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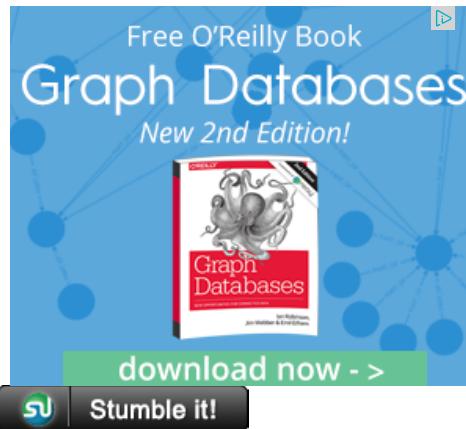
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HOWTO: Autologin as root or as any other user in Linux in console mode

Apr.30, 2009 in [Boot](#)



Purpose: In one of my previous articles we saw how to autologin as "root" or as any other user when you are using a Graphical Environment like GNOME, KDE, LXDE, Xfce. In that we saw we can bypass the GDM, KDM and XDM login screens. However what to do if you are not using any graphical environments (No X server)? How do you automatically login as "root" or as any other user when you are just booting into console mode.

Normally, when you just install a plain base system you usually boot to a login prompt on your tty1 console like this:

```
Welcome to Debian GNU/Linux 5.0 debian tty1
debian login:
```

And normally you enter your username and password to get the shell prompt:

```
debian:~#
```

Now suppose we want to bypass the step where we enter username and password. How do we do that?

Let's get started.

Step 1: Install mingetty

The first step is to install the a program called [mingetty](#) which we will use instead of the regular "getty" which is responsible for generating the login console.

```
# apt-get install mingetty
```

Step 2: Edit inittab file

Now we will edit the inittab file:

```
# nano /etc/inittab
```



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and change the line

```
1:2345:respawn:/sbin/getty 38400 ttym
```

to

```
1:2345:respawn:/sbin/mingetty --autologin <user-name> --noclear ttym
```

You can replace <user-name> with either "root" or with your own user-name.

Example:

```
1:2345:respawn:/sbin/mingetty --autologin root --noclear ttym
```

Note: It's a good idea to make a backup of inittab file first.

save and quite the file.

Step 3: Restart your system

```
# shutdown -r now
```

Simply restart your system and will be automatically taken to the bash shell prompt without entering the username and password.

Step 4: Make other tty autologin also (optional)

You must have notice that by default Debian Linux generate 6 tty based login console which you can switch to with "Alt-F2", "Alt-F3", "Alt-F4", etc.

So far we have just made ttym console (default) autologin enabled. What if you want to make all ttys or some ttys autologin just like ttym? It's very simple. Edit the **/etc/inittab** file and to make ttym autologin:

replace the line

```
2:23:respawn:/sbin/getty 38400 ttym
```

with

```
2:23:respawn:/sbin/mingetty --autologin root --noclear tty2
```

And similarly you can do for rrt3, tty4, and so on.

Happy Autologin.

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Written by [Kushal Koolwal](#)

Kushal Koolwal works as an Operating Systems (OS) R&D Engineer at VersaLogic Corporation, an embedded systems manufacturer located in Eugene, Oregon. In his current position Mr. Koolwal works with different embedded operating systems such as Windows Embedded, Linux, VxWorks, QNX, etc. Kushal completed his bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering in 2004 in India. He then pursued a Master's degree in Computer Science, which he received in 2006 followed by an MBA in 2008, both from the University of Oregon. Additionally, Kushal is a database/web developer using .NET technologies and blogs about Linux solutions and businesses in general. His hobbies are traveling, playing sports, dancing, etc.

12 Comments

1. [Enabling autologin in Debian Linux without using GDM, XDM, KDM or other login manager | Organizing Linux Information!](#)
[April 30th, 2009 at 8:09 pm](#)

[...] If you are looking how to autologin as "root" or as any other user in console mode only i.e. when you don't have "X"/Graphical environment installed, you can learn it here. [...]



2. [Will Godfrey](#)
[July 30th, 2009 at 1:31 pm](#)

Just tried this. Works like a dream!

[Reply to this comment](#)

3. [Como fazer login automático no Linux em modo texto - KeepGeek](#)
[August 12th, 2009 at 5:42 pm](#)

[...] Pouco se comenta, mas também é possível configurar o login automático no modo texto. Acompanhe, abaixo, um pequeno tutorial baseado em um artigo publicado pelo site KoolWall. [...]



4. *hari*

[October 12th, 2009 at 4:22 am](#)



Hi,

I am working on embedded platform.

I have TI's OMAP processor board and using angstrom 2.6.28-omap1 Linux distribution.

At the end of booting Linux distro, I need to type "root" from the Teraterm (serial connection) enter into root mode on the board. Then it goes to root like

"root@Board:" is displayed. Now I can load my application and execute the program.

But I would like to remove this dependency of giving input from the user.

Could you please tell me how should I remove this dependency ?

Someone suggested to look at /etc/inittab and change

id:5:initdefault: to id:1:initdefault:

But it is not worked out.

I also tried to change the line

1:2345:respawn:/sbin/getty 38400 tty1

to

1:2345:respawn:/sbin/mingetty -autologin root -noclear tty1

But it is also not worked out... still asking for login.

Below is inittab file

```
=====
# /etc/inittab: init(8) configuration.
# $Id: inittab,v 1.91 2002/01/25 13:35:21 miquels Exp $

# The default runlevel.
id:5:initdefault:

# Boot-time system configuration/initialization script.
# This is run first except when booting in emergency (-b) mode.
si::sysinit:/etc/init.d/rcS

# What to do in single-user mode.
~~:S:/sbin/sulogin

# /etc/init.d executes the S and K scripts upon change
# of runlevel.
#
# Runlevel 0 is halt.
# Runlevel 1 is single-user.
# Runlevels 2-5 are multi-user.
# Runlevel 6 is reboot.

10:0:wait:/etc/init.d/rc 0
11:1:wait:/etc/init.d/rc 1
12:2:wait:/etc/init.d/rc 2
13:3:wait:/etc/init.d/rc 3
14:4:wait:/etc/init.d/rc 4
15:5:wait:/etc/init.d/rc 5
```

```
16:6:wait:/etc/init.d/rc 6
# Normally not reached, but fallthrough in case of emergency.
#z6:6:respawn:/sbin/sulogin
S:2345:respawn:/sbin/getty 115200 ttyS2
# /sbin/getty invocations for the runlevels.
#
# The "id" field MUST be the same as the last
# characters of the device (after "tty").
#
# Format:
# :::
#
```


1:2345:respawn:/sbin/getty 38400 tty1

=====

Do I need to modify any other files other than this?
Your help is appreciated.

TIA

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5. *hari*

[October 14th, 2009 at 6:20 am](#)

After changing below modifications to above file it worked for my distro and board..

```
# Normally not reached, but fallthrough in case of emergency.
z6:6:respawn:/sbin/sulogin
S:2345:respawn:/sbin/mingetty -noclear -autologin root ttyS2
```

at the end line commented

#1:2345:respawn:/sbin/getty 38400 tty1

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6. *jimmy*

[November 10th, 2009 at 2:48 pm](#)

hello hari

by the look of it it looks like you are working with the beagleboard here? could you tell me please how you got mingetty onto the board? im interested i doing the same auto login as root thing. thanks

jimmy

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7. *Chris*

[November 24th, 2009 at 9:57 am](#)

Don't reboot, just type "init q"

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8.

walter

[April 7th, 2010 at 1:30 am](#)



Thanks for this quick solution!

Although I had to remove '-noclear', otherwise it sort of hangs during boot, until I press ALT-F1 myself to get into the logged in shell.

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9.

crapok

[August 31st, 2010 at 9:38 am](#)

Nice article.

Note that the line :

2:23:respawn:/sbin/mingetty -autologin root -noclear tty2

should be :

2:23:respawn:/sbin/mingetty -noclear -autologin root tty2

with -noclear before -autologin or console will hang or put message like "init: Id "x" respawning too fast: disabled for 5 minutes."

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10.

cesar

[January 31st, 2013 at 1:37 pm](#)

gracias me funciono perfecto en raspbian

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11. [Inicio de sesión automático modo texto < CSRLIMA COMPARTE](#)

[January 31st, 2013 at 1:39 pm](#)

[...] <http://linux.koolsolutions.com/2009/04/30/autologin-linux-console-mode/> [...]

12. [debian 6 login as root](#)

[September 3rd, 2014 at 9:07 am](#)

[...] Autologin as root in Linux in console mode - How to login ... [...]

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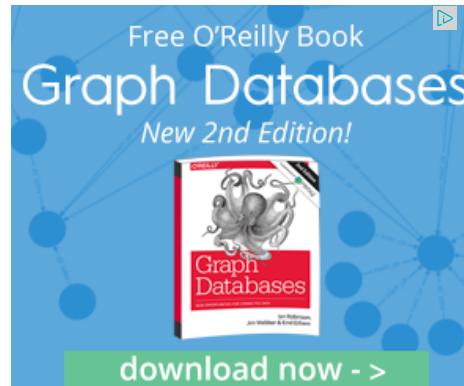


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