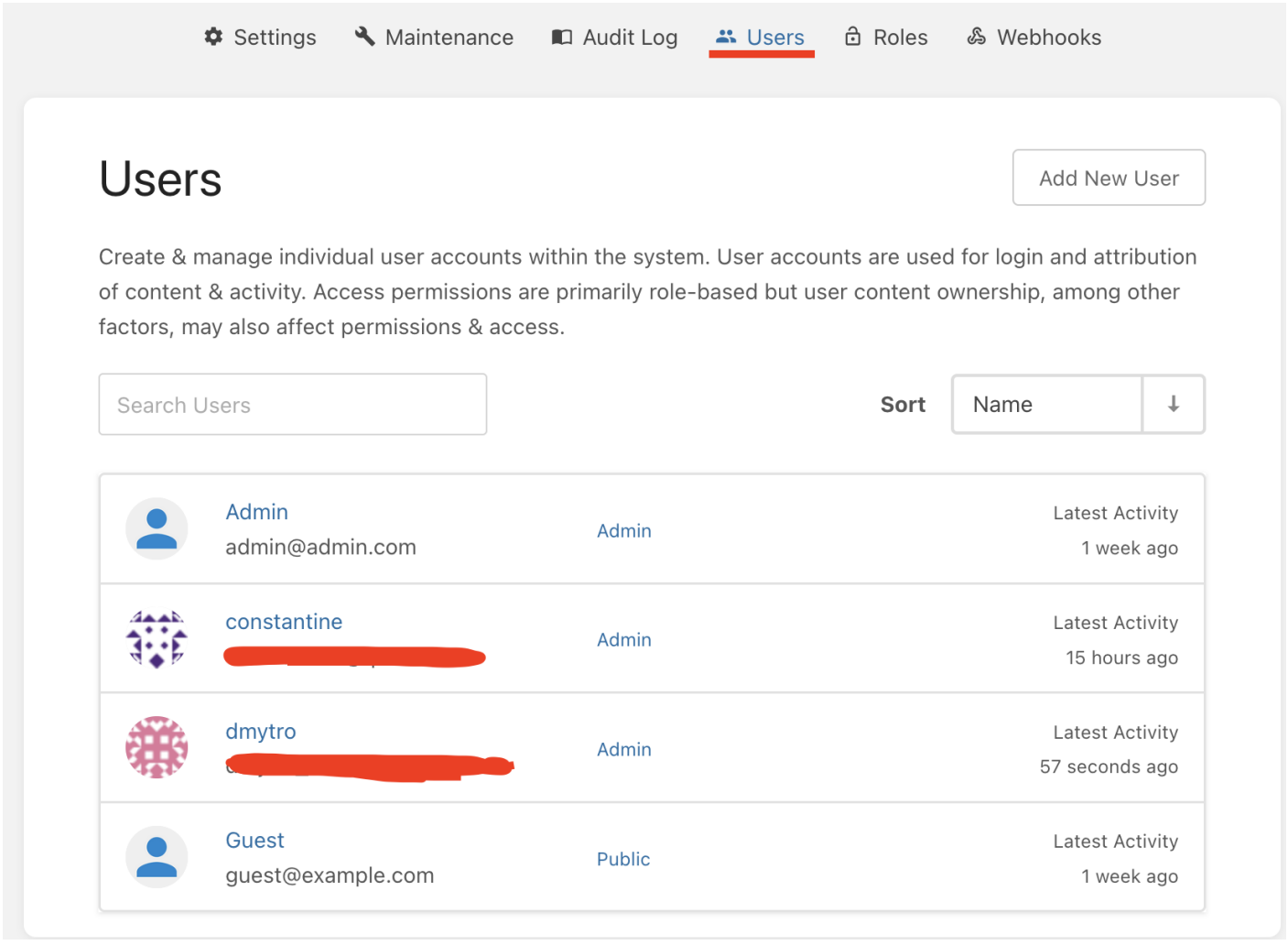
3. Check **Enable Registration**.

4. In **Default user role after registration**, select **Viewer**.

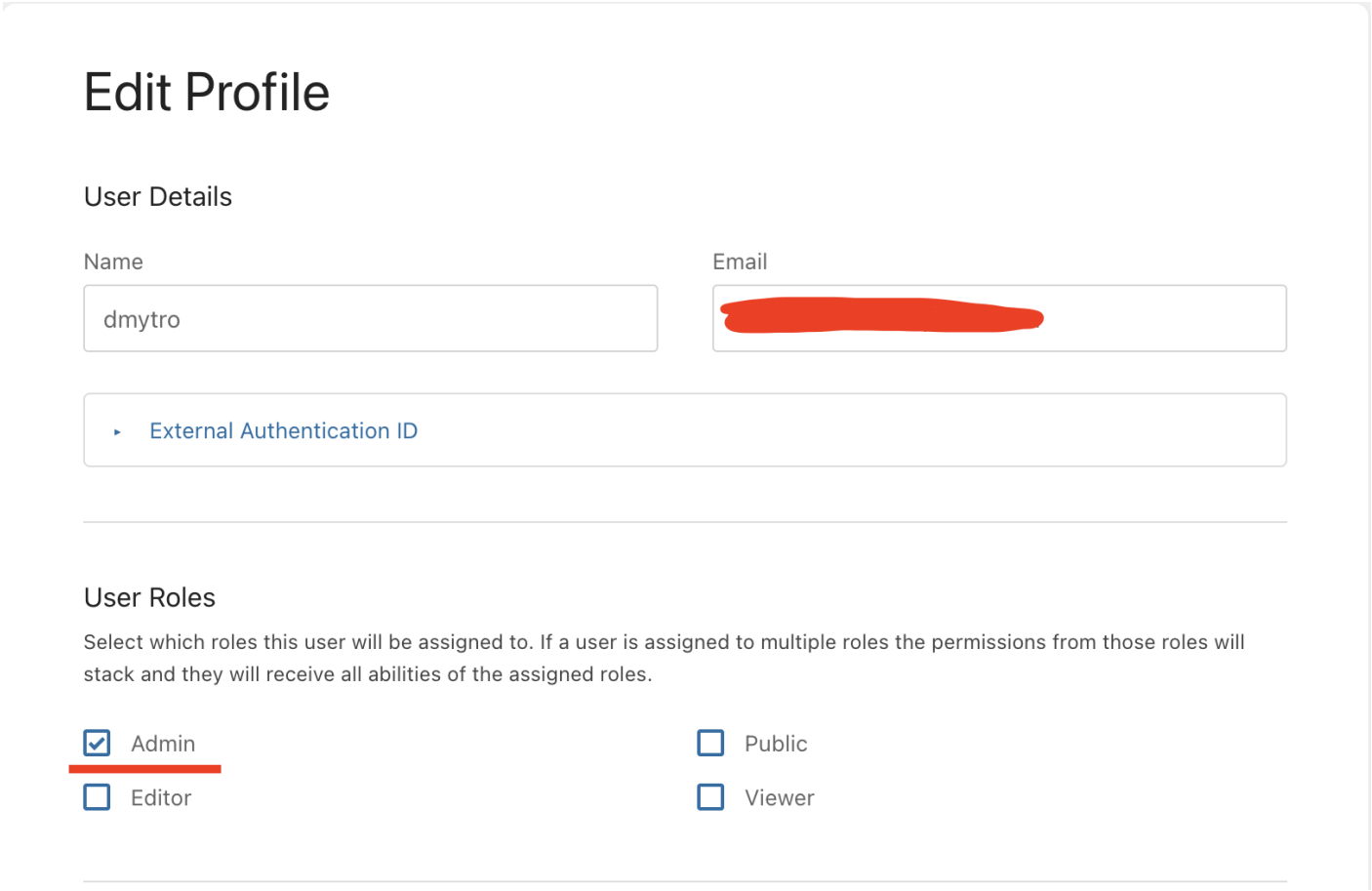


5. Click **Save Settings**.

6. Click on **Users** tab. Choose user which you want to make an admin role.



7. Select Admin role and click **Save**.



Step 6: Switch Back to OIDC Authentication

Now that user registration is enabled, repeat **Step 2**, but this time set the authentication method back to **OIDC**:

```
nano bookstack/.env
AUTH_METHOD="oidc" # uncomment or edit exist line
```

Save the file and restart BookStack again:

```
docker-compose --env-file bookstack/.env -f bookstack/docker-compose.yml up -d


[+] Running 1/1


✔ Container bookstack  Started
```

⚠ **Important Notice!** Don’t worry! If something goes wrong, the **Auto Scaling Group** will detect the issue and recreate the instance with default settings.