Recovering the Root Password in AIX 4.1

Special Notices

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About This Document

This guideline was written under the assumption that you have the key to your RISC System/6000 and that you know how to use a UNIX editor. The vi editor is assumed in these steps.

Recovering the Root Password

1. Turn the key to the Service position.
2. With BOOTABLE MEDIA OF THE SAME VERSION AND LEVEL AS THE SYSTEM, boot the system.

   The bootable media can be ANY ONE of the following:

   - Bootable cdrom
   - NON_AUTOINSTALL Mksysb
   - Bootable Install Tape

   Follow the prompts to the "Welcome to Base OS" menu.
3. Choose "Start Maintenance Mode for System Recovery" (Option 3)

   The Next Screen will prompt the "Maintenance" menu. Choose option 1:

   ```
   "Access a Root Volume Group"
   ```

   The next screen will print a warning message and ask you to select 0 to continue. Select 0.

   ```
   "0 Continue"
   ```

   The next screen will ask you to select the proper volume group. Select the proper volume group for your machine.

   The console will display information about rootvg, and also display a Menu with two Options. Choose option 1:

```
"Access this volume group and start a shell"
```

If you get errors from the above option, do not continue with the rest of this procedure. Correct the problem or if you need assistance correcting the problem contact one of the following:

- local branch office
- your point of sale
- 1-800-CALL-AIX (to register for fee-based services)

All of the above avenues for assistance may be billable.

4. Set the TERM variable to match the terminal you are using.

   You will need to know the terminal type, such as "lft" or "ibm3151". To set the TERM variable, enter the following, replacing "<terminal_type>" with the appropriate value:

   ```
   TERM=<terminal_type>
   export TERM
   ```

   Setting TERM to the correct terminal will allow vi to work properly.

5. Edit the file /etc/passwd:

   ```
   vi /etc/passwd
   ```

6. Remove the exclamation mark from the root entry. The original entry looks like this:

   ```
   root:!:0:0::/:/bin/ksh
   ```

   The modified entry should look like this:

   ```
   root::0:0::/:/bin/ksh
   ```

7. Save the /etc/passwd file:

   ```
   :wq
   ```

8. Edit the file /etc/security/passwd

   ```
   vi /etc/security/passwd
   ```

9. Remove the stanzas under root for the lines:

   ```
   root:
   password = 2hzANCGzF1/GY
   lastupdate = 746199169
   ```

   The modified entry should look like this:

   ```
   root:
   ```

10. Save the /etc/security/passwd file:

    ```
    :wq
    ```

| **NOTE: WARNING** - If you have password restrictions, maxage, minage, minalpha ...etc. as defined in the /etc/security/login.cfg file set to non-zero values, the modified root stanza should look like:

```
root:
flags=NOCHECK
```

Leave the NOCHECK flag in passwd file until you have successfully rebooted your system, logged in as root and set a new paswork for the root user using the passwd command.

11. With the key in Normal position, issue the reboot command:

    ```
    sync;sync;sync;reboot
    ```

12. Log in as root and issue the "passwd" command to get a new root password.

Reader's Comments

Please fax this form to (512) 823-4009, attention "AIXServ Information". You may also e-mail comments to: elizabet@austin.ibm.com. These comments should include the same customer information requested below.

Use this form to tell us what you think about this document. If you have found errors in it, or if you want to express your opinion about it (such as organization, subject matter, appearance) or make suggestions for improvement, this is the form to use.

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Name: Fax Number:

END OF DOCUMENT (lost.root.passwd.41.cmd)