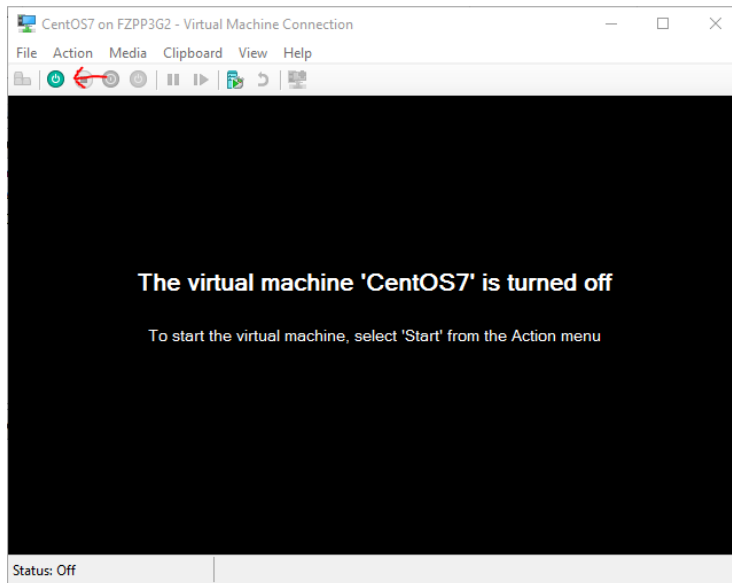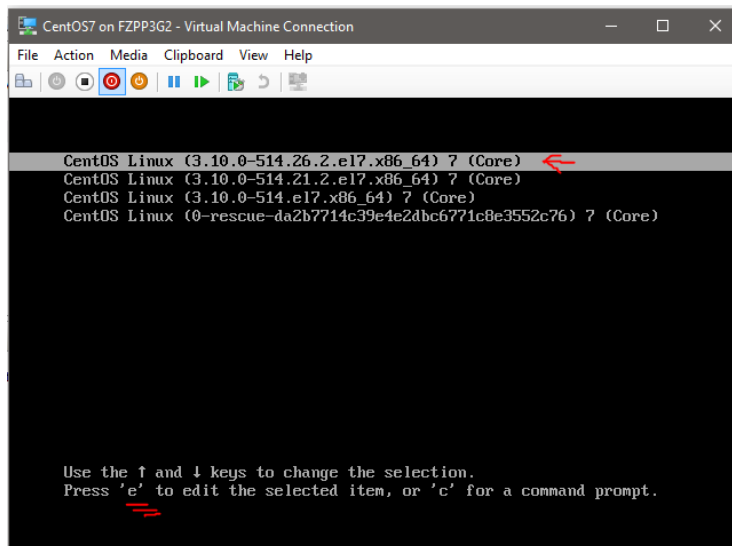Thomas Salda

Date: 24 Oct 18

How to Log in to a CentOS7/RHEL Box Without A Password
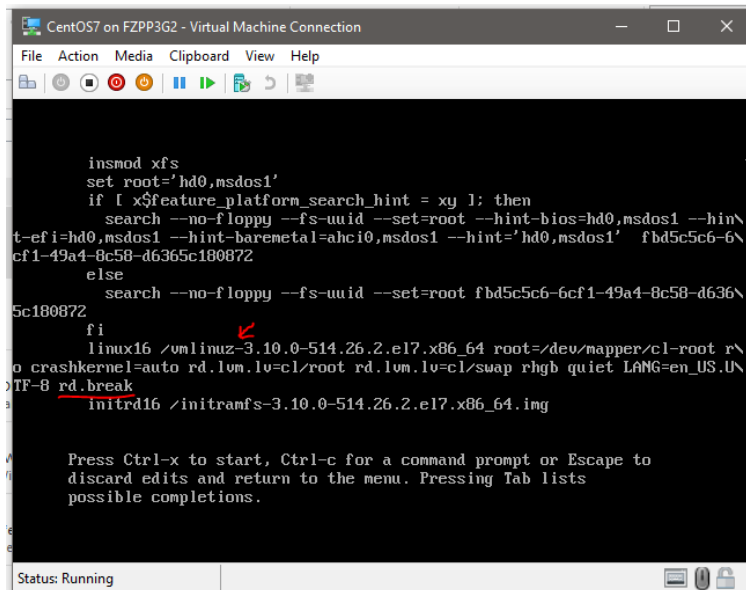
[1] Turn VM on HyperVisor (KVM, Hyper-V, VMWare, etc)

[2] Find the newest Kernel and click **'e'** for edit.

[3] Scroll down. Find the line that says **vmlinuz**. Press **End** on your keyboard (to go to the end of the line), and type **rd.break** at the end of the line. Then press **Ctrl-x** to boot up.
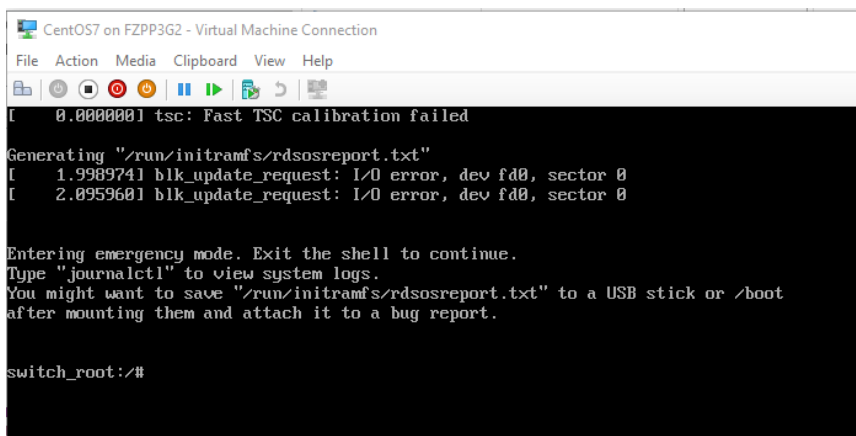

[4] Once the system is booted, Linux will mount the root filesystem as **read** only on /sysroot.

[] Remount the root file system as **read-write**. Enter the following command:

#mount –o remount,rw /sysroot

Ex)

File   Action   Media   Clipboard   View   Help

```
[    0.000000] tsc: Fast TSC calibration failed

Generating "/run/initramfs/rdsosreport.txt"
[    1.998974] blk_update_request: I/O error, dev fd0, sector 0
[    2.095960] blk_update_request: I/O error, dev fd0, sector 0


Entering emergency mode. Exit the shell to continue.
Type "journalctl" to view system logs.
You might want to save "/run/initramfs/rdsosreport.txt" to a USB stick or /boot
after mounting them and attach it to a bug report.


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

[] Verify you are in the / directory.

Ex)

```
switch_root:/# pwd
/
switch_root:/# ls
bin  dev  dracut-state.sh  early_cpio  etc  init  kernel  lib  lib64  proc  root  run  sbin  shutdown  sys  sysroot  tmp  usr  var
switch_root:/# _
```

[] We will now change the root file system to */sysroot* with the *chroot* command.

```
switch_root:/# pwd
/
switch_root:/# ls
bin  dev  dracut-state.sh  early_cpio  etc  init  kernel  lib  lib64  proc  root  run  sbin  shutdown  sys  sysroot  tmp  usr  var
switch_root:/# _
```

```
switch_root:/# chroot /sysroot
sh-4.2#
```

[] Run *pwd* and *ls*, and notice that we are still in / but the contents are different

```
sh-4.2# pwd
/
sh-4.2# ls
bin  boot  dev  etc  home  lib  lib64  media  mnt  opt  proc  root  run  sbin  srv  sys  tmp  usr  var
sh-4.2#
```

[] Now, change the password with the *passwd* command

Ex)

```
sh-4.2# passwd
Changing password for user root.
New password:
Retype new password:
passwd: all authentication tokens updated successfully.
sh-4.2# _
```
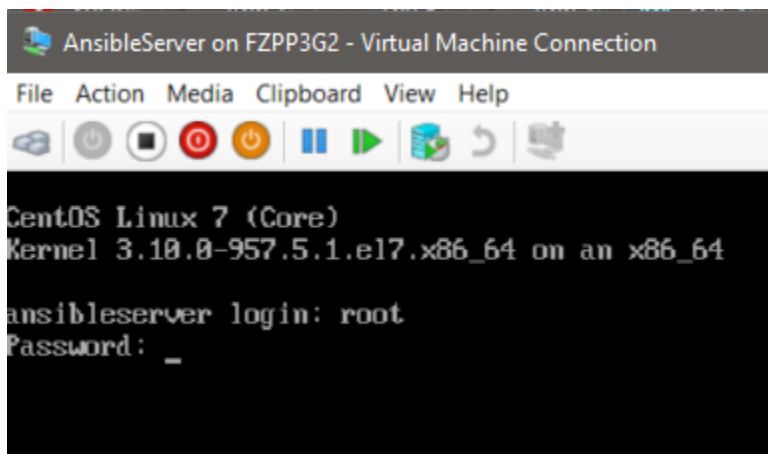
[] Next, have SELinux rewritethe security context of all files on the next reboot by creating a hidden file in / called **/.autorelable**.
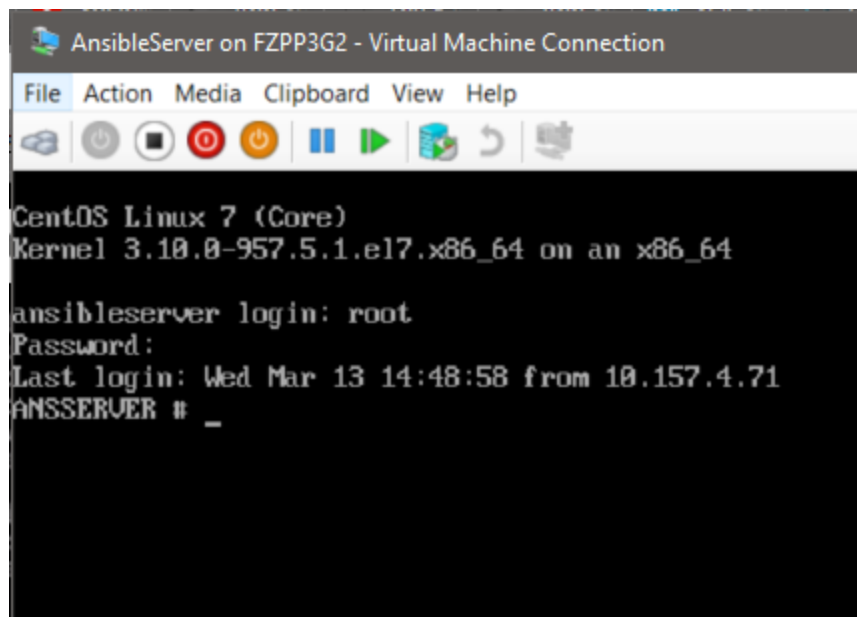
Ex)

```
sh-4.2# touch /.autorelable
sh-4.2#
```

[] Type exit to exit the *chroot* shell and *exit* again to continue booting. After the booting completes, you should be able to log in with your new password.

Ex)

```
AnsibleServer on FZPP3G2 - Virtual Machine Connection
File  Action  Media  Clipboard  View  Help

CentOS Linux 7 (Core)
Kernel 3.10.0-957.5.1.el7.x86_64 on an x86_64

ansibleserver login: root
Password: _
```

AnsibleServer on FZPP3G2 - Virtual Machine Connection

File   Action   Media   Clipboard   View   Help

```
CentOS Linux 7 (Core)
Kernel 3.10.0-957.5.1.el7.x86_64 on an x86_64

ansibleserver login: root
Password:
Last login: Wed Mar 13 14:48:58 from 10.157.4.71
ANSSERVER # _
```