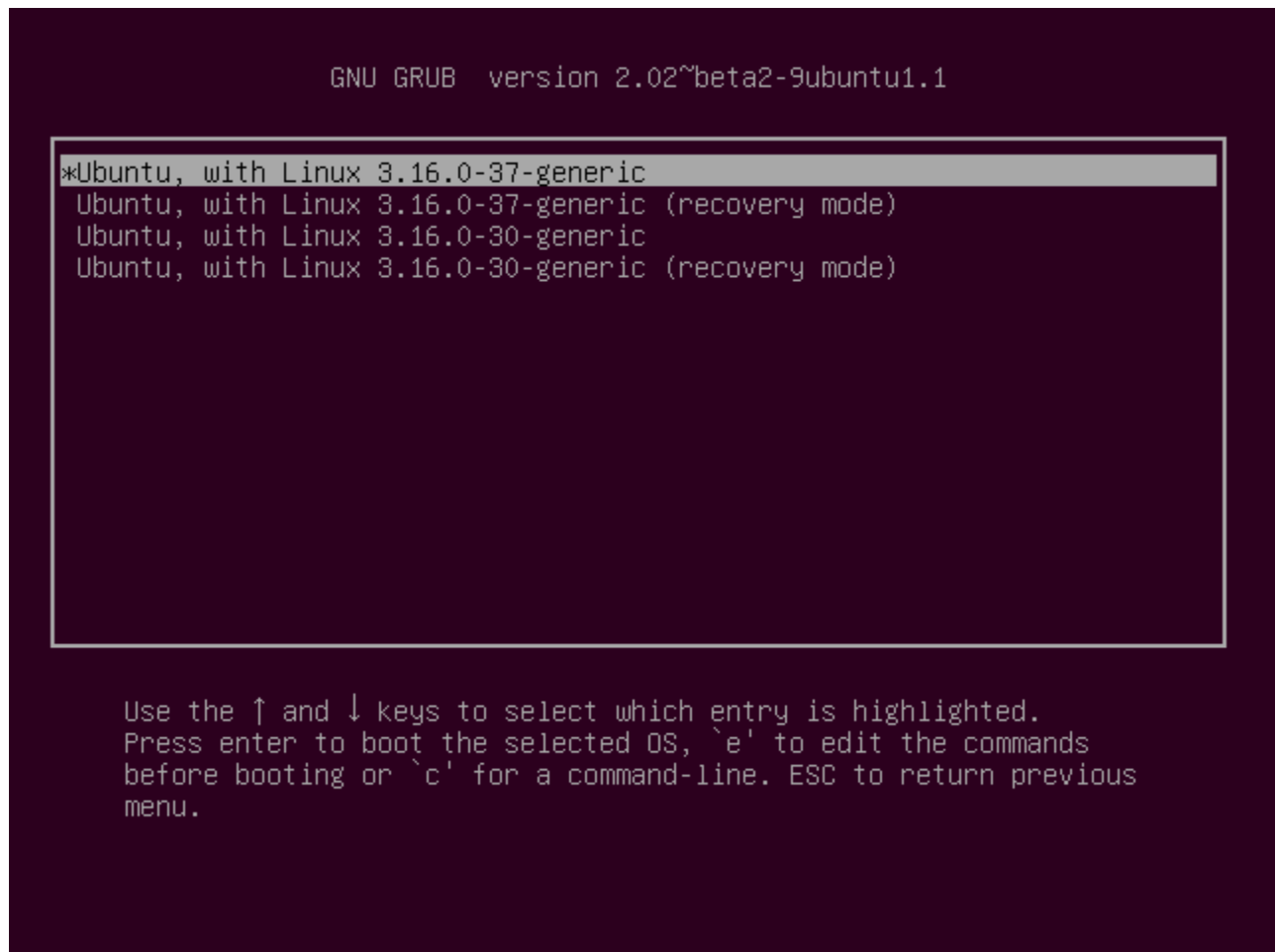


If you forget your password on a Linux virtual machine

(Taken from: <https://askubuntu.com/questions/24006/how-do-i-reset-a-lost-administrative-password>)

By default the first user's account is an administrative account, so if the UI is prompting you for a password it's probably that person's user password. If the user doesn't remember their password you need to reset it. To do this you need to boot into recovery mode.

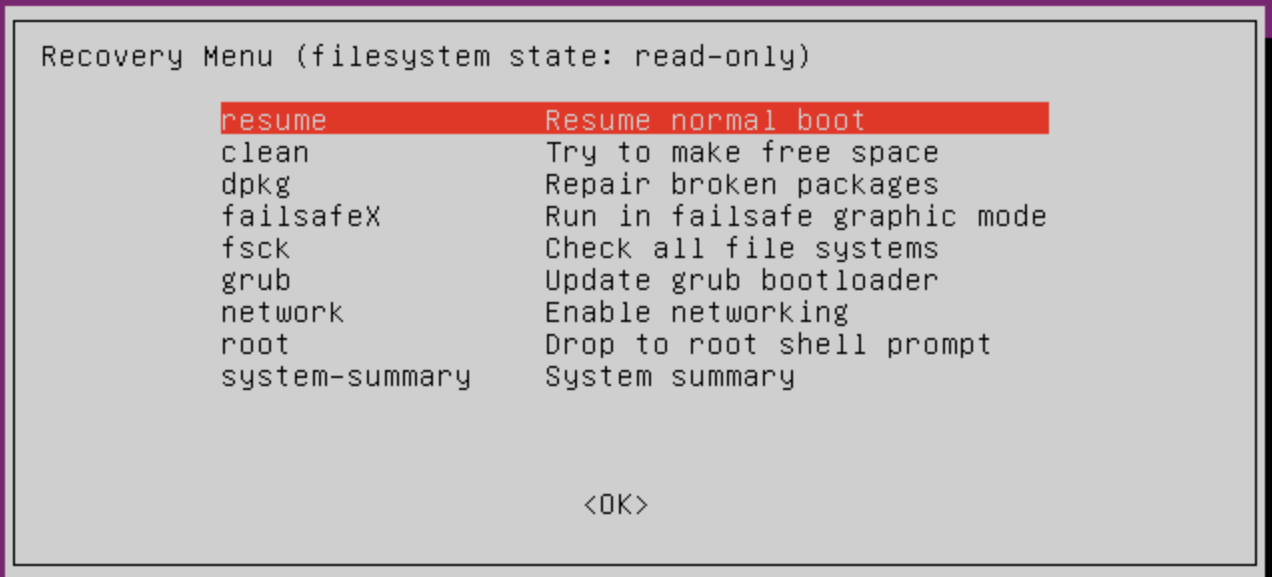
Boot up the machine, and *after* the BIOS screen, hold down the left `Shift` key. You will then be prompted by a menu that looks something like this:



I've noticed on some systems that timing when to hit the left `Shift` key can be tricky, sometimes I miss it and need to try it again.

Hit the down arrow until you select the **2nd entry from the top** (the one with the **recovery mode in the description**) and then hit `Enter`.

Now you should see this menu:



Using the arrow keys scroll down to **root** and then hit `Enter`.

If there is no root option in GRUB, instead do:

1. Highlight your image and press `E` to edit.
2. Find the line starting with "linux" and append `rw init=/bin/bash` at the end of that line.
3. Press `Ctrl + X` to boot.

You should now see a root prompt, something like this:

```
root@ubuntu:~#
```

At this stage you should have a read-only filesystem. You have to remount it with write permissions:

```
mount -o remount,rw /
```

Now we can set the user's password with the `passwd` command. (In this example I will use `jorge` as the example, you need to substitute whatever the user's username is):

```
root@ubuntu:~# passwd jorge
Enter new UNIX password:
Retype new UNIX password:
passwd: password updated successfully
root@ubuntu:~#
```

Type in what you want the new password to be at the prompt. After it's successful reboot the machine and the user will be able to log in with their new password.