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Linux reset forgotten root password

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Q. I forgot my root password, how can I get into my system?

A. You can reset forgotten root password under Linux by booting system into single user mode or emergency mode (also known as rescue mode).



[1]

My boot loader is GRUB (see [LILO boot](#) [2] loader below)

)Following is the procedure to reset root password if you are using GRUB as a boot loader:

1. Select the kernel
2. Press the e key to edit the entry
3. Select second line (the line starting with the word kernel)
4. Press the e key to edit kernel entry so that you can append single user mode
5. Append the letter S (or word Single) to the end of the (kernel) line
6. Press ENTER key
7. Now press the b key to boot the Linux kernel into single user mode
8. At prompt type passwd command to reset password:

You need to mount at least / and other partitions:

```
# mount -t proc proc /proc
# mount -o remount,rw /
```

Change the root password, enter:

```
# passwd
```

Finally reboot system:

```
# sync
# reboot
```

My boot loader is LILO

At LILO boot loader type linux single and press [ENTER] key:

```
Boot: linux single
```

When you get the # prompt you will need to type passwd root to reset password:

```
# passwd
```

Reboot system:

```
# sync
# reboot
```

See also:

- [Howto: Recovering grub boot loader password](#) [3]
- [Recovering deleted /etc/shadow password file](#) [4]
- [10 boot time parameters you should know about the Linux kernel](#) [5]

- [Debian Linux - Grub Boot into single user mode](#) ^[6]

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URLs in this post:

[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/linux/>

[2] LILO boot: `#lilo`

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

[4] Recovering deleted /etc/shadow password file: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/recovering-deleted-etcshadow-password-file.html>

[5] 10 boot time parameters you should know about the Linux kernel: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/10-boot-time-parameters-you-should-know-about-the-linux-kernel.html>

[6] Debian Linux - Grub Boot into single user mode: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/grub-boot-into-single-user-mode/>