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A/UX: Bourne Shell: ulimit Security Problem

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Revised:        9/24/92
Security:       Everyone


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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