How to Password Protect GRUB

STEP 1: Create a password for GRUB, be a root user and open command prompt, type below command. When prompted type grub password twice and press enter. This will return MD5 hash password. Please copy or note it down.

```
[root@tecmint ~]#  grub-md5-crypt
```

Sample Output:

```
[root@tecmint ~]# grub-md5-crypt


Password:


Retype password:


$1$19oD/1$NklcucLPshZVoo5LvUYEp1
```

Step 2: Now you need to open the /boot/grub/menu.lst or /boot/grub/grub.conf file and add the MD5password. Both files are same and symbolic link to each other.

```
[root@tecmint ~]# vi /boot/grub/menu.lst




OR



[root@tecmint ~]# vi /boot/grub/grub.conf
```

Note : I advise you to take backup of the files before making any changes to it, if in case something goes wrong you can revert it.

STEP 3: Add the newly created MD5 password in GRUB configuration file. Please paste copied password below timeout line and save it and exit. For example, Enter the line password –md5 <add the copied md5 string from step 1> above.

```
# grub.conf generated by anaconda

#

# Note that you do not have to rerun grub after making changes to this file

# NOTICE:  You have a /boot partition.  This means that

#          all kernel and initrd paths are relative to /boot/, eg.

#          root (hd0,0)

#          kernel /vmlinuz-version ro root=/dev/sda3

#          initrd /initrd-[generic-]version.img

#boot=/dev/sda
default=0
timeout=5
password --md5 $1$TNUb/1$TwroGJn4eCd4xsYeGiBYq.
splashimage=(hd0,0)/grub/splash.xpm.gz
hiddenmenu
title CentOS (2.6.32-279.5.2.el6.i686)
        root (hd0,0)
        kernel /vmlinuz-2.6.32-279.5.2.el6.i686 ro root=UUID=d06b9517-8bb3-
44db-b8c5-7710e183edb7 rd_NO_LUKS rd_NO_LVM rd_NO_MD rd_NO_DM LANG=en_US.UTF-
8 SYSFONT=latarcyrheb-sun16 KEYBOARDTYPE=pc KEYTABLE=us crashkernel=auto rhgb
quiet
        initrd /initramfs-2.6.32-279.5.2.el6.i686.img
title centos (2.6.32-71.el6.i686)
        root (hd0,0)
        kernel /vmlinuz-2.6.32-71.el6.i686 ro root=UUID=d06b9517-8bb3-44db-
b8c5-7710e183edb7 rd_NO_LUKS rd_NO_LVM rd_NO_MD rd_NO_DM LANG=en_US.UTF-8
SYSFONT=latarcyrheb-sun16 KEYBOARDTYPE=pc KEYTABLE=us crashkernel=auto rhgb
quiet
        initrd /initramfs-2.6.32-71.el6.i686.img
```

STEP 4: Reboot system and try it pressing 'p' to enter password to unlock and enable next features.

Password Protect Grub in Linux

This is how we can protect GRUB with password. Let us know how do you secure your system? via comments.

Please visit grub security online manual pages for more information at GRUB Security.