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A/UX: Powering Down without Root Permission (6/93)

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TOPIC -----

I want to be able to restart or power down in A/UX when I'm not the SU (super user):

```
chmod 7777 /etc/powerdown
chown user /etc/powerdown
```

This doesn't seem to work: Do you have any ideas?

I understand some of the implications like shutting down processes, but shouldn't one be able to simulate this as a user?

DISCUSSION -----

The reason why the procedure mentioned above doesn't work is because the /etc/powerdown program performs a getuid() system call to check which user is running the program. This call returns the real user ID of the user and not the effective user ID obtained with the set uid bit.

The only way to execute the power-down without actually logging on is to make an entry in the file /etc/passwd in which the starting program is /etc/powerdown, and the user ID is "0" (zero). This entry could look like:

```
stop::0:1000:Entry to powerdown the system:/:/etc/powerdown
```

We do not recommend powering down the system this way, because there are several processes running in the background when the system is in an init level other than "s" (single-user mode).

The proper way to power is to execute the shutdown command, and, when the machine reaches "Single User Mode", execute the /etc/powerdown command.

Article Change History:

24 Jun 1993 - Revised for clarity.

31 Aug 1992 - Reviewed for technical accuracy.

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