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Boot Linux Grub Into Single User Mode

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Q. How do I boot a Linux system into single user mode?

A. Single user mode is useful to fix some system problem. Following are steps you need to use to boot Grub boot loader into single user mode.



[1]

Procedure: Boot Linux Grub Boot Loader into single user mode

- (1) At grub boot screen (after restart)
- (2) Select the kernel
- (3) Press the e key to edit the entry
- (4) Select second line (the line starting with the word kernel)

```
GNU GRUB  version 0.95  (638K lower / 128960K upper memory)

root (hd0,0)
kernel /boot/vmlinuz-2.6.15-1-686 root=/dev/sda1 ro
initrd /boot/initrd.img-2.6.15-1-686
savedefault
boot
```

Use the ↑ and ↓ keys to select which entry is highlighted.
Press 'b' to boot, 'e' to edit the selected command in the
boot sequence, 'c' for a command-line, 'o' to open a new line
after ('O' for before) the selected line, 'd' to remove the
selected line, or escape to go back to the main menu.

[2]

- (5) Press the e key to edit kernel entry so that you can append single user mode
- (6) Append the letter S (or word Single) to the end of the (kernel) line

```
[ Minimal BASH-like line editing is supported. For the first word, TAB
  lists possible command completions. Anywhere else TAB lists the possible
  completions of a device/filename. ESC at any time exits. ]

grub edit> kernel /boot/vmlinuz-2.6.15-1-686 root=/dev/sda1 ro Single_
```

[3]

(7) Press ENTER key

(8) Now press the b key to boot the Linux kernel into single user mode

(9) When prompted give root password and you be allowed to login into single user mode.

```
Skipping already loaded module agpgart.
Skipping already loaded module pcnet32.
Skipping already loaded module mptscsih.
Skipping unavailable/built-in ide_scsi module.
Cleaning /var/run...done.
Cleaning /var/lock...done.
Running 0dns-down to make sure resolv.conf is ok...done.
Cleaning: /etc/network/ifstate.
Setting hostname to 'vivek.nixcraft.com'...done.
Setting up IP spoofing protection: rp_filter.
Configuring network interfaces...done.
Starting portmap daemon: portmap.
Loading the saved-state of the serial devices...
/dev/ttyS0 at 0x03f8 (irq = 4) is a 16550A
/dev/ttyS1 at 0x02f8 (irq = 3) is a 16550A

Setting the System Clock using the Hardware Clock as reference...
System Clock set. Local time: Wed Apr 19 09:23:11 IST 2006

Initializing random number generator...done.
Recovering nvi editor sessions... done.
Setting up X server socket directory /tmp/.X11-unix...done.
Setting up ICE socket directory /tmp/.ICE-unix...done.
Give root password for maintenance
(or type Control-D to continue): _
```

[4]

See also:

- [Howto: Recovering grub boot loader password](#) [5]

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[3] Image: http://www.cyberciti.biz/faqs/uploaded_images/grub-single-user-mode-append-single-l-720720.png

[4] Image: http://www.cyberciti.biz/faqs/uploaded_images/grub-single-user-mode-788027.png

[5] Howto: Recovering grub boot loader password: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/howto-recovering-grub-boot-loader-password.html>

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