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Service Mode Prompt in AIX 3.2.3e to 3.2.5

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Note: The information in this document has **not** been verified for AIX 4.1.

About this Document

This document describes a workaround that makes it possible to get a command prompt in service mode or after booting from diagnostic diskettes.

This document applies to AIX 3.2.3e to 3.2.5.

Overview

Starting with AIX 3.2.3e, AIX no longer allows a user to get a command prompt from either service mode or the diagnostic diskettes. This function is no longer allowed because it could possibly be a security hole.

AIX **does** allow the user to get a command prompt after booting from BOSboot diskettes or a mksysb tape. (To do this, boot from the diskettes or tape, select choice number 4, and use getrootfs to start a maintenance shell.)

Workaround

Perform the following steps (in Normal mode) to make it possible to get a command prompt the next time you are in Service mode or have booted from diagnostic diskettes.

This workaround will cause "pg" to set the SHELL environment variable. If the SHELL variable is set, pg will allow a shell escape.

1. Enter the following commands:

```
cd /bin
mv pg pg.orig
```

2. Create a shell script called "pg" with the following contents:

```
#!/bin/ksh
export SHELL=/bin/ksh
/bin/pg.orig $*
```

Note: Be sure that the string "#!/bin/ksh" starts in the first column on the first line of the file containing the code.

3. Enter the following commands:

```
chmod 555 /bin/pg
chown bin /bin/pg
chgrp bin /bin/pg
```

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