

Recovering from a lost password

If you have forgotten your Linux login password or your login password is just not working here is a method to recover. First make sure you are using user – root and that the password you are entering is the correct case. Often a keyboard can be locked in upper case. Make sure what you are entering is correct.

If doing all that still results in a failed login here is the procedure to recover. You must remove the SD card from your Pi. Make sure the power is off when you remove the card. Insert the card into a reader on another working computer. It could be another Pi with a USB card reader or a PC running Linux. You need to be able to mount the SD card on the device you plug it into. Most Linux OS's like Ubuntu will automatically mount the card. For the Pi running Allstar you will need to run devmon to mount the card.

Execute -
/usr/bin/devmon &
at the Linux prompt

Then on the mounted card make a backup copy of the password file. Note where it is mounted. You DO NOT want to change the actual shadow file on the computer you are using. It would usually be mounted under /media So in this example it would NOT be just /etc.

```
cd /media/.../etc  
cp shadow shadow.backup
```

Then, here is what the contents looks like. Your file will probably be slightly different. That's fine. Notice that I'm just including the 9 lines of the file. The remainder was below the <snip>. Don't truncate this file when editing!

```
[root@Allstar-inttek etc]# cat shadow  
root:$6$I7HzU5Ge$.yO6XqGhbFnQ  
bin:x:14871::::::  
daemon:x:14871::::::  
mail:x:14871::::::  
ftp:x:14871::::::  
http:x:14871::::::  
uuiidd:x:14871::::::  
dbus:x:14871::::::  
nobody:x:14871::::::  
<snip>
```

Note that only the "root" entry contains a password hash---this is the second field. The fields are delimited by colons (":"). The first field is the account name.

Rename the "root" account line to something else, like "root_old"... You can also remove the old line entirely, if preferred:

```
root_old:$6$l7HzU5Ge$i.yO6XqGh
```

Now, paste in THIS new line for the "root" account and save the file. It has a hashed password of:
HAMfun1901

```
root:$6$lOf4wZcQ$J6X9iCrOG9pow
```

So, the /etc/shadow file will now look like:

```
[root@Allstar-inttek etc]# cat shadow
root:$6$l7HzU5Ge$i.yO6XqGhbFnQ
root_old:$6$l7HzU5Ge$i.yO6XqGh
bin:x:14871::::::
daemon:x:14871::::::
mail:x:14871::::::
ftp:x:14871::::::
http:x:14871::::::
uidd:x:14871::::::
dbus:x:14871::::::
nobody:x:14871::::::
<snip>
```

You can now place the SD card back in the original RPi and boot. You should be able to login as root with the password: HAMfun1901Then, go and change the root password to something else!