

# ubuntu How to Reset Forgotten Passwords in Ubuntu 16.04

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Forgot your Ubuntu login password? Well, this quick tip is going to show you how to reset user (or root) password in Ubuntu 16.04 LTS.

It's easy to change a password in Ubuntu Linux via **passwd** command. The key is how you can get into the root command console with super user privilege.

## 1. Boot into root shell:

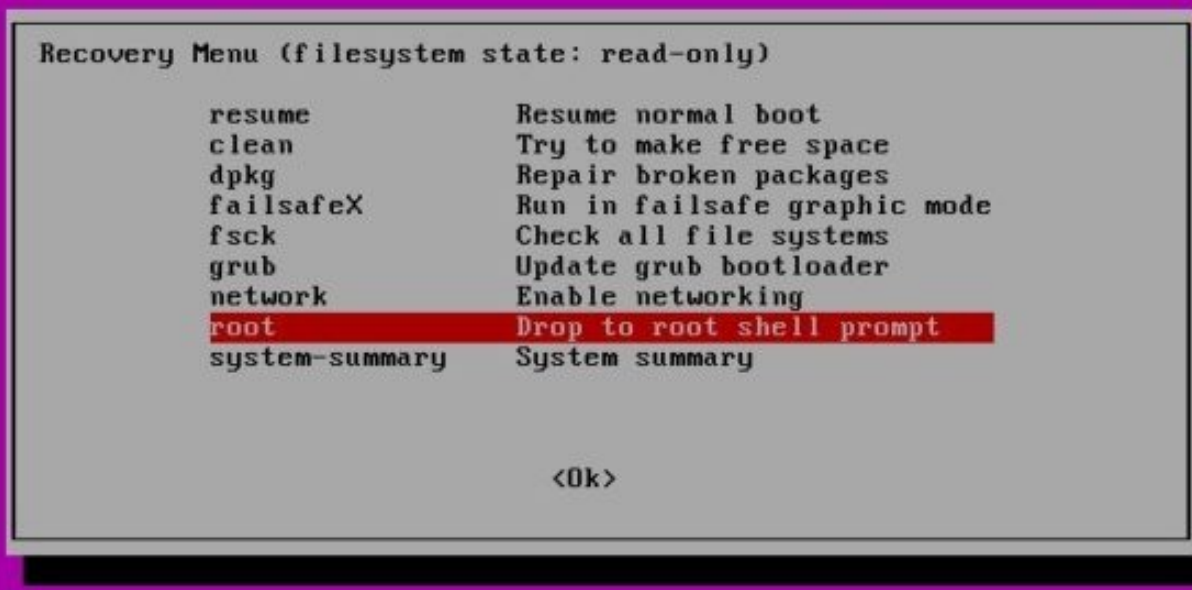
**For those who have not enabled root user, it's easy to get into the root shell via the recovery mode from Grub boot-loader. To do so:**

1. Start your computer, when you're at Grub boot-loader, select **Advanced Options for Ubuntu** and then select boot with the **recovery mode**.



*Tip: For single system and single kernel, you may press and hold **Shift** key to show Grub while starting up.*

2. At Recovery Menu, select “Drop to root shell prompt” and hit Enter.



Hit Enter again or type in root password if enabled, and continue changing your password via the “Reset password” section (see below).

**For those who forgot the root password, you can still get into passwordless root shell by adding kernel parameter in boot menu:**

1. Boot into Grub menu, and highlight the default Ubuntu entry.



2. Press 'e' on your keyboard to edit the boot parameter, then scroll down and add **init=/bin/bash** in the end of kernel (or linux) line.

GNU GRUB version 2.02~beta2-36ubuntu10

↑

```
insmod part_msdos
insmod ext2
set root='hd0,msdos1'
if [ x$feature_platform_search_hint = xy ]; then
    search --no-floppy --fs-uuid --set=root --hint-bios=hd0,msdos1\
--hint-efi=hd0,msdos1 --hint-baremetal=ahci0,msdos1 aaa7b378-92a3-4b7c\
-9465-f2d95b25d107
else
    search --no-floppy --fs-uuid --set=root aaa7b378-92a3-4b7c-946\
5-f2d95b25d107
fi
linux      /boot/vmlinuz-4.4.0-34-generic root=UUID=aaa7b378-9\
2a3-4b7c-9465-f2d95b25d107 ro quiet splash $vt_handoff init=/bin/bash_
initrd     /boot/initrd.img-4.4.0-34-generic
```

Then press **Ctrl+X** or **F10** will boot directly into root shell prompt without password.

### Reset Password:

Once you're in root shell, run the commands below one by one to reset forgotten passwords:

1. Remount Ubuntu system with read and write permission:

```
mount -rw -o remount /
```

2. Check the username if you forgot it:

```
ls /home
```

3. Reset password via command:

`passwd USERNAME_HERE`

or use **passwd root** to reset the root password.

```
root@(none):/# mount -rw -o remount /
root@(none):/# ls /home
ml
root@(none):/# passwd ml
Enter new UNIX password:
Retype new UNIX password:
passwd: password updated successfully
root@(none):/# _
```

Finally run **reboot** command to reboot or resume normal boot and login with the new password.

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