

Root password recovery on console of CentOS7

there are times you may need to reset the root password which is unknown to you.

This procedure will work fast on systems that have SELinux enabled and large volumes with lots of files which you definitely do not want to relabel as it is timeconsuming meaning long down time.

So, get on to the console, reboot the server and interupt the bootproces by pressing the up arrow button, and you get a list of boot profiles not unlike:

```
CentOS Linux (3.10.0-327.10.1.el7.x86_64) 7 (Core)
CentOS Linux (3.10.0-327.3.1.el7.x86_64) 7 (Core)
CentOS Linux (3.10.0-229.20.1.el7.x86_64) 7 (Core)
CentOS Linux (3.10.0-229.14.1.el7.x86_64) 7 (Core)
CentOS Linux, with Linux 0-rescue-7b58aaa412256786e56d7f23a19c4d5
```

from the list of boot profiles chose the last and pres e to edit the boot profile.

find the line that starts with `linux16 /vmlinuz-3.10.....`

replace `ro` with `rw` and `ad` to the end of that line: `rd.break enforce=0`

now press `Ctrl x`

the system boots and presents you with a prompt: `switch_root:/# _` We need to chroot to the filesystem on which the `/etc/shadow` file is present, do so by: `chroot /sysroot` your prompt changes to `sh-4.2# _`

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