

# Root Password Reset

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## Resetting the root account password on the PVE Host

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The following follows the general method for resetting a root password on a Linux machine, if you have access to the console see e.g.:

- the Debian Handbook ([https://www.debian.org/doc/manuals/debian-reference/ch04.en.html#\\_securing\\_the\\_root\\_password](https://www.debian.org/doc/manuals/debian-reference/ch04.en.html#_securing_the_root_password))
- the Arch Linux Wiki entry ([https://wiki.archlinux.org/title/Reset\\_lost\\_root\\_password](https://wiki.archlinux.org/title/Reset_lost_root_password))
- the entry in WikiBooks ([https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Linux\\_Guide/Reset\\_a\\_forgotten\\_root\\_password](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Linux_Guide/Reset_a_forgotten_root_password))

for similar suggestions.

Keep in mind that editing the kernel command-line might need a different key-entry based on your boot-loader (**e** works for both **grub** and **systemd-boot** though). The method works for Proxmox VE until version 8.1 and should work for many other Linux based Operating systems as well:

### Method 1

- Boot into your bootloader (mostly **grub** or **systemd-boot**, select your preferred kernel but **do not press enter**).
- Press **e** to go into **edit** mode.
- Depending on the boot-loader go to the kernel-commandline entry:
  - For **grub**: scroll down to the kernel line you will boot from, it starts with `linux /vmlinuz-...`
  - For **systemd-boot** the kernel commandline is directly editable
- Scroll to the end of that line, optionally remove the `quiet` in the line and append `init=/bin/bash`
- For **grub** press **Ctrl X** to boot, for **systemd-boot** simply press **Enter**

In the resulting shell:

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**OK**

```
# Remount / as Read/Write
mount -o remount,rw /
```

```
# Change the root account password with
passwd
```

```
# Change any other account password with
passwd username
```

```
# type new password, confirm and hit enter and then reboot.
```

## Method 2

- Boot from a Live CD, which supports the / filesystem of your PVE installation (mostly relevant for installs on ZFS) (e.g. a Proxmox install ISO, in debug-mode (second debug-shell))
- Mount the / filesystem in read-write mode at a free directory (e.g. /mnt will be used in this example).
  - you might need to do other steps, based on the filesystem, e.g. `zpool import -f -R /mnt rpool` for ZFS.
- Run `passwd -R /mnt` to set a new password for the root account.
- Unmount/export the /-filesystem and reboot.

## Resetting the root account password in a Container

- Enter the working container and change the password using:

```
pct enter <VMID>
passwd
# enter new password in silent prompt
exit
```

- If you're still using OpenVZ containers, which are not supported in Proxmox VE 4 or newer, you can use `vzctl enter <VEID>` to enter the container.

## References

- [Griffon's IT Library \(http://c-nergy.be/blog/?p=1777\)](http://c-nergy.be/blog/?p=1777) - [Cache](#)
- <https://wiki.debian.org/Root>

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