# Tech Info Library

## A/UX 2.0: How to Protect the Macintosh OS Partition

Article Created: 30 September 1990
Article Last Reviewed: 31 August 1992
Article Last Updated : 31 August 1992


TOPIC -----------------------------------------------------------

I want to put in a lab of A/UX systems to teach UNIX on.  In A/UX 2.0b9 I found
a hole for lab use.  That is, you can boot A/UX; log in as guest, root, or
regular account; and throw away the System folder from the Macintosh OS boot
partition.  If the system is then powered down, it can't be restarted. This is
a serious problem for public-access types of facilities. Is this also in the
final?


DISCUSSION ------------------------------------------------------

This problem remains in the released version, but here's a temporary solution:

1) Format the A/UX drive using SilverLining from LaCie.

2) Password protect the Macintosh OS partition using SilverLining.

3) Put only a System file and the A/UX Startup application on the Macintosh
OS side.  NO Finder should be put on the Macintosh OS side.

4) Set A/UX Startup as the startup application after you have started up from
a floppy or another disk.

A/UX 2.0 will not recognize the password-protected disk and will not mount it.
Because the Macintosh OS side has only a System file and the A/UX Startup
application, no one can short-circuit the boot into A/UX and mess with the
Macintosh OS files.

However, two possibilities remain for tampering with the Macintosh OS side.
Making a bootable floppy that has a Finder on it from A/UX could be
troublesome.  A clever hacker could use "dp" to remove the password
protection on the Macintosh OS side.  However, proper file protections could
stop this sort of thing. You might also have to protect power switches.

In A/UX 3.0, A/UX Startup includes a password feature that can make
the MacPartition unavailable to all users except root.
Copyright 1990, 1992 Apple Computer, Inc.

Keywords:  <None>

===================================================================