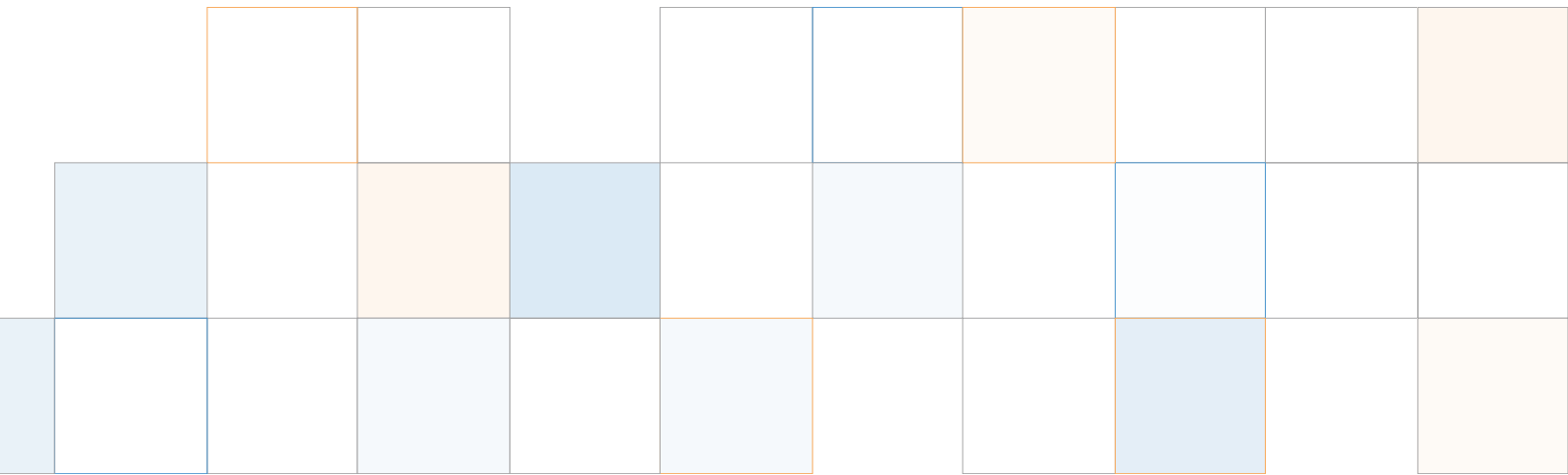




tech tips



Password recovery for HPUX

In some unexpected situations, the HPUX root password needs to be recovered, e.g. the previous systems administrator brought it with him when he resigned or the organization simply forgot about it.

This procedure is a simple step-by-step way to recover it and you need the following:

- a. Console and keyboard
- b. If the above is not available, serial cable and a computer with serial port e.g. laptop
- c. vi skills if the system is converted to trusted mode

Caveat: This will involve hard booting of the server.

1. Go to the server and gain console access either thru the server's console or thru serial port
2. Power cycle the server
3. Interrupt the autoboot when you see the 10 seconds timeout

```
***** EARLY BOOT VFP *****
End of early boot detected
*****

Firmware Version 42.03

Duplex Console IO Dependent Code (IODC) revision 1

-----
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-----

Processor   Speed      State          CoProcessor State  Cache  Size
Number      -----
-----
          0      1000 MHz    Active          Functional          512 KB  1 MB

Central Bus Speed (in MHz) :      111
Available Memory           :    2097152 KB
Good Memory Required       :      16992 KB

Primary boot path:      0/0/1/1.15
Alternate boot path:   0/0/2/1.15
Console path:          0/0/4/0.643
Keyboard path:         0/0/4/0.0

Processor is booting from first available device.

To discontinue, press any key within 10 seconds.
```

4. Boot the server with pri and select yes when prompt for IPL interaction

```
----- Main Menu -----  
  
Command                Description  
-----  
BBoot [PRI|ALT|<path>]  Boot from specified path  
PPath [PRI|ALT] [<path>] Display or modify a path  
SEArch [DIsplay|IPL] [<path>] Search for boot devices  
  
COnfiguration menu     Displays or sets boot values  
INformation menu       Displays hardware information  
SERvice menu           Displays service commands  
  
DIsplay                Redisplay the current menu  
HElp [<menu>|<command>] Display help for menu or command  
RESET                 Restart the system  
  
-----  
Main Menu: Enter command or menu > bo pri isl  
Interact with IPL (Y, N, or Cancel)?> y
```

This will go directly to Initial System Loader

5. Boot the server into single user mode with the command " `hpux -is` "

```
Booting...  
Boot IO Dependent Code (IODC) revision 1  
  
HARD Booted.  
  
ISL Revision A.00.43 Apr 12, 2000  
  
ISL> hpux -is
```

This will go directly to single user mode which means that you will gain root access without prompting you with a password.

```
INIT: Overriding default level with level 's'  
  
INIT: SINGLE USER MODE  
  
INIT: Running /sbin/sh  
  
#
```

6. Change the password of root

```
# passwd root
```

7. Reboot the server

```
# shutdown -ry 0
```

Trusted Systems

You did exactly what were written above but you encountered that the system is asking for old password when you reset the root password.

```
# passwd root
Old password:
```

The procedure stated above works perfectly fine in most systems. However in some instances, some system had been converted to trusted mode. You need to do additional steps to recover the root password in an HPUX trusted system. To do this, we will modify a single file in the trusted directory.

1. From step 5, edit the file “ `/tcb/files/auth/r/root` ” using vi.

```
# vi /tcb/files/auth/r/root
```

2. Remove the line that starts with “ `:u_pwd` ”

Before removal

```
root:u_name=root:u_id#0:\
      :u_pwd=Sj/0tkuc6NTgo:\
      :u_bootauth:u_auditid#0:\
      :u_auditflag#1:\
      :u_unsucchg#1242105869:u_pswduser=root:u_suclog#1242105863:u_lock@:\
      :chkent:
```

After removal

```
root:u_name=root:u_id#0:\
      :u_bootauth:u_auditid#0:\
      :u_auditflag#1:\
      :u_unsucchg#1242105869:u_pswduser=root:u_suclog#1242105863:u_lock@:\
      :chkent:
```

3. Save the file.
4. Reset the password

```
# passwd root
```

This will no longer ask for an Old password.

5. Reboot the server

```
# shutdown -ry 0
```