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Apple Workgroup Server 95: root Password (5/93)

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TOPIC -----

I'm evaluating the Apple Workgroup Server (AWS) 95 File and Print Environment. I'm interested in enabling TCP/IP services on the AWS 95, but I'm concerned about the recommendation that the root account be left without a password. As an Internet connected institution with a very savvy user community, I do not want to leave any obvious holes like this.

I've experimented with having a password on the root account, and it does not seem to adversely affect operation: upon startup, the Macintosh environment is started under the root account and AppleShare Pro starts normally - even with the password in place. Yet telnet sessions to the root account require the password as expected.

Should I ignore the user manual's advice that putting a password on the root account will cause problems? Is there something I'm missing? Is there some other way we should be approaching system security in an Internet connected environment?

DISCUSSION -----

The manual makes this recommendation assuming that the system will be used for AppleTalk services only. This is because the server would boot A/UX and start the Finder environment along with the AppleShare services without the users knowing they would login to an A/UX system.

If security is a concern (and based on the environment you use), adding a password for root or any other account is perfectly OK.

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