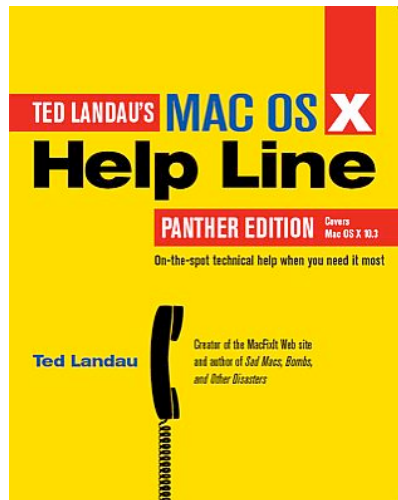


Help! I forgot my password

Macworld Expo
Boston 2005



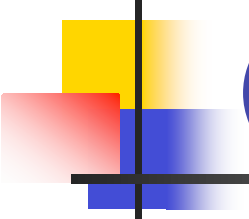
Ted Landau



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What to do if password is lost



Login password for a user (other than you, as admin)

1. Open Accounts System Preferences pane
2. Click Password tab
3. Click Reset Password



Login password for you (as admin)

- Try to recall password from Password Hint, as accessed from Change Password in Accounts Preferences pane.
- Login as another admin (or root, if enabled) and use “Reset Password.”
- Use Master Password (if enabled) to reset password, as accessed after 4 incorrect entries at login.



Login password for you (as admin)

- Boot from Mac OS X Install CD
 1. Access Reset Password utility.
 2. Select your account
- Launch Terminal and type:
 - `sudo passwd` (if you know any admin password) OR
 - `su passwd` (if you know root password)



Login password for root user

- Launch Terminal and type:
`sudo passwd root`
- Boot from Mac OS X Install CD
 1. Access Reset Password utility.
 2. Select System Administrator.



Master Password

1. Launch Terminal and type:
`sudo rm /Library/Keychains/FileVault*`
2. Restart Mac
 - Will not work if FileVault is currently enabled, as you need old password to decrypt.



Open Firmware password

- Set initially via Open Firmware Password Utility on Mac OS X Install disc (Applications/Utilities)
 - Sets Command mode: Mac will startup only from default drive without password. Prevents unauthorized access.
- Can also use Utility to change password if old one is forgotten (if your are an admin).



Open Firmware password

- Use Open Firmware startup mode
 - Command-Option-O-F at startup
- This allows you to set full mode:
 - `setenv security-mode full`
 - Now, will not startup even from default drive without password
- If you forget OF password in full mode:
 - Add or remove RAM



AirPort passwords

- Network Password
 1. Launch AirPort Admin Utility
 2. From AirPort Network section, click: Change Wireless Security
- Base Station Password
 - Do a soft reset of base station.
 - Exact procedure varies with different models.
 - On AirPort Extremes: Hold Reset button for one second.
 - See Apple Knowledge Base documents for complete details.



Keychain Access Password

- Background:
 - Password for Keychain Access's login keychain is normally the same as Account password and is unlocked automatically at startup.
 - Can change this via Preferences>First Aid
- If you change Keychain Access password and later forget it:
 - You are out of luck.
 - Can reset to create a new empty keychain (from Preferences) but cannot get data from old one.



Keychain Access Password Items

- Keychain Access can store most of your passwords and allow for auto-opening.
 - Typically, option to do this in dialogs when entering password (e.g., Remember in Keychain)
 - Can change behavior via Access Control for a Password item.
- If you forget a stored password, reveal it:
 1. Select Password name in Keychain listing
 2. Select Attributes tab
 3. Enable Show Password checkbox (and enter keychain password when asked).



The authorization file

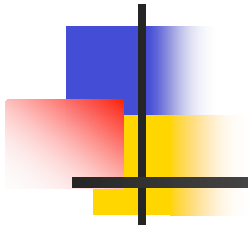
- The authorization file
 - Determines if and when you will be asked for your password via Authenticate dialogs etc.
 - The file is located in the UNIX /etc directory.
 - Open it using Property List Editor (obtained from Developer software).
- Authorization file contains two main sections: Rights and Rules. We will focus on Rights.
- **WARNING!**
 - Making changes to the authorization file could result in an inability to startup your Mac. Maintain a backup copy of unmodified file. And always be careful!
 - Need root access to modify file. Use Pseudo utility.



Modifying the authorization file

- Examples:
 - Finder: **com.apple.desktopservices**
 - System Preferences: **system.preferences**
 - See Details section of Authenticate dialog.
- Changing the timeout value.
 - Change from 0 to 300 to provide 5 minute interval where you do not need to re-authenticate.
- Changing the Class value.
 - Change from user to allow to eliminate need for authentication at all!

For more help and info...



Mac OS X Help Line:

www.macosexhelpline.com

expo@tedlandau.com

MacFixIt:

www.macfixit.com