Help! I forgot my password

Macworld Expo
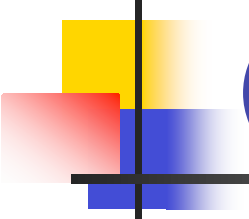**Boston 2005**
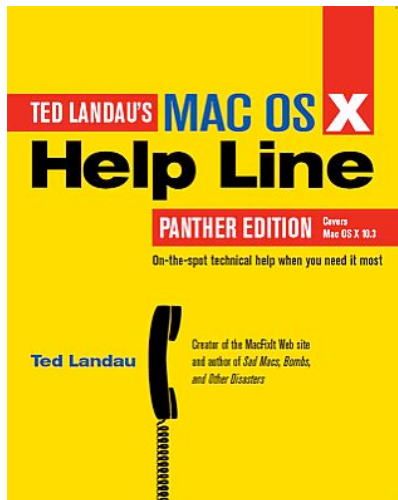
Ted Landau

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 account is currently encrypted via FileVault, and your forgot account password, as you will still need old password to decrypt the first time.

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

- For any network on your "preferred list"
    1. Go to AirPort in Network System Preferences
    2. Click to Edit "Preferred networks" item
    3. Click to "Show password."

- For your Network Password
    1. Launch AirPort Admin Utility
    2. From AirPort Network section, click: Change Wireless Security

- For your Base Station Password
    - Do a soft reset of base station.
    - On AirPort Extremes:|
      Hold Reset button for one second.

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…
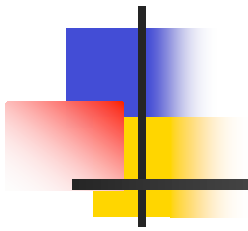
Mac OS X Help Line:

    www.macosxhelpline.com

    expo@tedlandau.com

MacFixIt:

    www.macfixit.com