

RHEL: Force system to prompt for password in Single User mode

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```
# Tested on RHEL 5, 6 & 7

# Due to security reasons, one may want to force system to prompt for
root password even
# in Single User mode

# By default, system doesn't ask for password and we are given root
shell directly. Indeed,
# usually Single User mode is used to reset root password in case we
forgot it.

# Note that after modifying configuration, in case of forgotten root
password, you'll have
# to boot the system in rescue mode to revert configuration in order
to be able to change
# root password in Single User mode.

# RHEL 5
# -----
-----
```

```
# To force users to enter password in Single User mode, add following
line to /etc/inittab:
```

```
~:S:respawn:/sbin/sulogin
```

```
# The changes to this file takes effect after a system reboot
```

```
# To make init re-read the /etc/inittab without rebooting the system,
type the command
```

```
/sbin/init q
```

```
# RHEL 6
```

```
# -----  
-----
```

```
# Edit /etc/inittab and add "su:S:wait:/sbin/sulogin" before
'initdefault' line:
```

```
vi /etc/inittab
```

```
[...]
```

```
su:S:wait:/sbin/sulogin
```

```
id:3:initdefault:
```

```
# Edit /etc/sysconfig/init and replace "SINGLE=/sbin/sushell" with
"SINGLE=/sbin/sulogin":
```

```
vi /etc/sysconfig/init
```

```
[...]
```

```
# Set to '/sbin/sulogin' to prompt for password on single-user
mode
```

```
# Set to '/sbin/sushell' otherwise
```

```
SINGLE=/sbin/sulogin
```

```
# RHEL 7
# -----
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# By default, Single User mode is password protected by the root
password on RHEL 7:

cat /usr/lib/systemd/system/rescue.service
[...]
```

```
[Service]
Environment=HOME=/root
WorkingDirectory=/root
ExecStartPre=--/bin/plymouth quit
ExecStartPre=--/bin/echo -e 'Welcome to emergency mode! After
logging in, type [...]'
ExecStart=--/bin/sh -c "/usr/sbin/sulogin; /usr/bin/systemctl
--fail --no-block default" <---
```

```
Type=idle
StandardInput=tty-force
StandardOutput=inherit
StandardError=inherit
KillMode=process
IgnoreSIGPIPE=no
SendSIGHUP=yes
```

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