

Restoring a forgotten password and updating my archives of SD cards that are out at tower sites.

This all started when I was helping a blind ham and needed to access his raspberry but couldn't.

After lots of searching and reading I found a way that works for me to easily restore a lost password to Hamvoip root putty access or the Superman web url access and remotely update changes to archived images.

I don't take total credit for this because without the post of others efforts especially David KB4FXC, I would still be struggling. All I had to work with was an image of a SD card from a running system with no editing access ability. I didn't want to have to load a linux computer since I am retired from HP with windows background.

Make an image of your micro SD card and we will use it for this password restore effort so as not to damage the only working card.

I use Win32DiskImager on my windows 10 laptop.

I downloaded a real nice software that makes this so easy. Linux File Systems for Windows by Paragon Software. I have no connection with paragon but I purchased this software.

Here is the url:

<https://www.paragon-drivers.com/en/lfswin/>

Download and install Linux File Systems for Windows.

Make sure it does not run every time you boot your windows computer or some other programs might not see the SD card, like Win32 Disk Imager.

If you have problems open the paragon app and unmount your SD card.

Plug your SD image card into your laptop, I use the regular SD card holder but also have a micro SD to usb adapter, which ever works for you to get the micro SD card plugged into your windows computer.

It may say you have to scan and fix the SD card when first plugged in, I don't, just close the pop up window.

Run the paragon software, it will detect the SD card and assign a drive letter to it, click on mount, you can shrink the paragon software down out of the way.

Open a file explorer window and go to the new drive, mine was G:

Double click on the etc folder, scroll down to shadow, not shadow- just the shadow without the minus.

Double click on shadow and open with notepad, make sure your window is open enough so that the first line starting with root continues in one line and finishes with : you don't want extra carriage return and line feed in the line because of different formatting. Also be careful when highlighting so you don't add spaces.

The file that you want to replace is the first line, root:???????????

a whole bunch of characters, that is what I meant by the ??????, right out to the end of the first line :::::

With this one that I made: I reduced the size in order for you to copy and paste without extra line feeds.

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root:$6$d7Cft7Z2$OkZz71uXimNELvuLlr6DKLX0gzzGe/9z15Dn68nfuHUtlbgP3Y6vb2Ftbk26Xy2rbiHmN6iAZ2AiRxxv2z2nA/:18912::::::
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The above user is root and password is: letmein

So highlight the above root:???, and copy it and then go to the attached SD drive in the etc folder and open shadow and highlight the entire first line root:??? and paste.

After you replace the line and click on save, safely remove your SD card from your laptop and put it back in your raspberry and boot up.

You should be able to log in as root using putty and password letmein and select menu item 2 and change the password to what you would like, I would shut down at that point and save an image of the SD card using Win32DiskImager.

If you have access using putty and the problem is accessing supermon, than use WinSCP and go to /etc/asterisk and scroll down to manager.conf and look for [admin] and secret =????? the ????? is the password in use for web access using supermon. Change it if necessary.

Another really nice thing is that if you have raspberries at distant sites and you saved images of the SD cards before putting the raspberry onsite and days, weeks, months later you have made changes and probably used WinSCP and have copies of those files on your computer. Now you can easily update your original saved image, make a SD card from the original saved image, put it in an adapter on your windows computer, run the paragon app, make sure the SD card is mounted, then run WinSCP and login into your remote raspberry on the hill top tower site as you normally do. I use a secure vpn router with internet access at the sites.

Choose the mounted original SD card drive for your left window in WinSCP and in the right window is the onsite raspberry. Now you can download from site to mounted SD card.

But DO NOT Download Folders, I tried several times and blue screened my laptop, but individual files are fine.

This brings the original image up to date. When done close out WinSCP, go to the paragon app and unmount the SD card.

Run Win32 Disk Imager, read and save this up to date SD card to your windows computer.

You could also, if you have a spare raspberry with the original image running, upload all the previously saved files you downloaded in WinSCP from the site to this spare and then save an updated image.

As long as you kept good notes it will work. I like the real-time download from site.

Obviously going to site if it's reasonable and doing an image is the first choice.

I have no association with the paragon app, I just found it after hours of trying to figure out how to regain access to a friend's raspberry and it didn't break the bank to buy it.

wa2kjc-Dave Petrie