

the psycho cat on an HP Mini with Ubuntu

How to reset your password in Ubuntu



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There are many reasons you might want to reset a password:

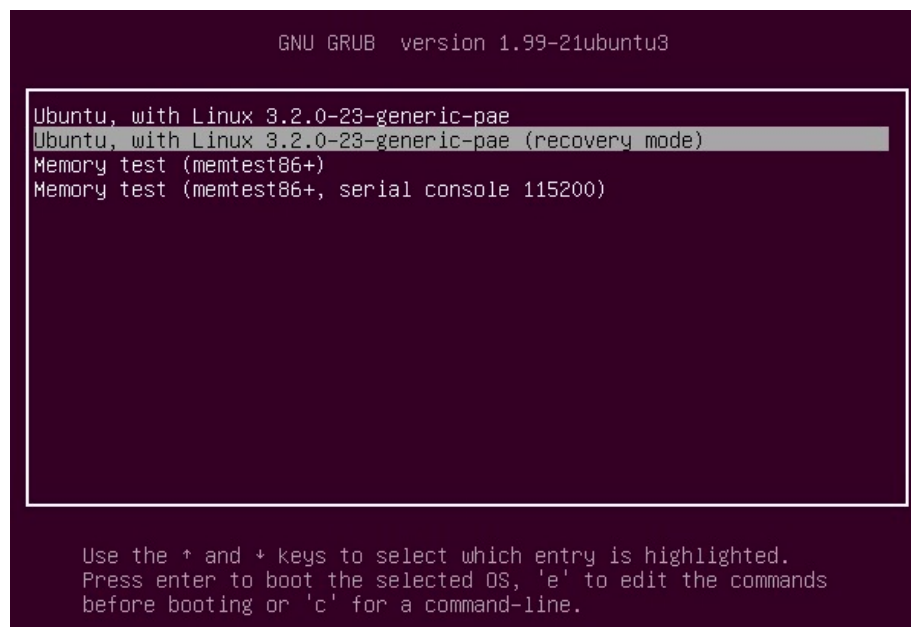
- Someone gave you a computer with Ubuntu installed on it but not the password for the user account.
- You just installed Ubuntu and forgot what password you selected during the installation process.
- You have too many passwords in your life and can't keep track of them all.

Well, this tutorial will help you reset your Ubuntu user account password, regardless of what reason you have for resetting it.

First, you have to reboot into *recovery mode*.

If you have a single-boot (Ubuntu is the only operating system on your computer), to get the boot menu to show, you have to hold down the *Shift* key during bootup.

If you have a dual-boot (Ubuntu is installed next to Windows, another Linux operating system, or Mac OS X; and you choose at boot time which operating system to boot into), the boot menu should appear without the need to hold down the *Shift* key.



From the boot menu, select *recovery mode*, which is usually the second boot option.

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non-profits/charities. Every little bit helps.

You may also want to consider donating directly to the Ubuntu project.



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```
Recovery Menu (filesystem state: read-only)

resume           Resume normal boot
clean            Try to make free space
dpkg            Repair broken packages
failsafeX       Run in failsafe graphic mode
fsck            Check all file systems
grub            Update grub bootloader
network        Enable networking
root            Drop to root shell prompt
system-summary  System summary

<Ok>
```

```
root@susanbuntu:~# mount -o rw,remount /
root@susanbuntu:~# _
```

After you select recovery mode and wait for all the boot-up processes to finish, you'll be presented with a few options. In this case, you want the *Drop to root shell prompt* option so press the Down arrow to get to that option, and then press Enter to select it.

The root account is the ultimate administrator and can do anything to the Ubuntu installation (including erase it), so please be careful with what commands you enter in the root terminal.

In recent versions of Ubuntu, the filesystem is mounted as read-only, so you need to enter the follow command to get it to remount as read-write, which will allow you to make changes:

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

```
clean           Try to make free space
dpkg           Repair broken packages
failsafeX      Run in failsafe graphic mode
fsck          Check all file systems
grub          Update grub bootloader
network       Enable networking
root          Drop to root shell prompt
system-summary System summary

<Ok>
```

```
root@susanbuntu:~# mount -o rw,remount /
root@susanbuntu:~# ls /home
carol susan
root@susanbuntu:~# passwd susan
Enter new UNIX password:
Retype new UNIX password:
passwd: password updated successfully
root@susanbuntu:~# exit_
```

If you have forgotten your username as well, type

```
ls /home
```

That's a lowercase *L*, by the way, not a capital *i*, in *ls*. You should then see a list of the users on your Ubuntu installation. In this case, I'm going to reset Susan Brownmiller's password.

To reset the password, type

```
passwd username
```

where *username* is the username you want to reset. In this case, I want to reset Susan's password, so I type

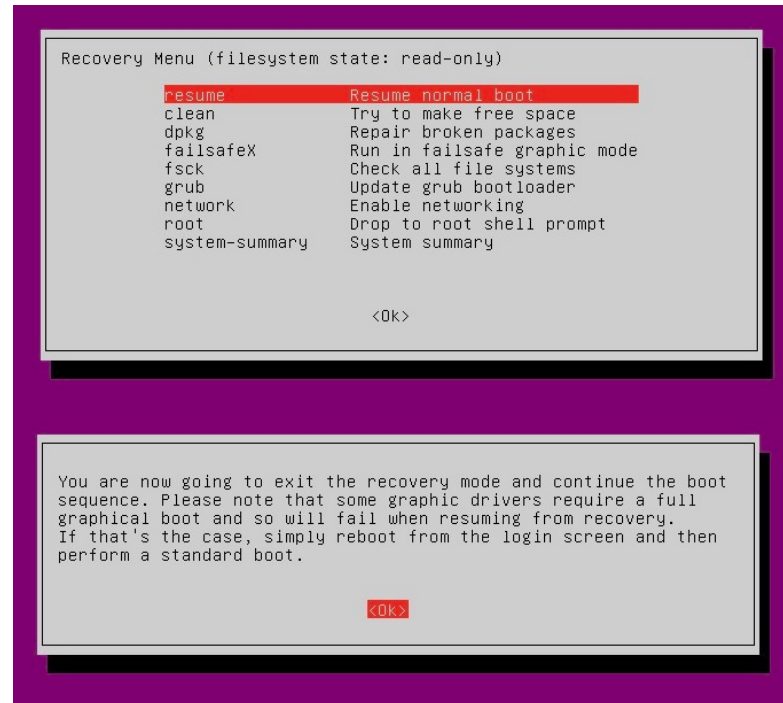
```
passwd susan
```

You'll then be prompted for a new password. When you type the password you will get no visual response acknowledging your typing. Your password is still being accepted. Just type the password and hit *Enter* when you're done. You'll be prompted to retype the password. Do so and hit *Enter* again.

Now the password should be reset. Type

```
exit
```

to return to the recovery menu.



After you get back to the recovery menu, select *resume normal boot*, and use Ubuntu as you normally would—only this time, you actually know the password!

Note:

Some people get freaked out about having recovery mode logging you in as root. For more information, read [Recovery mode makes me root user. Isn't that a security risk?](#)

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If you have suggestions or corrections for these tutorials, please post in [this Ubuntu Forums thread](#) or leave a comment on [my blog](#).

I will not give help to people posting in the above places. If you require technical support, start a support thread on [the Ubuntu Forums](#). That is the appropriate place to ask for help.