

Recovering a Lost Enable Password

This appendix describes how to recover a password that you configured with the **enable** command (enable password).

Note You can recover a lost enable password, but not a password that you configured with the **enable secret** command (enable secret password). This password is encrypted and must be replaced with a new enable secret password. See the “Hot Tips” section on Cisco Connection Online (CCO) for information on replacing enable secret passwords.

Follow these steps to recover a lost enable password:

- Step 1** Connect an ASCII terminal or a PC running a terminal emulation program to the Console port. For more information, see the *Cisco 805 Router Hardware Installation Guide*.
- Step 2** Configure the terminal at 9600 baud, 8 data bits, no parity, and 1 stop bit.
- Step 3** Reboot the router.
- Step 4** From user EXEC mode, display the existing configuration register value:
- ```
Router> show version
```
- Step 5** Record the setting of the configuration register. The setting is usually 0x2102 or 0x102.
- Step 6** Record the break setting.
- Break enabled—bit 8 is set to 0.
  - Break disabled (default setting)—bit 8 is set to 1.

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**Note** To enable break, enter the **config-register 0x01** global configuration command.

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**Step 7** Do one of the following:

- If break is enabled, go to Step 8.
- If break is disabled, turn the router to STANDBY, wait 5 seconds, and turn it to ON again. Before the terminal displays `boot . . . . .`, press **Escape** or **Control-C**. The terminal displays the ROM monitor prompt (`boot #`). Go to Step 9.

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**Note** Some terminal keyboards have a key labeled *Break*. If your keyboard does not have a Break key, refer to the documentation that came with the terminal for instructions on how to send a break.

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**Step 8** Send a break. The terminal displays the following prompt:

```
boot#
```

**Step 9** Reset the configuration register:

```
boot# set ios-conf=142
```

**Step 10** Initialize the router:

```
boot# boot [flash]
```

The router cycles its power, and the configuration register is set to 0x142. The router uses the boot ROM system image, indicated by the system configuration dialog:

```
--- System Configuration Dialog ---
```

**Step 11** Enter **no** in response to the prompts until the following message is displayed:

```
Press RETURN to get started!
```

**Step 12** Press **Return**. The following prompt appears:

```
router>
```

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**Step 13** Enter privileged EXEC mode:

```
router> enable
```

The prompt changes to the privileged EXEC prompt:

```
router#
```

**Step 14** Display the enable password in the configuration file:

```
router# show startup-config
```

**Step 15** Enter configuration mode:

```
router# configure terminal
```

**Step 16** Reset the configuration register:

```
router# config-register value
```

Specify the value that you recorded in Step 5 (usually 0x2102 or 0x102).

**Step 17** Press **Ctrl-Z** to exit configuration mode.

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**Note** To return to the configuration being used before recovering the lost enable password, do not save the configuration changes before rebooting the router.

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**Step 18** Reboot the router, and enter the recovered password.

