

## Re: login, path and ~/.profile

**Source:** <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2005-09/4094.html>

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**Date:** 09/30/05

Date: Fri, 30 Sep 2005 11:02:23 +0100

To: Debian Linux Distro Users Discussion <[debian-user@lists.debian.org](mailto:debian-user@lists.debian.org)>

On Fri, Sep 30, 2005 at 08:50:05AM +0200, Benedict Verheyen wrote:

> Hi,  
>  
> *i was looking to change the prompt of a UML and while i was at it i*  
> *noticed something in regards to the path that is set.*  
> *When logging in these files are processed (used echo to find out)*  
> */etc/profile*  
> */etc/bash.bashrc*  
> *~/.bash\_profile*  
> *~/.bashrc*  
>  
> *This might differ on your system as I:*  
> *\* source /etc/bash.bashrc from /etc/profile*  
> *\* source ~/.bashrc from ~/.bash\_profile*  
>  
> *When doing su, these files are executed*  
> */etc/bash.bashrc*  
> *~/.bashrc*  
>  
> *As for my questions:*  
> *1. Why isn't ~/.profile run?*

The su command does not launch a login shell, and the login scripts (/etc/profile and ~/.profile) are only executed by a login shell. That's the difference between the two.

To get a root login shell, use

```
su -
```

> *2. I'm setting up an UML that i debootstrapped so root is the only way*  
> *to log on for the moment. When i apt-get i get errors in the end because*  
> *the /bin /sbin paths aren't set so certain tools aren't found.*  
> *Is it better to leave the path like this security wise or should i just*  
> *add the /bin and /sbin directories?*  
> *The ~/.profile file contains a decent PATH but as this file doesn't seem*  
> *to get executed, the path isn't set.*

Debian-User: Re: login, path and ~/.profile

I don't have any experience with UML (and I just guess you mean "User Mode Linux", rather than "Unified Modelling Language"), but, at any rate, simply "su -" should get you the standard root PATH and other environment settings.

Best regards, Jan

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+- Jan T. Kim -----+
|   *NEW*   email:  jtk@cmp.uea.ac.uk                       |
|   *NEW*   WWW:   http://www.cmp.uea.ac.uk/people/jtk |
*-----=< hierarchical systems are for files, not for humans >-----*
--
To UNSUBSCRIBE, email to debian-user-REQUEST@lists.debian.org
with a subject of "unsubscribe". Trouble? Contact listmaster@lists.debian.org
```