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AIX: Recovering From an Unknown root Password (2/97)

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Revised:        2/17/97
Security:       Everyone
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TOPIC ---

User entered root password with ergonomics keyboard in install_assist after installing operating system and password is not what user entered on the keyboard. So he does not know what the root password is.

DISCUSSION ---

Switch server key to the maintenance mode with the AIX installation CD and boot into maintenance mode or do a hard reset. Then access the rootvg from the CD and start a shell. You can modify the "/etc/security/passwd" file with vi by removing the encrypted password after the "=", leave the rest of the information in tack and save the file.

The root section of the passwd file should look similar to this:

```
root:
        password =
        lastupdate =
        flags =
```

Before you shutdown the server type:

sync; sync; sync

and press return.

To restart the server, press the reset button and move the key to the normal mode.

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