



# Tech Info Library

## A/UX: Bourne Shell: ulimit Security Problem

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### Article Change History

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08/27/92 - REVIEWED  
    o For technical accuracy.  
08/27/92 - UPDATED  
    o To include A/UX 3.0 Information.

### TOPIC -----

Here's a security problem in A/UX 1.0 and 1.1. It does not apply to A/UX 3.0.

```
$ulimit 0
$passwd          # this command means do the normal passwd routines
```

### DISCUSSION -----

After this, the "/etc/passwd" file is truncated to 0 length. This works both as "su" and as a normal user. This problem has been verified in the Bourne Shell "ulimit" built-in function.

If anyone wants to verify it, login as "root". Otherwise, you can't get back your root access.

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Keywords: <None>

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