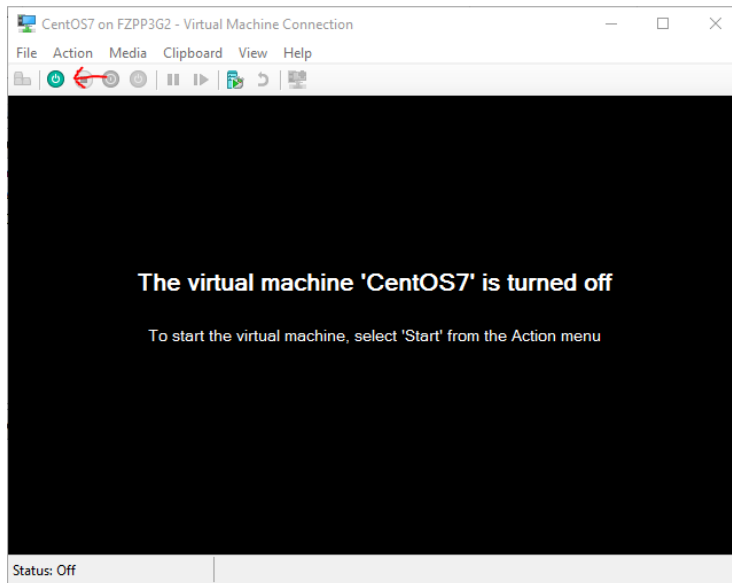


Thomas Salda

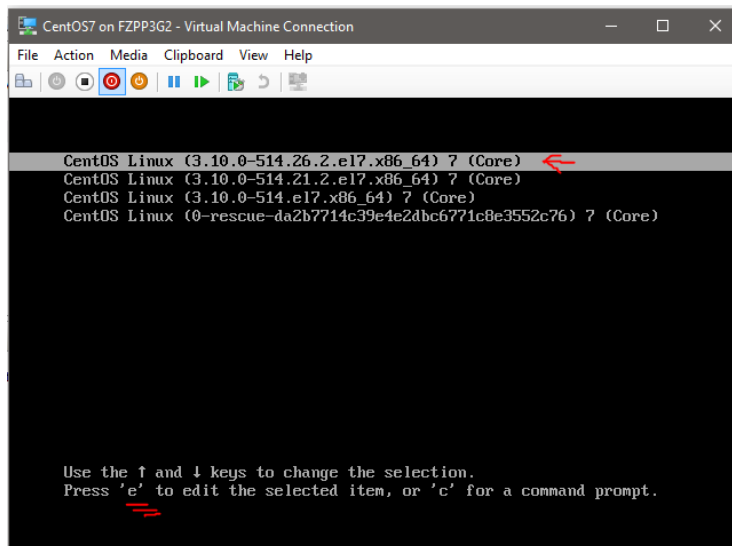
Date: 24 Oct 18

How to Log in to a CentOS7/RHEL Box Without A Password

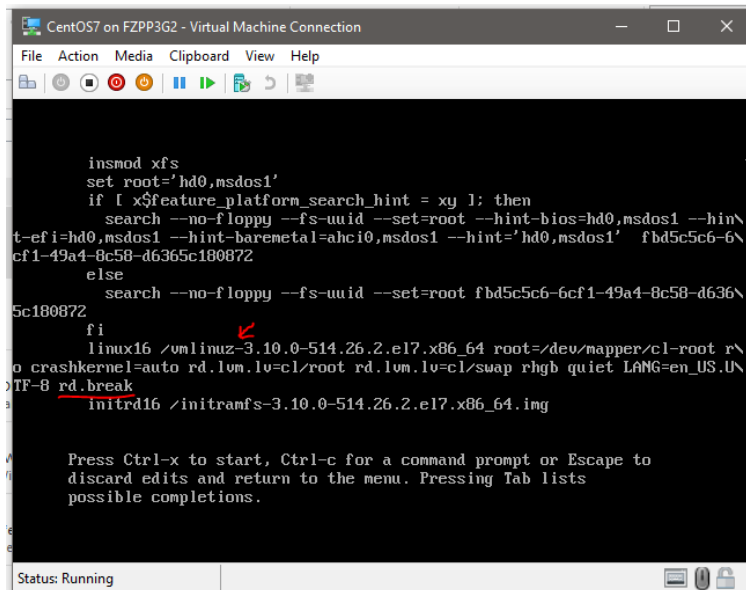
[1] Turn VM on HyperVisor (KVM, Hyper-V, VMWare, etc)



[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.



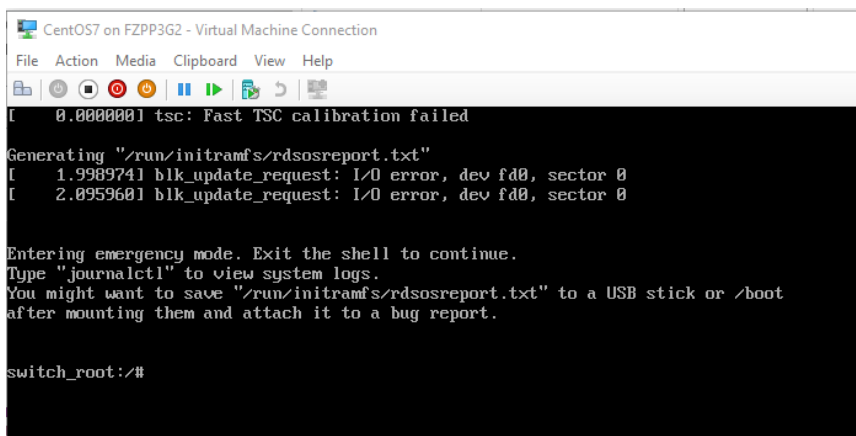
```
CentOS7 on FZPP3G2 - Virtual Machine Connection
File Action Media Clipboard View Help

insmod xfs
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' fbd5c5c6-6\
cf1-49a4-8c58-d6365c180872
else
  search --no-floppy --fs-uuid --set=root fbd5c5c6-6cf1-49a4-8c58-d636\
5c180872
fi
linux16 /vmlinuz-3.10.0-514.26.2.el7.x86_64 root=/dev/mapper/cl-root r\
o crashkernel=auto rd.lvm.lv=cl/root rd.lvm.lv=cl/swap rhgb quiet LANG=en_US.U\
TF-8 rd.break
initrd16 /initramfs-3.10.0-514.26.2.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.

Status: Running
```

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



```
CentOS7 on FZPP3G2 - Virtual Machine Connection
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:~#
```

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

#mount -o remount,rw /sysroot

Ex)

```
CentOS7 on FZPP3G2 - Virtual Machine Connection
File Action Media Clipboard View Help
[ 0.000000] tsc: Fast TSC calibration failed
Generating "/run/initramfs/rdsosreport.txt"
[ 1.9989741] 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# _
```

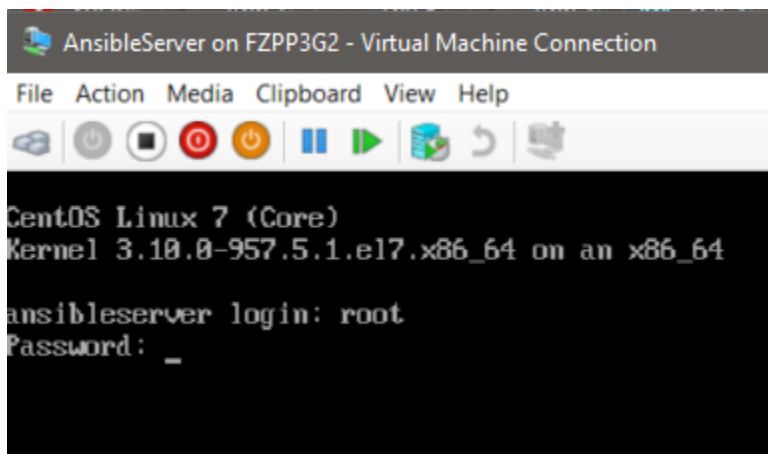
[] Next, have SELinux rewrite the security context of all files on the next reboot by creating a hidden file in / called **/.autorelabel**.

Ex)

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

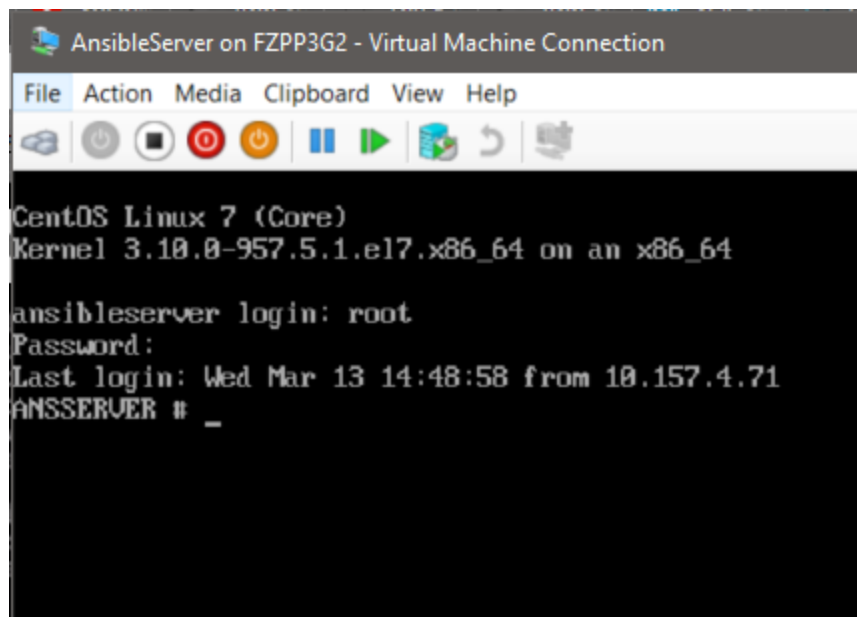
[] Type **exit** to exit the **chroot** shell and **exit** again to continue booting. After the booting completes, you should be able to log in with your new password.

Ex)



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

ansibleserver login: root
Password: _
```



```
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
ANSERVER # _
```