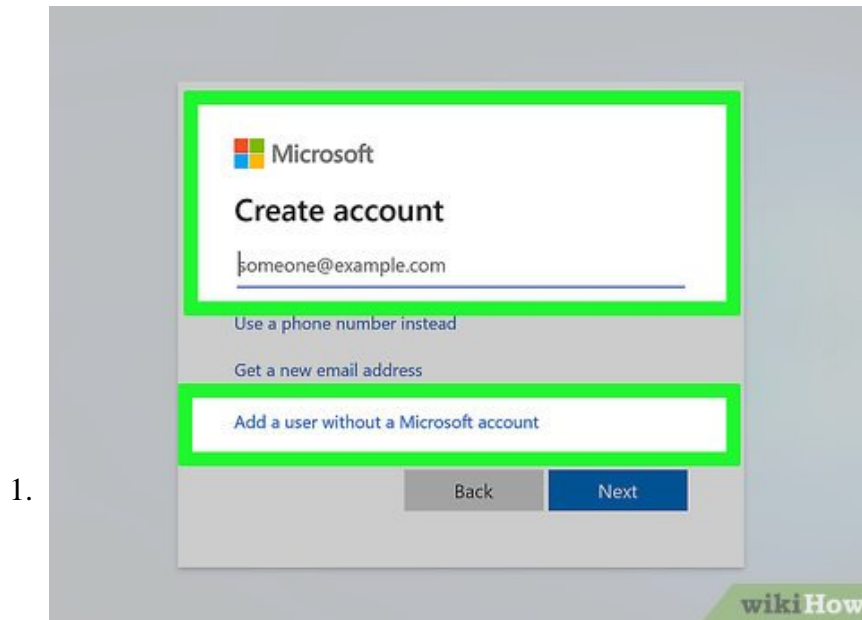


How to Hack a Password Protected Computer Account

This wikiHow teaches you how to view a password-protected computer account's files and folders on a Windows or Mac computer. Understand the limitations. Since most Windows 10 accounts use a Microsoft account email address and password to...

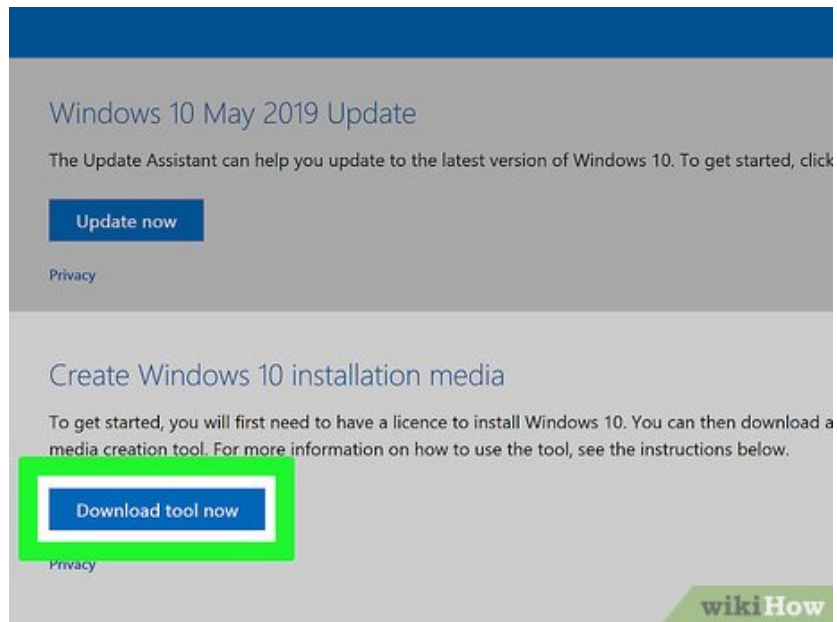
Method 1 of 2:

Hacking a Password on Windows



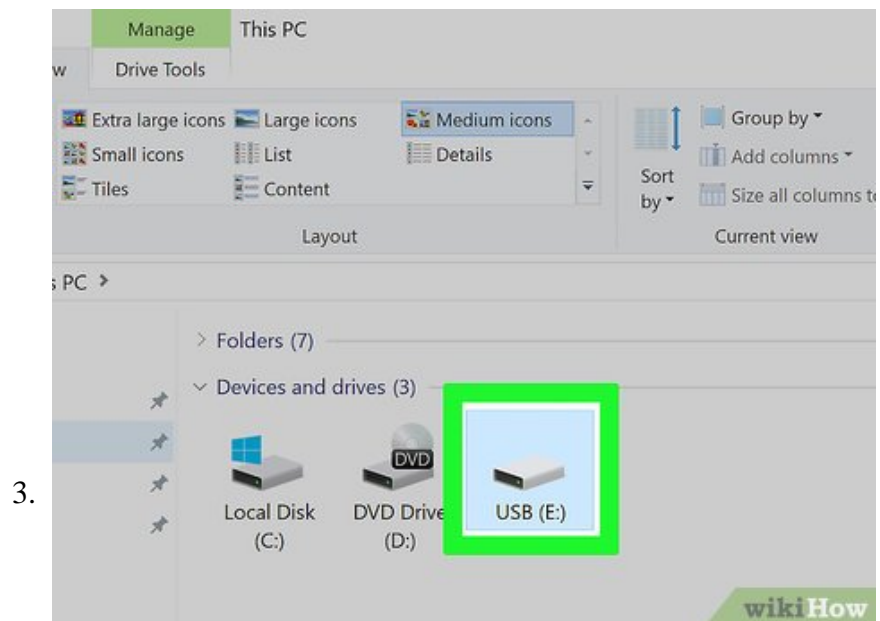
Understand the limitations. Since most Windows 10 accounts use a Microsoft account email address and password to log in, you can't reset a hacked computer's main account password like you could in Windows 7 and down. You will, however, be able to access the files of the main account.

1. If the user you're trying to hack is a local user (e.g., a user added to the computer by a Microsoft account), you can change their password like you could in previous Windows renditions.

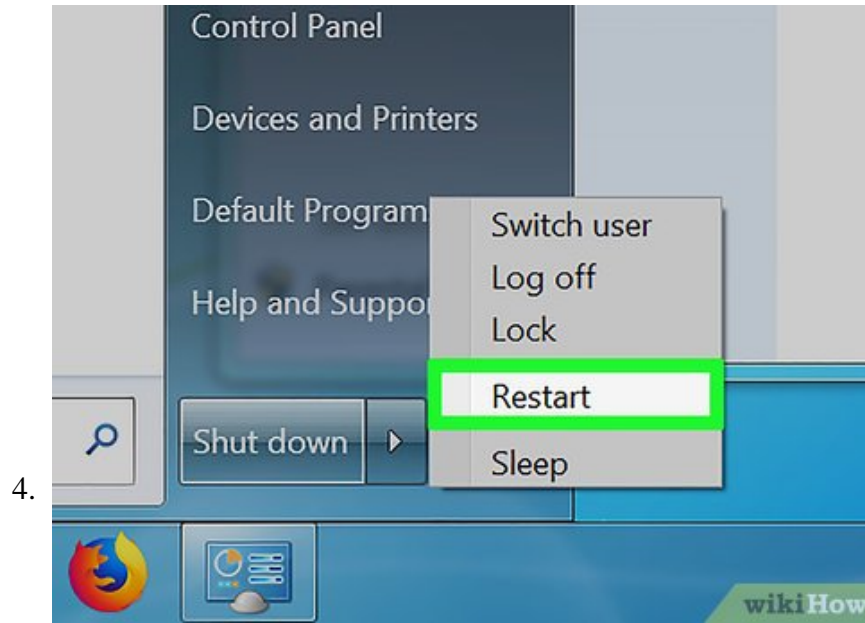


Make sure you have an installation CD or USB drive. You will need a Windows 10 installation medium such as an installation CD in order to perform this method. If you don't have an installation CD, you can create an installation USB drive by doing the following:

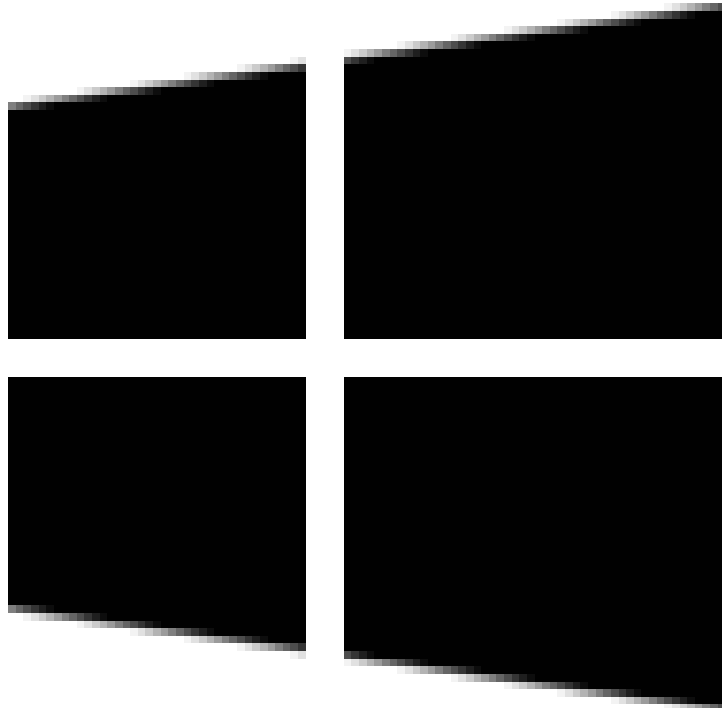
1. Plug an 8 gigabyte (or larger) USB drive into your computer.
2. Open the Windows 10 download page.
3. Click **Download tool now**
4. Double-click the downloaded tool.
5. Follow the on-screen prompts to install the tool to your flash drive.



Insert your installation media into your computer. Place the installation CD in the disk drive, or insert the USB flash drive into one of the computer's USB ports.



Restart your computer into the BIOS. Click **Start**

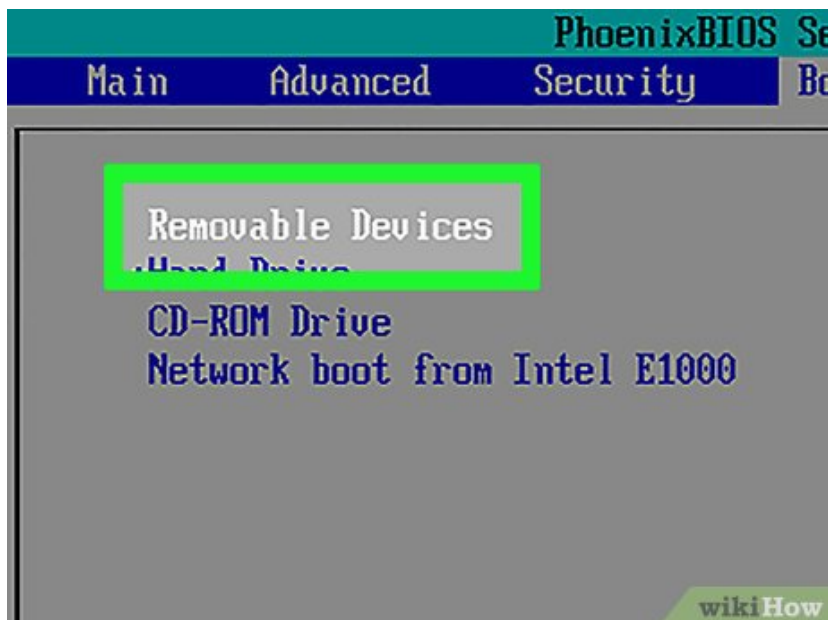


, click **Power**



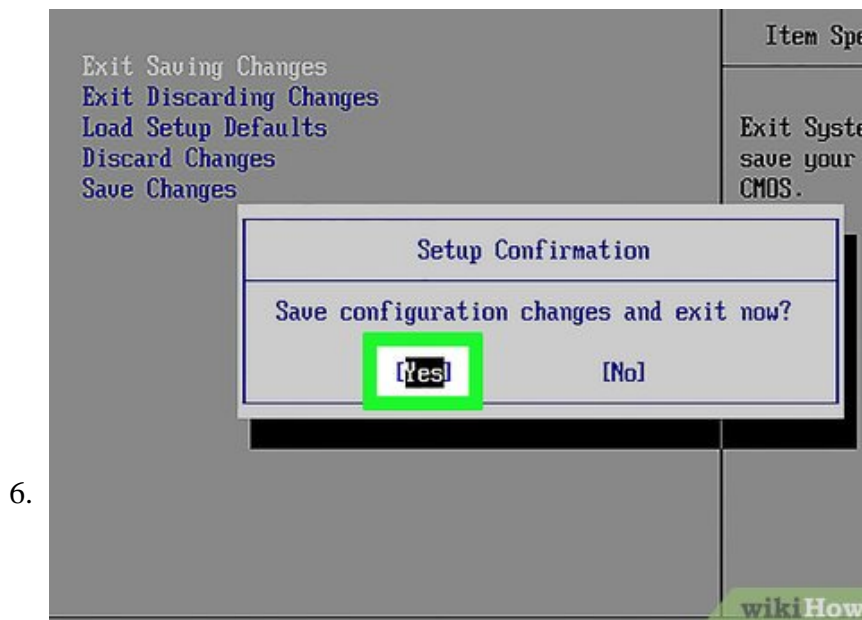
, and click **Restart**, then immediately begin pressing repeatedly (or holding) your computer's BIOS key until the BIOS launches.

1. Your BIOS key will depend on the manufacturer of your computer's motherboard, but common keys include the function keys (e.g., F2), the Esc key, and the Del key.
2. If you don't know which key to press or hold, consult your computer's BIOS documentation by searching for your computer's model, the word "bios", and the word "key".



Change your computer's boot order to prioritize the installation media. Again, this will vary depending on your computer's BIOS; you'll usually open the **Boot** or **Advanced** tab, use the arrow keys to select your CD drive or USB drive, and press the **+** key to move the drive up to the top of the list.

1. As with any BIOS problems, you should consult your BIOS documentation online if you have any trouble.



Save and exit. Press the "Save and Exit" key as specified by your BIOS legend, then confirm by pressing another key if prompted. Your computer will resume rebooting, at which point you should see the installation menu appear.



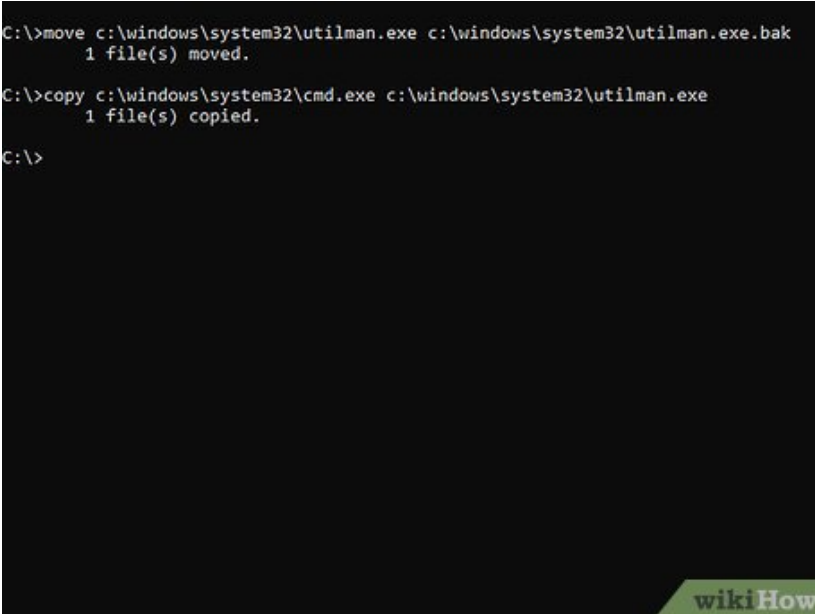
Open Command Prompt. Press **Shift + F10** to do so.

8.

```
C:\>move c:\windows\system32\utilman.exe c:\windows\system32\utilman.exe.bak
1 file(s) moved.

C:\>copy c:\windows\system32\cmd.exe c:\windows\system32\utilman.exe
1 file(s) copied.

C:\>
```

A screenshot of a Windows Command Prompt window with a black background and white text. The prompt shows the execution of two commands: 'move c:\windows\system32\utilman.exe c:\windows\system32\utilman.exe.bak' and 'copy c:\windows\system32\cmd.exe c:\windows\system32\utilman.exe'. Both commands are followed by their respective success messages: '1 file(s) moved.' and '1 file(s) copied.'. The prompt ends with 'C:\>' and a cursor. A 'wikiHow' logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the screenshot.

Replace Utility Manager with Command Prompt. You'll need to do this in order to be able to access Command Prompt later:

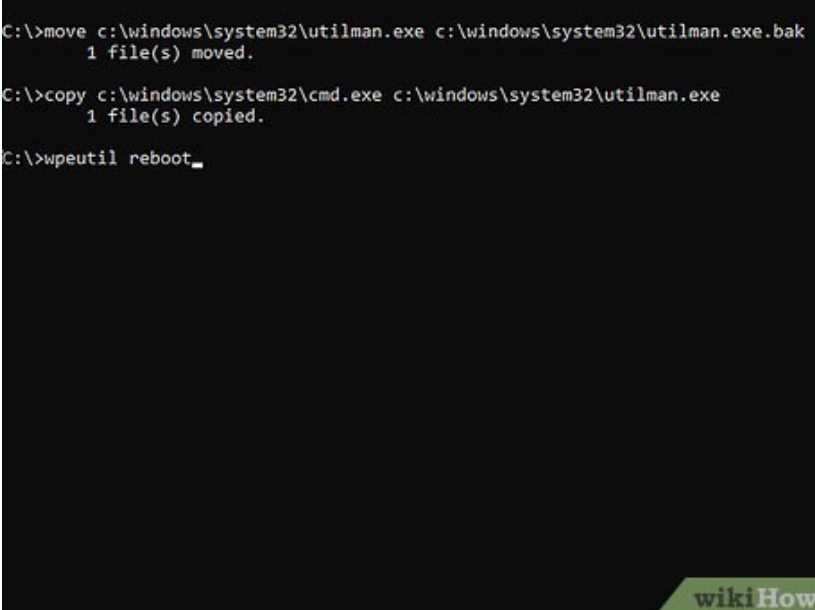
1. Type in `move c:\windowssystem32utilman.exe c:\windowssystem32utilman.exe.bak`
2. Press ?Enter
3. Type in `copy c:\windowssystem32cmd.exe c:\windowssystem32utilman.exe`
4. Press ?Enter

9.

```
C:\>move c:\windows\system32\utilman.exe c:\windows\system32\utilman.exe.bak
1 file(s) moved.

C:\>copy c:\windows\system32\cmd.exe c:\windows\system32\utilman.exe
1 file(s) copied.

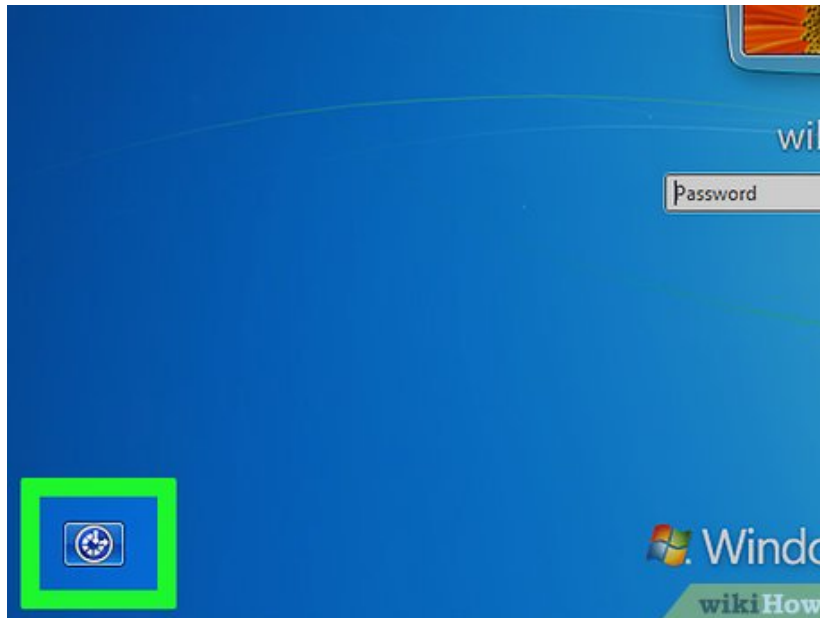
C:\>wpeutil reboot_
```

A screenshot of a Windows Command Prompt window with a black background and white text. The prompt shows the execution of three commands: 'move c:\windows\system32\utilman.exe c:\windows\system32\utilman.exe.bak', 'copy c:\windows\system32\cmd.exe c:\windows\system32\utilman.exe', and 'wpeutil reboot_'. The first two commands are followed by their respective success messages: '1 file(s) moved.' and '1 file(s) copied.'. The third command is followed by a cursor. A 'wikiHow' logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the screenshot.

Reboot your computer. Type in `wpeutil reboot` and press ?Enter, then remove your installation media from the computer. This will ensure that Windows reboots to the login screen rather than back into the installation setup.^[1]

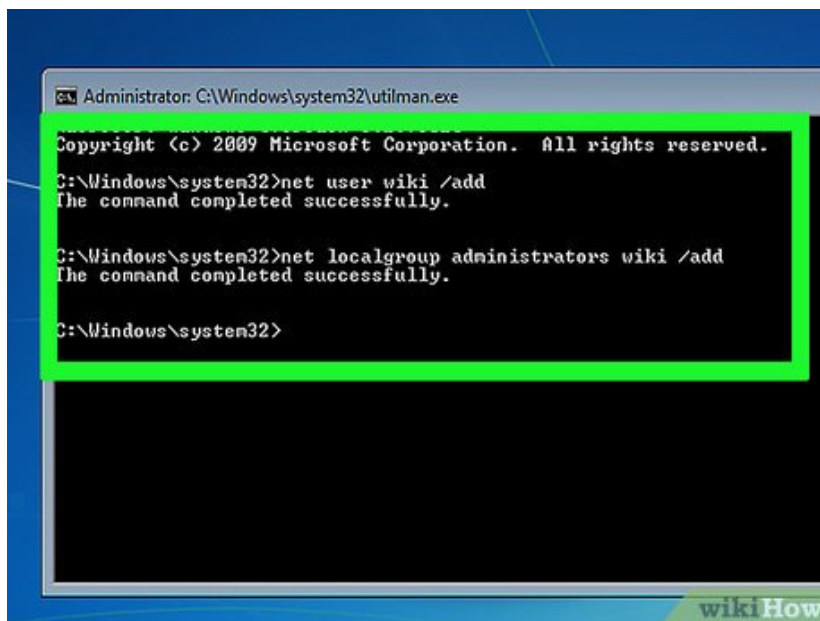
1. If you're using an installation CD, you'll need to eject the CD before entering the reboot command.

10.



Open Command Prompt via the Utility Manager. Click the "Utility Manager" icon, which resembles a dial with a right-facing arrow in the middle. Since you replaced Utility Manager with Command Prompt, doing this will open Command Prompt in administrator mode.

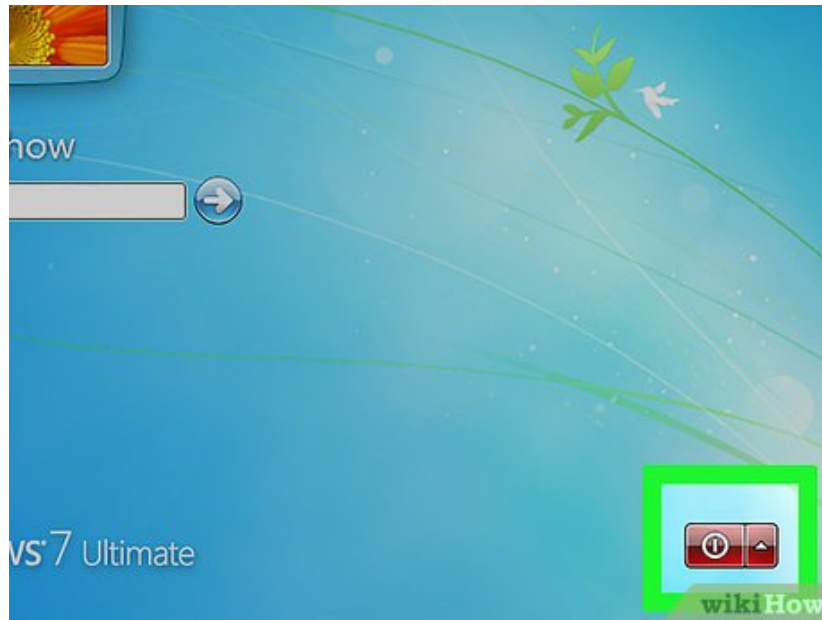
11.



Create a new user. You can add a new administrator account by doing the following:

1. Type in `net user name /add` making sure to replace "name" with a username of your choice.
2. Press `?Enter`.
3. Type in `net localgroup administrators name /add` again replacing "name" with the name of the user you just created.
4. Press `?Enter`

12.

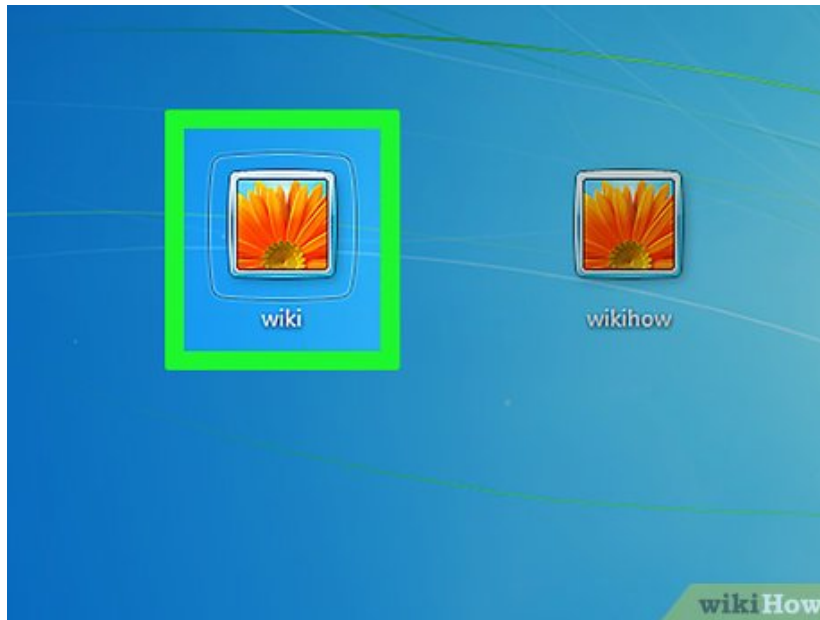


Restart your computer one more time. Click the **Power**



icon, then click **Restart** when prompted.

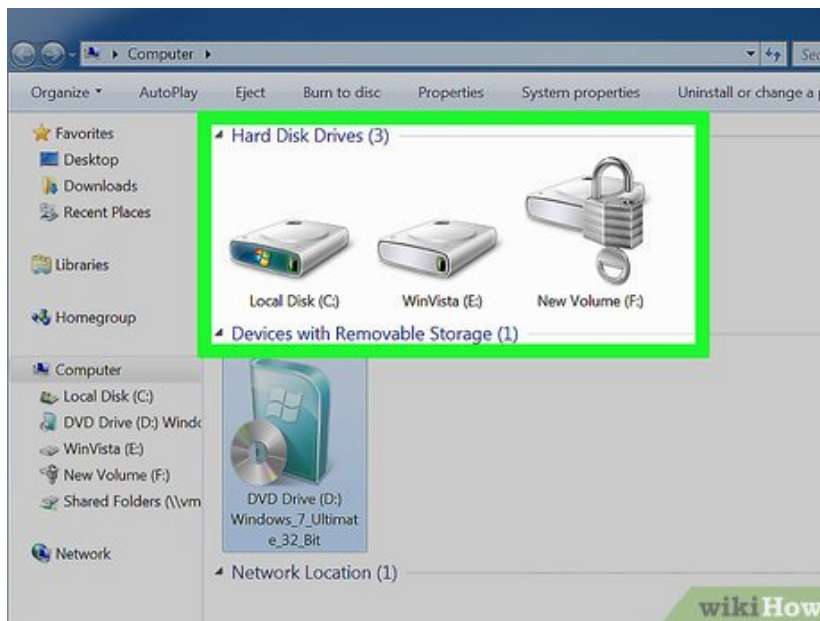
13.



Log in with your new user. Once Windows finishes restarting, you'll be able to use the account you created to log in:

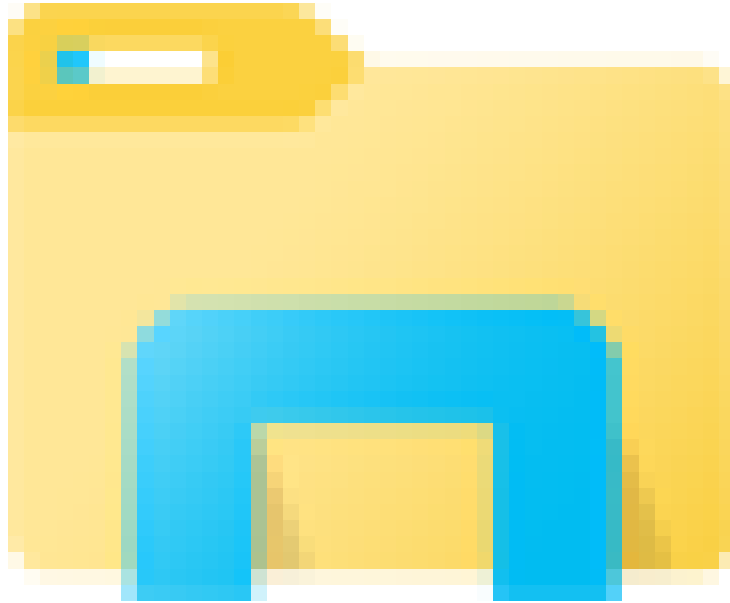
1. Select your new user's name in the lower-left side of the screen.
2. Click **Sign In**
3. Wait for Windows to finish setting up your new user account.

14.

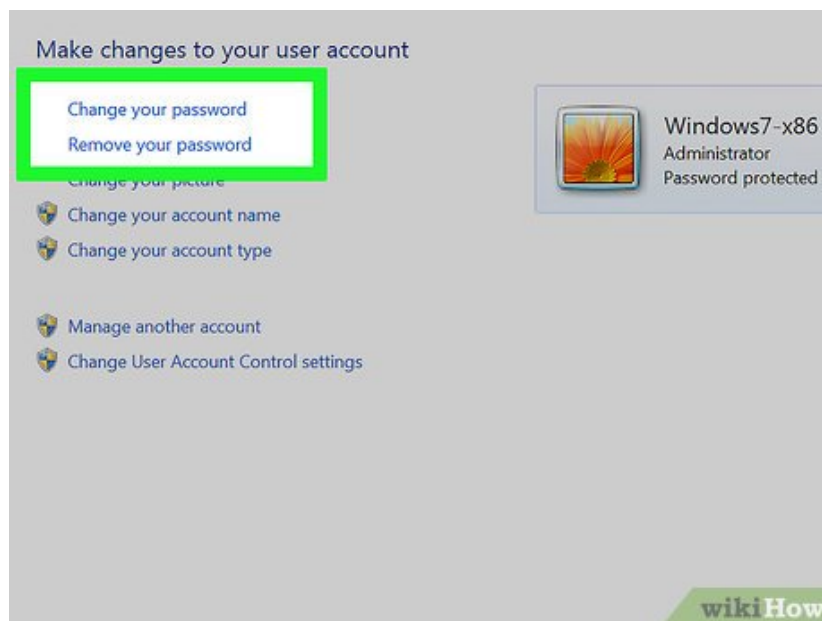


View your user's files. While you can't change the password of the main user if they're logged in via a Microsoft account, you can view all of the files on their account by doing the following:

1. Open

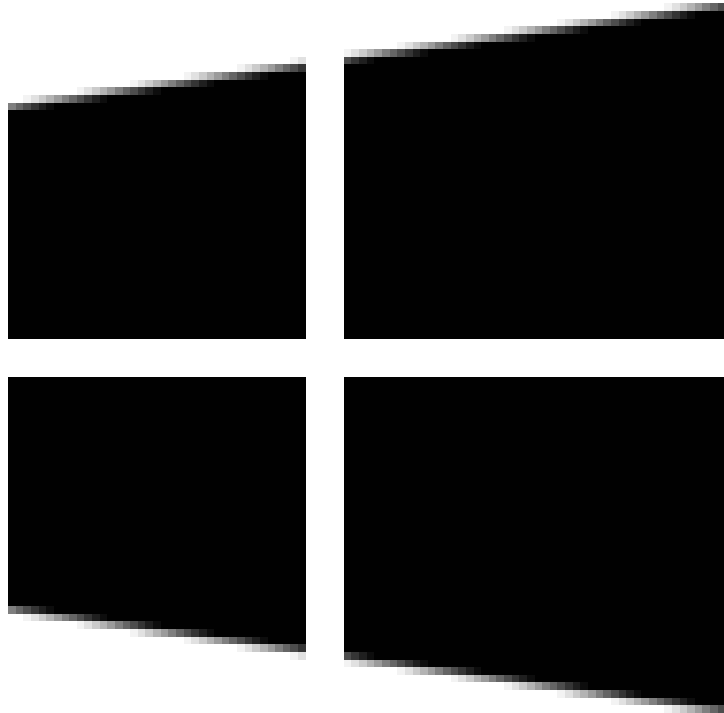


- File Explorer (or press **Win + E**).
2. Click **This PC** on the left side of the window (you may have to scroll up to find it).
 3. Double-click your computer's hard drive in the "Devices and drives" section.
 4. Double-click the **Users** folder.
 5. Double-click the folder for the user whose files you want to view.
 6. Click **Continue** when prompted, then wait for the user's folders to load (this can take several minutes).



15.

Change the password on a local account. If you want to hack a local account by changing its password, open **Start**

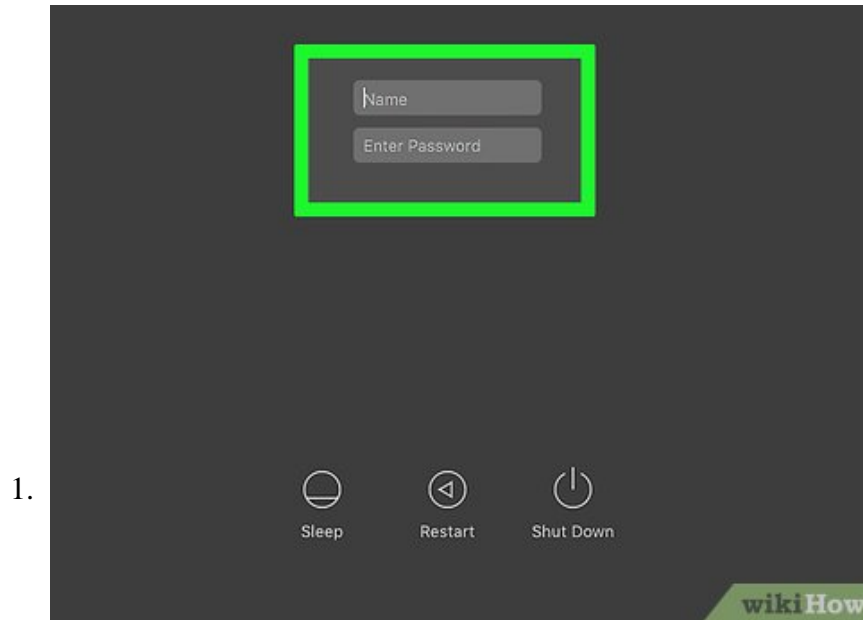


and then do the following:

1. Type in `control panel` , then click **Control Panel** at the top of the window.
2. Click the **User Accounts** heading.
3. Click **User Accounts** again if the "Make changes to your user account" page doesn't open.
4. Click **Manage another account**
5. Select an account.
6. Click the **Change the password** link.
7. Enter a new password in the "New password" and "Confirm new password" text boxes.
8. Click **Change password**

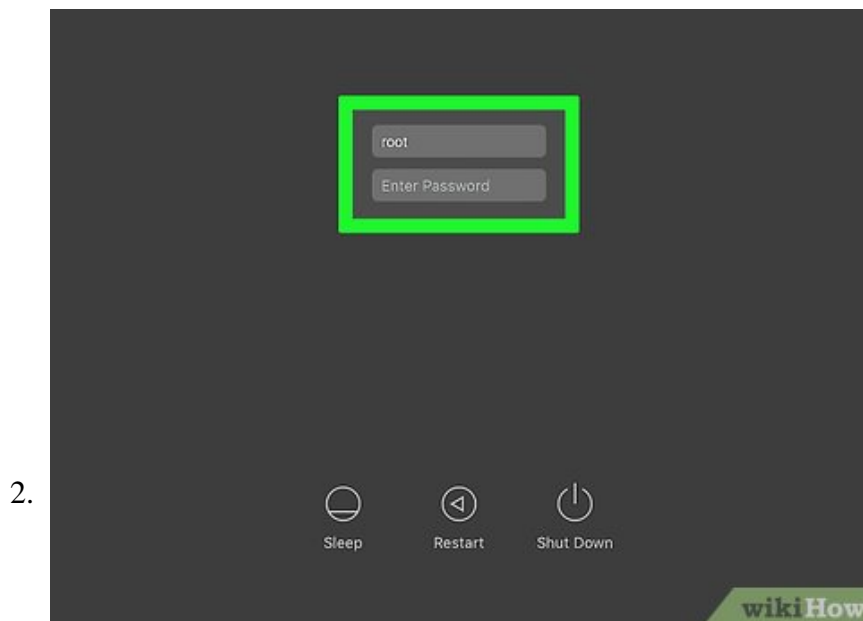
Method 2 of 2:

Hacking a Password on Mac



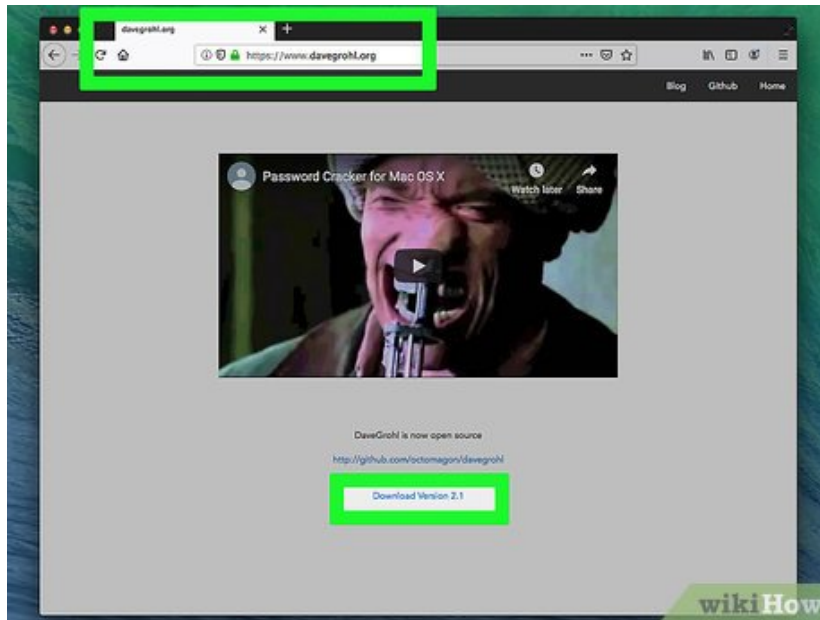
Use the macOS High Sierra hack. Some versions of macOS High Sierra have an exploit which allows you to log into the root account without entering a password or downloading any programs. If the following hack works for you, skip the next step:

1. Open the login screen.
2. Replace the current username with `root`
3. Click the password field (but don't type in anything)
4. Press `?Return` repeatedly until you're logged in.



Wait for the user to log in. If the macOS High Sierra hack doesn't work, you'll need to wait until the user you want to hack logs into their account. Unfortunately, hacking a Mac requires administrator access, which can't be established unless the user in question first logs into their machine.

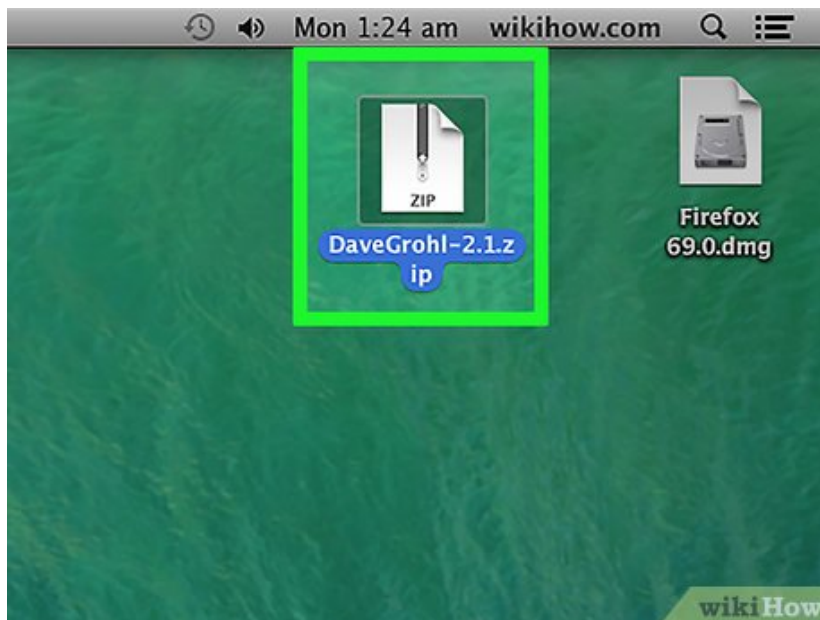
3.



Download DaveGrohl. DaveGrohl is a program which can determine your target Mac's login password:

1. Go to <https://github.com/octomagon/davegrohl>
2. Click the green **Clone or download** button.
3. Click **Download ZIP**

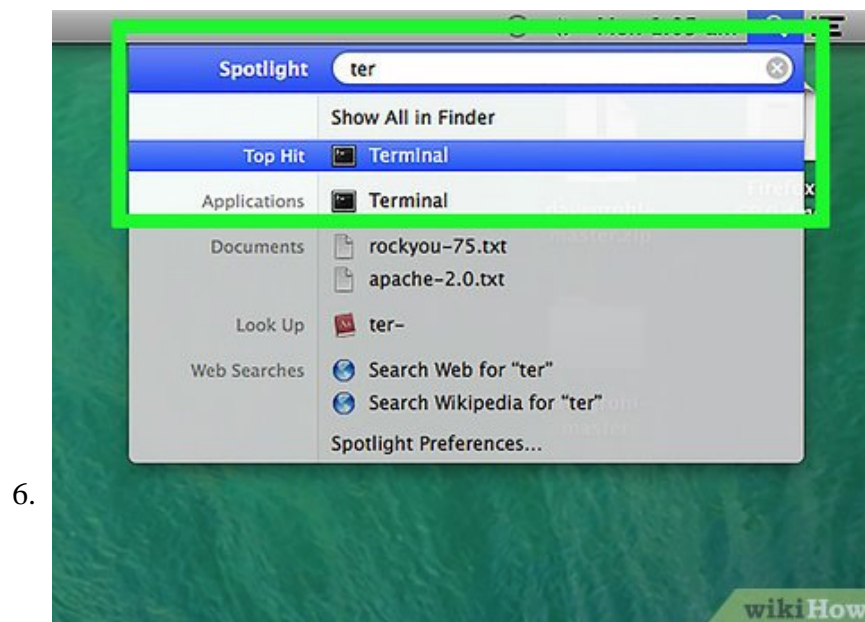
4.



Extract DaveGrohl. Double-click the downloaded ZIP folder, then wait for the DaveGrohl folder to open.



Copy the DaveGrohl path. Close the extracted DaveGrohl folder, then click the extracted DaveGrohl folder and press `Command + Option + C`. This will copy the path to the folder to your Mac's clipboard.



Open Terminal. Click **Spotlight**

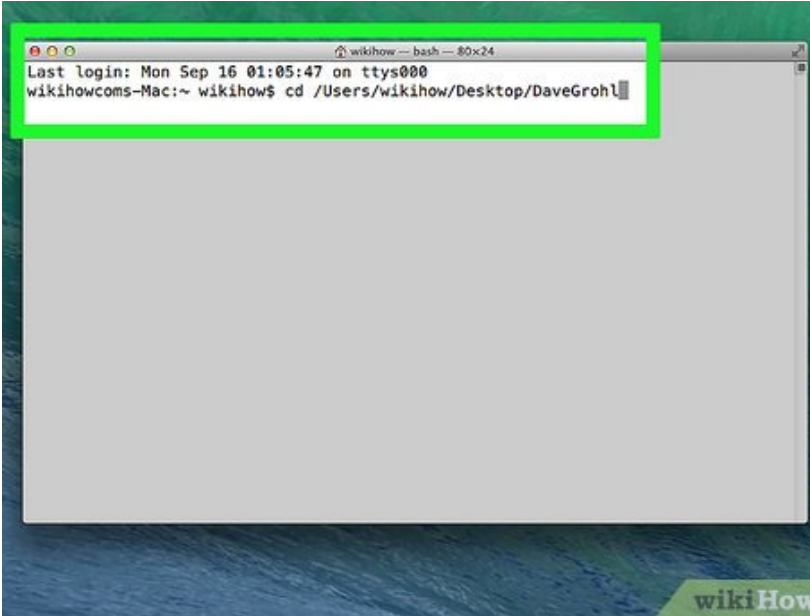


, type in `terminal` , and double-click



Terminal at the top of the results window.

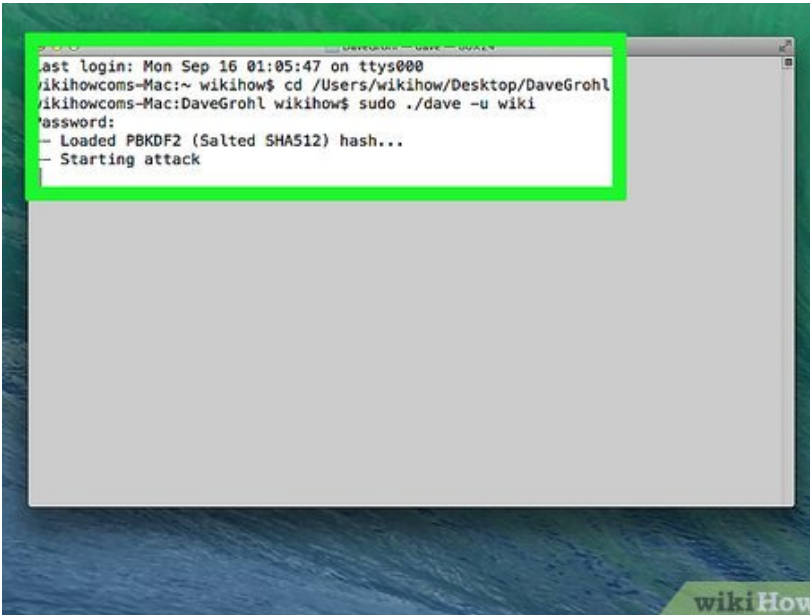
7.



```
wikihow -- bash -- 80x24
Last login: Mon Sep 16 01:05:47 on ttys000
wikihowcoms-Mac:~ wikihow$ cd /Users/wikihow/Desktop/DaveGrohl
```

Switch to the DaveGrohl folder. Type in `cd` , press the spacebar once, and then press `Command + V` to paste in the path to the DaveGrohl folder. Doing so will ensure that Terminal knows to look inside of the DaveGrohl folder when you run a command.

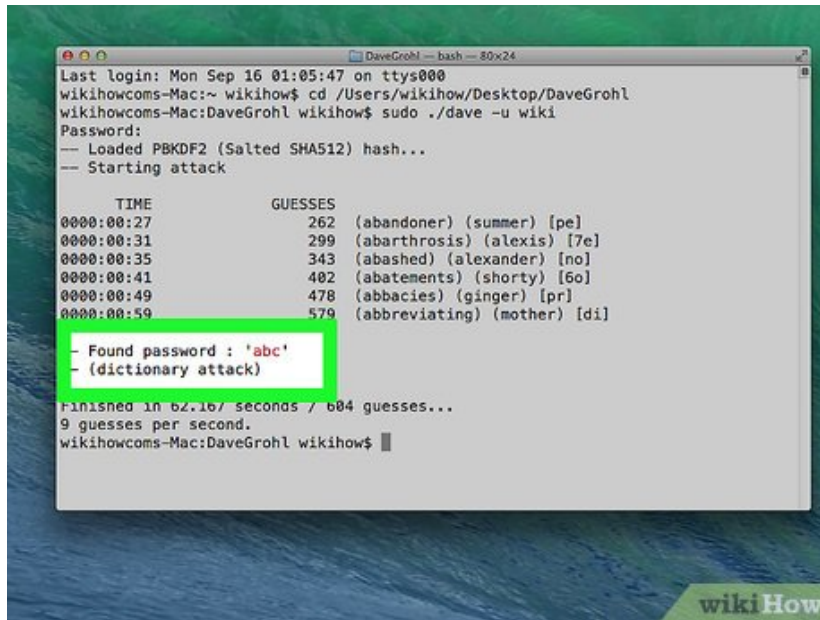
8.



```
wikihow -- dave -- 80x24
Last login: Mon Sep 16 01:05:47 on ttys000
wikihowcoms-Mac:~ wikihow$ cd /Users/wikihow/Desktop/DaveGrohl
wikihowcoms-Mac:DaveGrohl wikihow$ sudo ./dave -u wiki
Password:
- Loaded PBKDF2 (Salted SHA512) hash...
- Starting attack
```

Begin cracking the password. Do the following:

1. Type in `sudo ./dave -u username` where "username" is the administrator username for the account you want to hack.
2. Press `Return`



9.

Determine the password. Once DaveGrohl cracks the password, you'll see it listed next to the "Found password : " heading near the top of the Terminal results. This is the password you'll use in conjunction with the Mac's administrator account.

1. If you just want to know the password in order to use it later, you're technically done at this point.

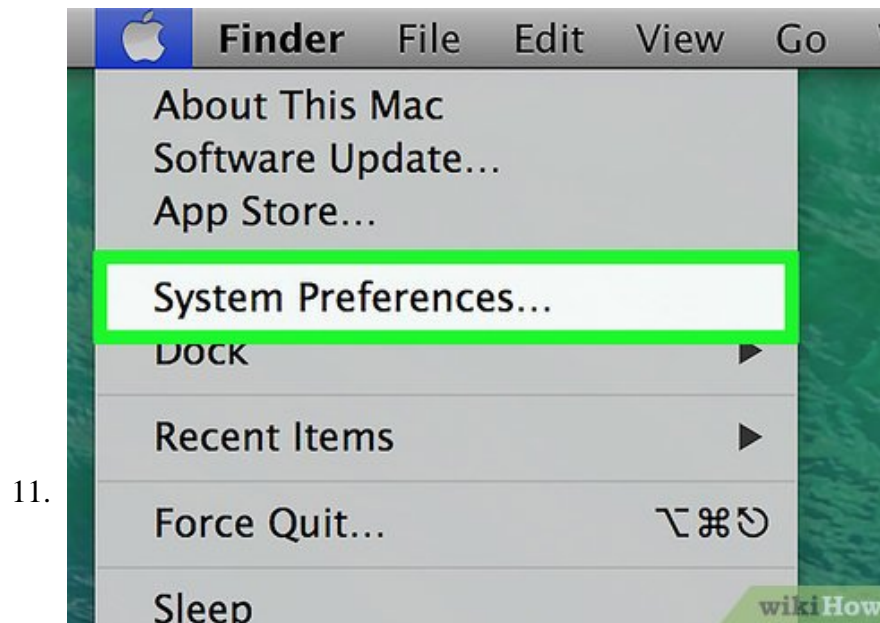


10.

Open the Apple menu



. Click the Apple logo in the top-left corner of the screen. A drop-down menu will appear.



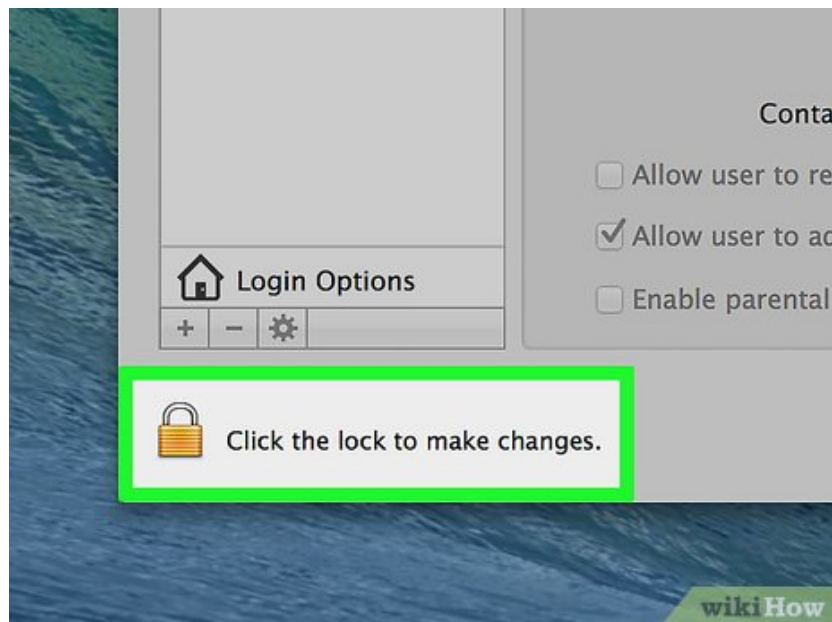
Click **System Preferences...**. You'll find it at the top of the drop-down menu. Doing so opens the System Preferences window.

12.

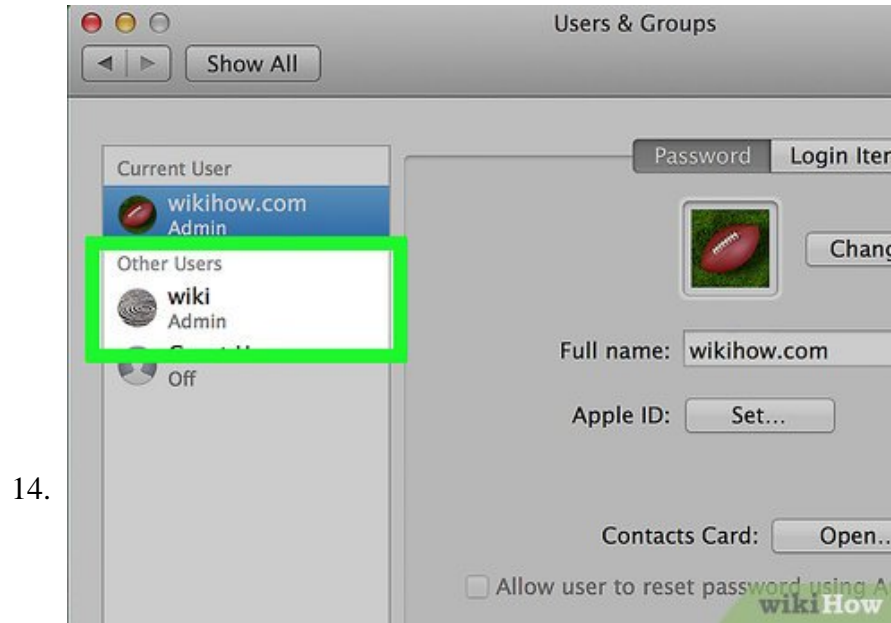


Click **Users & Groups**. It's in the System Preferences window. This will prompt the Users & Groups menu to appear.

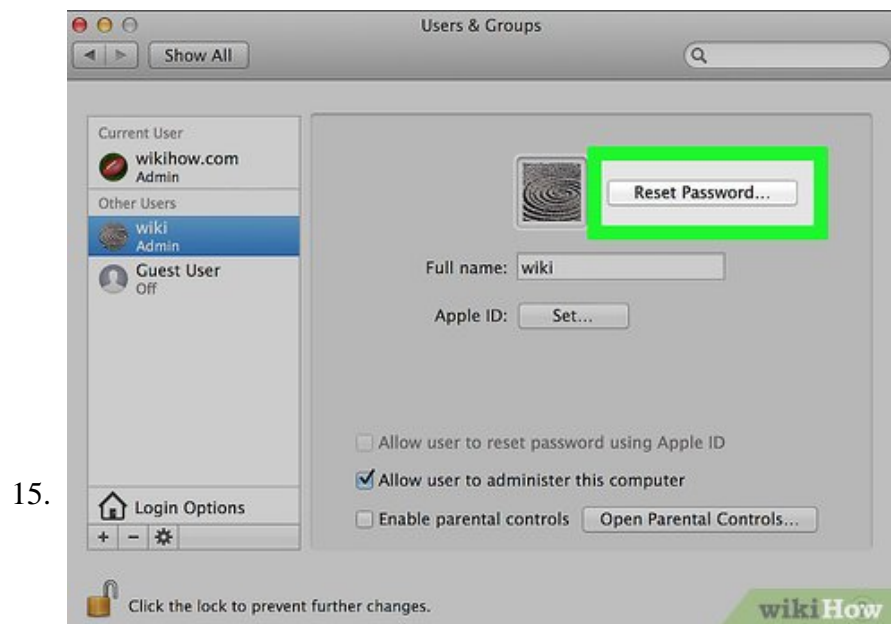
13.



Unlock the menu. Click the padlock icon in the bottom-left corner of the screen, then enter the administrator username (if you used the High Sierra exploit, you'll type in `root`) and the password (click the "Password" field once and then leave blank for the root account) and press `?Return`.

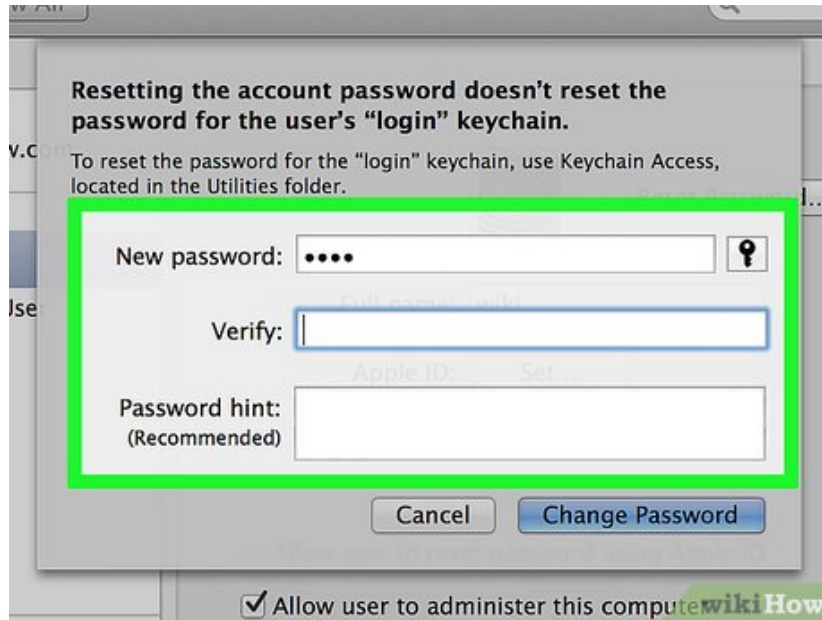


Select an account. Click the name of the person for whom you want to change the password on the left side of the window.



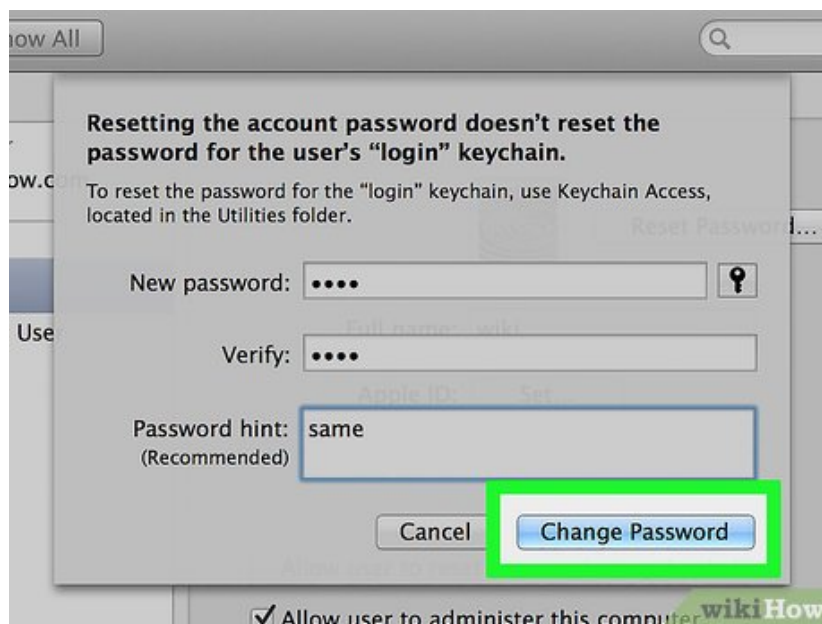
Click **Reset Password...**. It's a button near the top of the menu.

16.



Enter a new password. Type the password you want to use into the "New password" text box, then re-enter the password in the "Verify" text box.^[2]

17.



Click **Change Password**. It's at the bottom of the pop-up window. This will change the user's password.

You finished reading the article "**How to Hack a Password Protected Computer Account**" 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.