



# Tech Info Library

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

Revised: 9/4/92  
Security: Everyone

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.

Tech Info Library Article Number:6086