Linux Root Password Break

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Reset the Root Password in CentOS/Redhat

Agenda: - Resetting the Root Password in Linux when an Admin User left the Organization or without sharing it or forgot. To Reset Root Password, there are two following method available and the steps are mention below,

First and Easy Method to Reset Root Password

1. Login using alternate Admin User and change the Password
2.

```
[centadmin@centadmin ~]$ sudo passwd root
[sudo] password for centadmin:
Changing password for user root.
New password:
BAD PASSWORD: The password is shorter than 7 characters
Retype new password:
passwd: all authentication tokens updated successfully.
[centadmin@centadmin ~]$ _
```

Second Method to Reset Root Password

1. Restart the CentOS/Redhat machine and interrupt the Boot loader mode and select and press "e" to edit

```
CentOS Linux (3.10.0-957.27.2.el7.x86_64) 7 (Core)
CentOS Linux (3.10.0-862.el7.x86_64) 7 (Core)
CentOS Linux (0-rescue-e5b20ccc523b47e4b267ebe180f08374) 7 (Core)
```

2. A new Window "Grub Option" will open and, in the window search and select line **Linux16** in the end/Tail write **rd.break** and press ctrl-x to reboot with the cmd written and to open and present shell prompt without having any users

```
        insmod ext2
        set root='hd0,msdos1'
        if [ x$feature_platform_search_hint = xy ]; then
           search --no-floppy --fs-uuid --set=root --hint-bios=hd0,msdos1 --hin\
t-efi=hd0,msdos1 --hint-baremetal=ahci0,msdos1 --hint='hd0,msdos1'  a378ffd3-8\
b2c-4f67-81ea-0e9ee496bed8
        else
           search --no-floppy --fs-uuid --set=root a378ffd3-8b2c-4f67-81ea-0e9e\
e496bed8     Using the Cursor Key search and select the line Linux16
        fi
        linux16 /vmlinuz-3.10.0-862.el7.x86_64 root=/dev/mapper/centos-root ro\
 crashkernel=auto rd.lvm.lv=centos/root rd.lvm.lv=centos/swap rhgb quiet LANG=\
en_US.UTF-8 rd.break_   In the end write the command rd.break and select ctrl-x
        initrd16 /initramfs-3.10.0-862.el7.x86_64.img


     Press Ctrl-x to start, Ctrl-c for a command prompt or Escape to
     discard edits and return to the menu. Pressing Tab lists
     possible completions.
```

3. In the Shell Prompt need to mount the /sysroot to reset the Password by using the following command mention below

```
switch_root:/# mount -o remount,rw /sysroot/
```

4. After the changing the permission for /sysroot to read & writable

5. Need to use chmod command and it's used to change the access/permission mode of a file /sysroot

```
switch_root:/# chroot /sysroot/
```

6. Enter the Password changing command "passwd" as mention below in the screen shot

```
sh-4.2# passwd root
Changing password for user root.
New password:
BAD PASSWORD: The password is shorter than 7 characters
Retype new password:
passwd: all authentication tokens updated successfully.
```

7. Create a file autorelable using the touch command "touch /.autorelabel" to save and reboot using the command exit twice

```
sh-4.2# exit
exit
switch_root:/# exit
```

Referrece Links: -

1. https://www.thegeekdiary.com/centos-rhel-7-reset-root-password/
2. https://www.tecmint.com/reset-forgotten-root-password-in-centos-7-rhel-7/
3. https://www.rootusers.com/how-to-reset-root-user-password-in-centos-rhel-7/