

SysAdminStuff

My Online Notebook

How to reset lost root password on SUSE Linux Enterprise Server

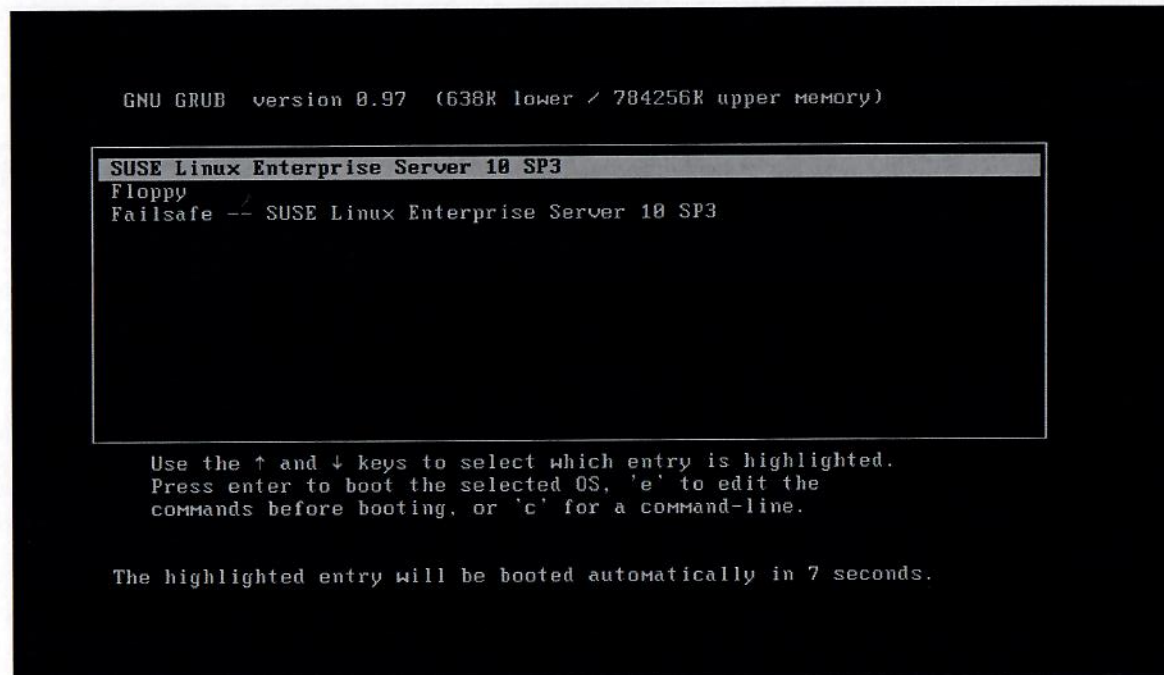
I had to use one of my virtual machines that I didn't use for a while today, and of course I couldn't remember the password I used for it, so I had to change it.

Here is how to reset a forgotten root password on Novell SUSE

This is a guide for Novell SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 10 SP3.

On the boot menu select the first option "SUSE Linux enterprise server" and press 'e' for edit.

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SLES boot menu

On the second menu select the kernel option and press 'e' for edit.

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```
GNU GRUB version 0.97 (638K lower / 784256K upper memory)
```

```
root (hd0,1)
kernel /boot/vmlinuz-2.6.16.60-0.54.5-default root=/dev/sda2 resum→
initrd /boot/initrd-2.6.16.60-0.54.5-default
```

Use the ↑ and ↓ keys to select which entry is highlighted.
Press 'b' to boot, 'e' to edit the selected command in the
boot sequence, 'c' for a command-line, 'o' to open a new line
after ('O' for before) the selected line, 'd' to remove the
selected line, or escape to go back to the main menu.

Select kernel line

type `init=/bin/bash` (leave empty space at the begging), and press 'Enter' and then 'b' to boot with that option.

```
[ Minimal BASH-like line editing is supported. For the first word, TAB
lists possible command completions. Anywhere else TAB lists the possible
completions of a device/filename. ESC at any time exits. ]
```

```
<da2 resume=/dev/sda1 splash=silent showopts init=/bin/bash_
```

Add init=/bin/bash one the end of the line

The system will boot with the root user logged on, type `passwd` to change the password and input your new password, or just press 'Enter' for no password (blank password)

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```
Loading reiserfs
Attempting manual resume
Waiting for device /dev/sda2 to appear:  ok
rootfs: major=8 minor=2 devn=2050
fsck 1.38 (30-Jun-2005)
[/bin/fsck.reiserfs (1) -- /] fsck.reiserfs -a /dev/sda2
Reiserfs super block in block 16 on 0x802 of format 3.6 with standard journal
Blocks (total/free): 4950016/4413130 by 4096 bytes
Filesystem is clean
fsck succeeded. Mounting root device read-write.
Mounting root /dev/sda2
ReiserFS: sda2: found reiserfs format "3.6" with standard journal
ReiserFS: sda2: using ordered data mode
reiserfs: using flush barriers
ReiserFS: sda2: journal params: device sda2, size 8192, journal first block 18,
max trans len 1024, max batch 900, max commit age 30, max trans age 30
ReiserFS: sda2: checking transaction log (sda2)
ReiserFS: sda2: Using r5 hash to sort names
(none):/# passwd
Changing password for root.
New Password:
Bad password: too short
Reenter New Password:
Password changed.
(none):/# _
```

Use passwd to change root password

Reboot the server and log on with your new password.

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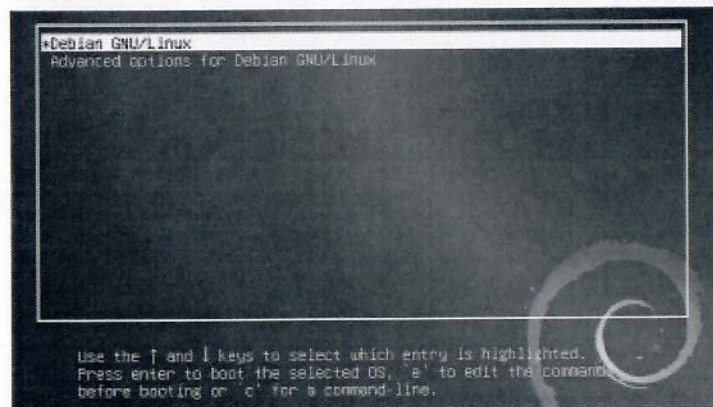
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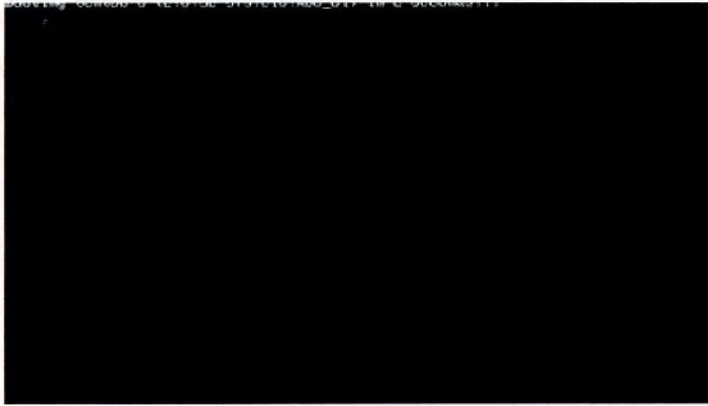


How to reset root password on Debian 8 (Jessie)

January 4, 2017

In "Debian"

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Reset root password on CentOS 6 machine

January 9, 2017

In "CentOS/RedHat"



How to reset FreeBSD root password

February 19, 2017

In "FreeBSD"

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4 thoughts on “How to reset lost root password on SUSE Linux Enterprise Server”

cithiz.com@hotmail.com

January 13, 2017 at 17:51

My problem is that cannot give any input after boot with init=/bin/bash option in kernel line.

Loading...

yorz 

January 14, 2017 at 01:25

are you running SLES 10, or newer version? SLES 11/12?

Loading...

cithiz.com@hotmail.com

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SLES 10 Service Pack 2. I can come up to (none):/#, but in this line cannot give any input.

Loading...

don ringor

September 11, 2018 at 02:39

Hello, It is possible that your SLES do not support USB keyboard on single mode or USB packages are not loaded. Try PS2 keyboard. Thanks

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