

How to Change Root Password in Linux

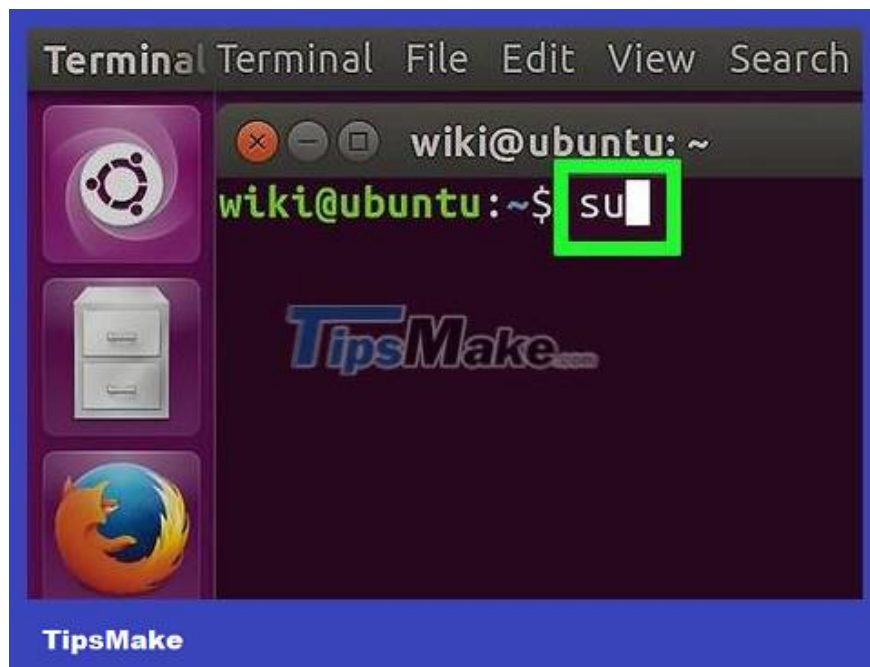
This TipsMake article shows how to change the root password in the Linux operating system, applicable in cases where you remember your current password or cannot remember your root password.

In case you remember the current root password



Open a terminal window. To open this window, press `Ctrl+Alt+T`, to open a new terminal window containing Command Prompt (command line interpreter) in most Linux desktop environments.

If you're not using the desktop environment, you're already using Command Prompt, so go to the next step.



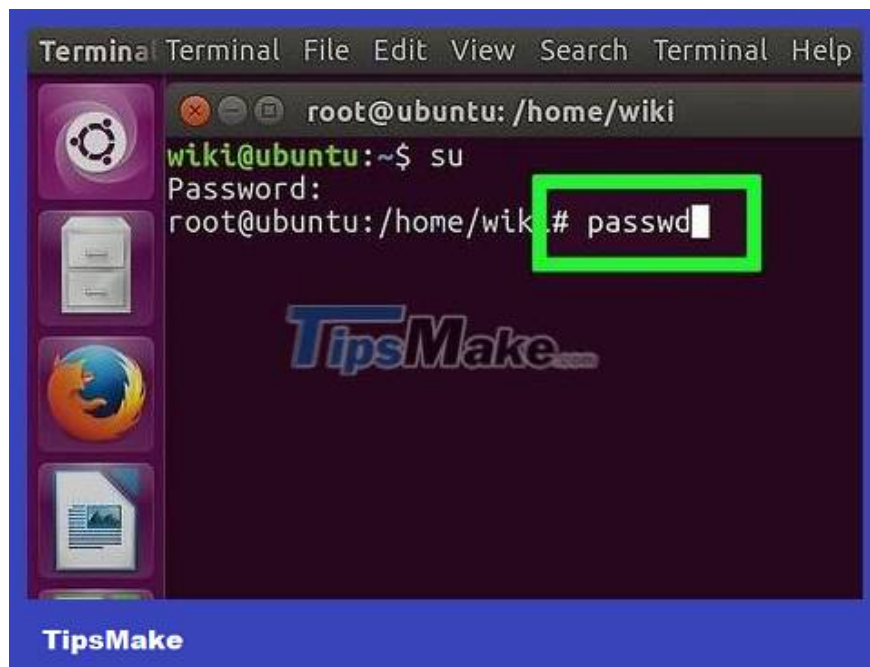
Type **su** in Command Prompt, then press **Enter**. The line **Password :** will open below the Command Prompt.



Type in your current root password, then press **Enter**. Once the password is approved, you will return to Command Prompt as the root user.

If you type the wrong password, run **su** and try again.

Passwords are case sensitive.



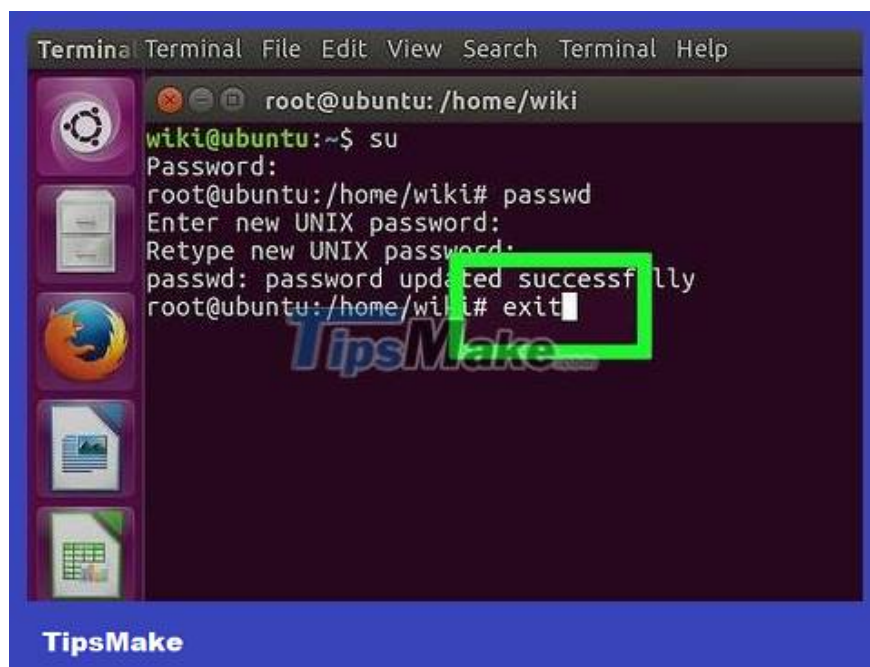
Type **passwd** and press ? **Enter**. The line Enter new UNIX password : will appear below the Prompt.



Type a new password and press ? **Enter**. The password you type will not appear on the screen.



Re-type the new password and press ? **Enter**. You will see the message 'password updated successfully'.

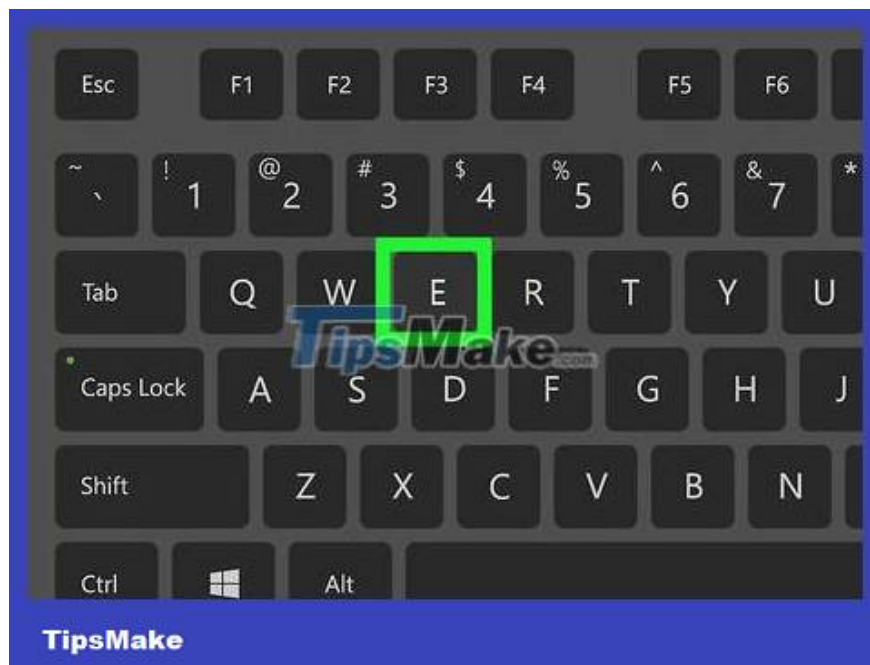


Type **exit** and press ? **Enter**. This step helps you log out of the root account.

In case you don't remember the current root password



Restart the computer.



Click **E in the Grub menu.** The Grub menu appears immediately after you turn on your computer. Normally, this menu only appears on the screen for a while.

If you can't press it **E** before the Grub menu disappears, you'll need to restart your computer and try again.

This method can be applied to most popular Linux distributions (such as Ubuntu, CentOS 7, Debian). There are many Linux distributions available, some of which are not very well known. If you cannot switch to single-user mode using this method, you will need to visit your distribution's website for specific instructions for your system.

```
GNU GRUB version 2.02~beta2-36ubuntu3.12

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 4c6467c8-4c7f-44ad\
-aueb-d0739499ec61
else
  search --no-floppy --fs-uuid --set=root 4c6467c8-4c7f-44ad-aae\
b-d0739499ec61
fi
linux /boot/vmlinuz-4.8.0-46-generic root=UUID=4c6467c8-4\
c7f-44ad-aaeb-d0739499ec61 no initrd preseeds=preseed.cfg auto noprompt pr\
iority=critical locale=en_US quiet
initrd /boot/initrd.img-4.8.0-46-generic

Minimum Emacs-like screen editing is supported. TAB lists
completions. Press Ctrl-x or F10 to boot, Ctrl-c or F2 for a
command-line or ESC to discard edits and return to the GRUB
menu.
```

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Scroll down to the line starting with `linux /boot.` Press the `↑` and `→` keys to do this. You need to edit this line to boot in single user mode.

In CentOS and some other distributions, the command line may begin with `linux16` instead of `linux`.

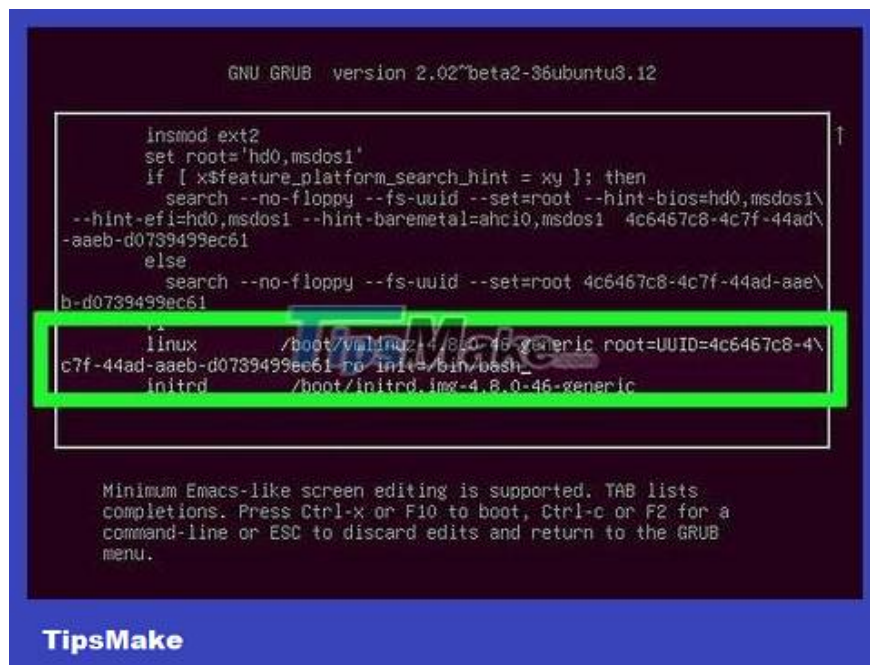
```
GNU GRUB version 2.02~beta2-36ubuntu3.12

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 4c6467c8-4c7f-44ad\
-aueb-d0739499ec61
else
  search --no-floppy --fs-uuid --set=root 4c6467c8-4c7f-44ad-aae\
b-d0739499ec61
fi
linux /boot/vmlinuz-4.8.0-46-generic root=UUID=4c6467c8-4\
c7f-44ad-aaeb-d0739499ec61 no initrd preseeds=preseed.cfg auto noprompt pr\
iority=critical locale=en_US quiet
initrd /boot/initrd.img-4.8.0-46-generic

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```

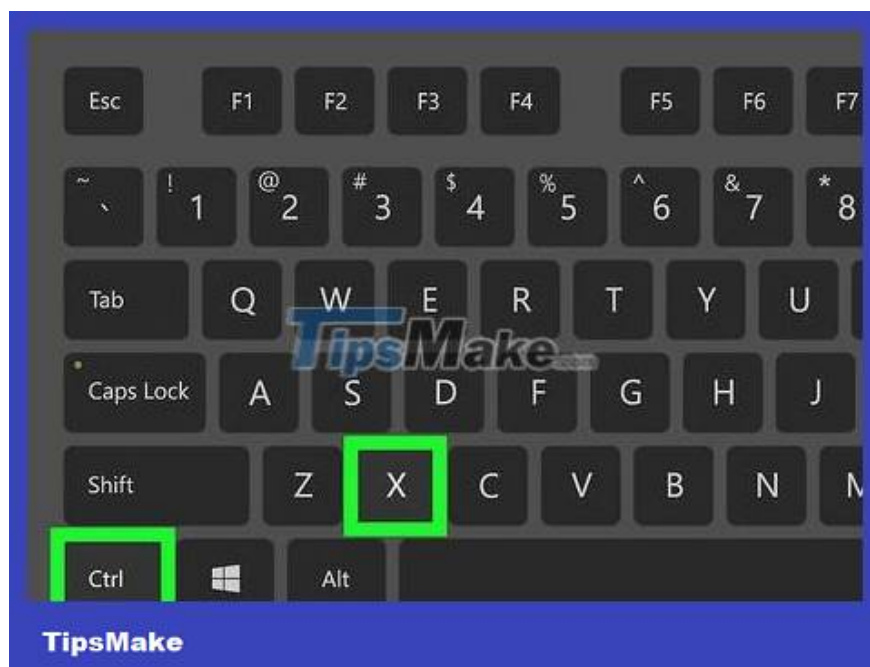
TipsMake

Move the cursor to the end of the line. Press the `↑`, `→`, `→`, and `→` keys to place the cursor immediately after `ro`.



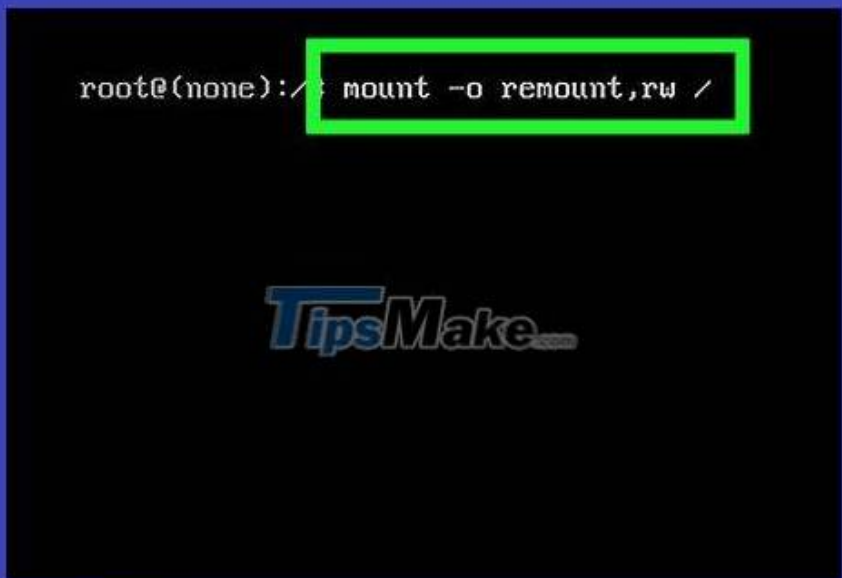
Type **init=/bin/bashlater ro**. Now the end of the line looks like this:
ro init=/bin/bash.

Notice the space between ro and init=/bin/bash.



Press **Ctrl+X**. This step causes the system to boot directly as a root-level Command Prompt in single user mode.

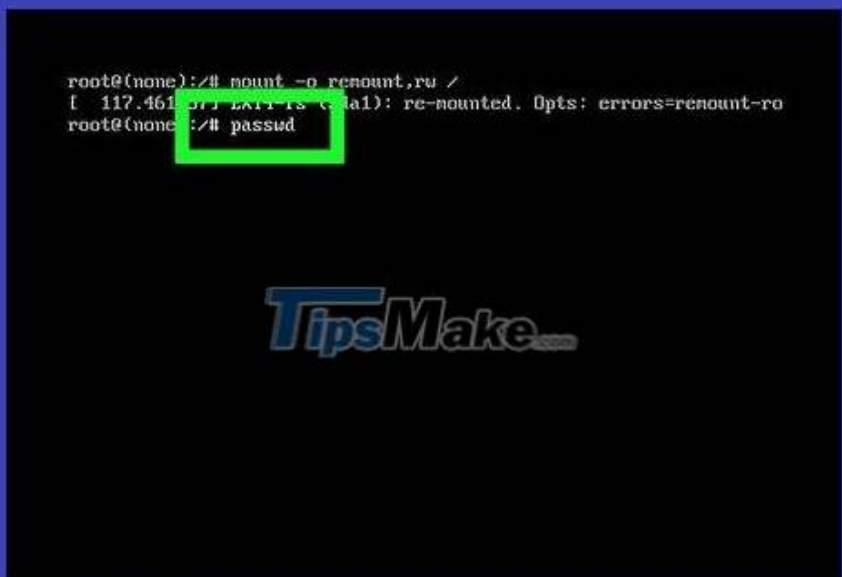
```
root@(none):/# mount -o remount,rw /
```



TipsMake

Type `mount -o remount,rw /` in Prompt and press ? **Enter**. This step helps mount the file system in read-write mode.


```
root@(none):/# mount -o remount,rw /  
[ 117.461377] EXT4-fs (sda1): re-mounted. Opts: errors=remount-ro  
root@(none):/# passwd
```



TipsMake

Type `passwd` in Prompt and press ? **Enter**. When booting in single user mode, you will have root access, so there is no need to write any additional parameters to the command `passwd`.


```
root@(none):/# mount -o remount,rw /
[ 117.461152] EXT4-fs (sda1): re-mounted. Opts: errors=remount-ro
root@(none):/# passwd
Enter new UNIX password:
```



TipsMake

Type in the new root password and press ? Enter. The characters you type will not be displayed on the screen. This is normal.


```
root@(none):/# mount -o remount,rw /
[ 117.461152] EXT4-fs (sda1): re-mounted. Opts: errors=remount-ro
root@(none):/# passwd
Enter new UNIX password:
Retype new UNIX password:
```



TipsMake

Re-type the new password and press ? Enter. When the system confirms that you have re-entered the correct previous password, you will see 'password updated successfully'.

```
root@(none):/# mount -o remount,ru /
[ 117.461157] EXT4-fs (sda1): re-mounted. Opts: errors=remount-ro
root@(none):/# passwd
Enter new UNIX password:
passwd: password updated successfully
root@(none):/# reboot -f
```



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Type **reboot -f** and press **Enter**. This command helps restart the system normally.

You finished reading the article "**How to Change Root Password in Linux**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.