

How do I reset my root user password on my virtual Linux server?

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One of the advantages of a VPS or hybrid server is that they are virtualised, providing additional access to manage the server even if you are locked out of the root account. You can use the out-of-band SSH console to get back into your server if you have forgotten the root password. **Getting an SSH Client** You will need an SSH client to access the out-of-band console. If your computer is running OS X or Linux, you have the Terminal application already installed on your computer. If your computer is running Windows, you will need to download a third-party SSH client, such as PuTTY. **Prepare Your Server** You will first need to turn your server off. To do this: Log into your Customer Area Click 'Manage VPS and Hybrid Servers' Click the icon next to the server you want to change the password for Click 'Turn Off Server' **Log into Your Console** When you have turned off your server, you can now log in via the SSH console. To get the login details: Click on the 'Console' tab in your server's Control Panel Take the details from the 'Text-based (SSH) console' section Connect to your SSH console by entering username@ssh-host Add in the password (revealed in the Control Panel) **Â Boot the Server** Once you have logged into the console, you should see the following screen: To boot the server: Enter 'P' Wait for the server to boot This screen shows the operating system choices.Â The top one is the default " the one that would normally start " but you want to start the server in single-user mode. Single-user mode does not prompt you for a root login and allows you to change the password without prompting you for it. To edit the boot parameters, allowing you to start the server in single-user mode: Press E Use the arrow keys to highlight the Kernel Boot Parameters Press E again Press space, then 1 Press Enter Press B to boot the server The server will start booting in single-user mode **Â Resetting the Password** Once the server has booted up, you will see this: Dependent on the Linux distribution, your file system may be read-only when loaded in single-user mode. To check: Enter mount Make certain that the / file system has (rw) or (ro) after it If the file system is read-only, it will say (ro), and you will need to switch it to writable To switch the file system to writable: Enter mount -o remount,rw / To reset the root password: Enter passwd Enter in your new password and press enter Enter in the password again and press enter Your new password will be saved **Reboot the Server** Once the password has been changed, you can reboot the server. To reboot the server: Enter reboot The server will reboot in normal mode

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