Solaris: Passwords, Logging In, Logging Out - An Overview

The Solaris systems do not use the same authentication mechanism as the campus network. When a class you are taking requires use of the Solaris systems and you have not previously had a Solaris account, you will receive an account and initial password at the beginning of the semester.

**Logging In.** Normally logging in is simple. Each user sitting at a workstation or selecting a computer name from the Exceed startup screen will get a login screen. If the screen is dark when you sit down at a workstation, simply move the mouse to get a screen like the one below.

![Login Screen](image)

Users simply enter their username, press return, then enter their password. Quickly the screen will change and the CDE environment appears.

If anything goes wrong, simply click on “Start Again” and repeat the process. If you fail several times, contact your professor or the Help Desk for assistance.

If all went well you should see the CDE front panel and be ready to explore the interface and perform tasks. At the end of your session you may want to change your password to something you select. Read the next section on how to do this.

Occasionally, students end up in a situation where there is a horrible yellow screen background and things don’t look the way they are described in the CDE intro. This means you have mistakenly ended up in the OpenWindows environment (an older GUI system). To change this, log out and before typing in your password, pull down the “Options” menu on the startup box shown above and select “Common Desktop Environment.” Logging in now should give you the environment you expect.

**Logging Out.** To terminate your session, click on “Exit” on the front panel. When asked for confirmation, click on “OK.”
Changing Your Password

Your professor should have provided you with your initial Unix password. It is a good idea to immediately change your password to something else.

Selecting a Good Password. Good passwords should not be easily deducible by others and, in particular, should not be words in the dictionary.

Never use the following for passwords:

- Your user id
- Your name or phone number.
- A word in the dictionary, particularly curse words.
- The name of your best friend or fraternity or sorority.
- Your initials.
- A simple phrase like “12345” or “abcde”
- One of the passwords listed below as examples.

Suggestions for memorable passwords:

- Use the first letters of words in some phrase that you can easily remember. “quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog” would give “qbfjotld” which would not be in the dictionary.
- Mix upper and lower case characters as in “QnfJot1D”
- Mix in digits as in “luv2cu” although avoid being too obvious.
- Mix in punctuation as in “mop;rsvp”

Passwords must be at least six characters long and contain at least one digit (or punctuation character) and one alphabetic character. Nearly all security problems and illegal access to computers are due to users who do not use good password choices!

To change your password. In order to change your password, you first need to be logged in to aurora. Either choose aurora as the host when you start Exceed, or use ssh to set up a remote session on aurora from the machine you initially connected to. Give the command passwd and follow instructions as shown in the example below:

aurora[lbarnett:faculty](1)% passwd
Enter existing login password:
New Password:
Re-enter new Password:
passwd: password successfully changed for lbarnett

At this point your password has been changed on the aurora. Remember that this is a completely different password system from the UR net ID that you use to access email and other services. Changing that password via the Information Services web page has no effect on your Unix password and vice-versa.
Be warned that the password information from Aurora may not be distributed to the other Unix systems immediately. This means that if you log out and try to log back in quickly, you may have to use the old password. So simply wait 5-10 minutes before using the new password to log in.