

How to Reset a Forgotten Password in Linux

Forgetting your password can be a frustrating experience, especially when it locks you out of your own system. In a Linux environment, resetting a forgotten password is a crucial skill that can save you time and effort. This article will guide you through the process of resetting a forgotten password in Linux, ensuring you can regain access to your system without having to reinstall the operating system.

Examples:

1. Using Single-User Mode (for most Linux distributions):

- **Step 1:** Reboot your system. During the boot process, access the GRUB menu by pressing the Shift key (for BIOS systems) or the Esc key (for UEFI systems).
- **Step 2:** In the GRUB menu, select the entry for your Linux system and press e to edit the boot parameters.
- **Step 3:** Find the line that starts with linux and append single or init=/bin/bash at the end of this line.
- **Step 4:** Press Ctrl + X or F10 to boot with the modified parameters. This will boot the system into single-user mode or a root shell.
- **Step 5:** Once you have root access, you can reset the password using the passwd command. For example:

```
passwd username
```

Replace username with the actual username whose password you want to reset. Follow the prompts to enter and confirm the new password.

- **Step 6:** After resetting the password, reboot the system using:

```
reboot
```

2. Using a Live CD/USB:

- **Step 1:** Boot your system using a Live CD/USB of your Linux distribution.
- **Step 2:** Open a terminal and identify the root partition of your installed system using the fdisk -l or lsblk command. For example:

```
lsblk
```

- **Step 3:** Mount the root partition. Assuming the root partition is /dev/sda1, the command would be:



```
sudo mount /dev/sda1 /mnt
```

- **Step 4:** Change the root to the mounted partition:

```
sudo chroot /mnt
```

- **Step 5:** Reset the password using the passwd command:

```
passwd username
```

Replace username with the actual username.

- **Step 6:** Exit the chroot environment and unmount the partition:

```
exit  
sudo umount /mnt
```

- **Step 7:** Reboot the system:

```
sudo reboot
```