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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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