

Changing a Standard Account to an Admin Account Without a Password

(OS X 10.5 Leopard)

Some users, after upgrading, may find their administrator account has been changed to a standard account. This can cause issues when they need to install software or perform a task that needs a higher level of permissions.

Also, people who buy a used Mac may need to setup a user account but do not have the administrator password.

Apple has a support article that helps with this:

<http://support.apple.com/kb/TS1278>

To reset your administrator password:

1. Place your Mac OS X 10.5 install DVD in your optical drive and start your Mac.
2. Hold down the C key while booting up.
3. From the Utilities menu, choose Reset Password (do not choose Firmware Password Utility).
4. Follow the onscreen instructions to reset the root password (the root account is not the same as your account). Specifically: Select the name of the drive that Mac OS X is installed on, select the user named "System Administrator (root)" from the pop-up menu, type the password in the first field, re-enter the password in the second field, then click the Save button.
5. Restart from your Mac OS X Leopard volume.
6. When the login window appears, select "Other..." and log in as the root user using the password that was created above. Note: If Mac OS X automatically logs in, choose Log Out (name) from the Apple menu to get to the login window.
7. Go to Accounts preferences and check (enable) "Allow user to administer this computer" for the affected user.
8. From the Apple menu, choose Log Out root....
9. Log in as the user account that had this issue. (Your account should now have administrator access.)
10. Use Directory Utility to [disable the root user](#) via Directory Utility's Edit menu. You may need to click the lock icon first).