



Is it possible to gain root access in Roku

Moderators: RokuDouglas, RokuKen, RokuRyan, RokuJamesL, RokuChris, RokuJoel

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Is it possible to gain root access in Roku

by partyk1d24 » Fri Dec 27, 2013 10:36 am

Hey everyone,

So I get that my Roku3 runs this C-Based (but not C-Like) scripting platform on top of linux. I would like to access some of the system files for some hacking. I would assume from what I read that the processor is ARM so compiling for it should be simple. However, I cannot find examples for gaining access or/especially elevated privileges.

Somewhere (I can't find it again) it mentioned it may be possible to telnet through the 8080 port and get access. Seeing as I am on a mac and having trouble even telneting and issuing commands on 8085 this may or may not be a local issue.

So my question, is it possible to gain su access on my linux box? Does the box come with libc?

Thanks

Jackie

partyk1d24

Posts: 12
Joined: Thu Dec 26, 2013 6:10 pm

Re: Is it possible to gain root access in Roku

by renojim » Fri Dec 27, 2013 12:45 pm

If you can do that, you'd be the first.

-JT

renojim

** Valued Community Member **

Posts: 2366
Joined: Mon Feb 15, 2010 4:35 pm

Re: Is it possible to gain root access in Roku

by kc8pql » Fri Dec 27, 2013 12:48 pm

I've never heard of anyone successfully doing that either...

kc8pql

** Valued Community Member **

Posts: 6731

Joined: Fri Jan 23,
2009 6:54 pm
Location: US

OTA Antenna
"Netflix Player" N1000
XDS 2100X (premature death by lightning)
Roku2 XD 3050X
Roku2 XS 3100R

Re: Is it possible to gain root access in Roku

by **SimpleMinded** » Fri Dec 27, 2013 2:01 pm

<http://www.jpsaman.org/node/3>
<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~ecc/roku-nfp.html>
[http://forum.xda-developers.com/showthr ... 435&page=8](http://forum.xda-developers.com/showthr...435&page=8)

Some are looking at this. Kind of surprised this hasn't happened -- especially with the Roku 3 with the faster processor and extensible memory. Probably be more prevalent once Roku 3 refurb drops below \$50.

SimpleMinded

Posts: 244
Joined: Wed Oct 30,
2013 8:43 pm

Re: Is it possible to gain root access in Roku

by **TheEndless** » Fri Dec 27, 2013 3:28 pm

SimpleMinded wrote:

<http://www.jpsaman.org/node/3>
<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~ecc/roku-nfp.html>
[http://forum.xda-developers.com/showthr ... 435&page=8](http://forum.xda-developers.com/showthr...435&page=8)

Some are looking at this. Kind of surprised this hasn't happened -- especially with the Roku 3 with the faster processor and extensible memory. Probably be more prevalent once Roku 3 refurb drops below \$50.

TheEndless

** Valued Community
Member **

Posts: 7186
Joined: Mon Oct 04,
2004 1:15 pm
Location: US

That first link is for the old Roku PhotoBridge HD1000, so it won't get you very far with the Roku Streaming Players.. 😊

My Channels: <http://roku.permanence.com> - Twitter: @TheEndlessDev
Instant Watch Browser (NetflixIWB), Aquarium Screensaver (AQUARIUM),
MainSqueeze (MAINSQUEEZE), iTunes Podcasts (ITPC), Justin.tv (JUSTINTV), My
Channels (MYCHANNELS)

Re: Is it possible to gain root access in Roku

by **kc8pql** » Fri Dec 27, 2013 4:12 pm

The second one is on the original N1000, dated Aug. 2008, never went anywhere.

kc8pql

** Valued Community
Member **

Posts: 6731
Joined: Fri Jan 23,
2009 6:54 pm
Location: US

OTA Antenna
"Netflix Player" N1000
XDS 2100X (premature death by lightning)
Roku2 XD 3050X
Roku2 XS 3100R

Re: Is it possible to gain root access in Roku

by **SimpleMinded** » Fri Dec 27, 2013 4:55 pm

What's your point? The third link if from last month. It's possible. People have done it. You hadn't heard of it. I had. I posted links. So it doesn't matter?

Re: Is it possible to gain root access in Roku

by **destruk** » Fri Dec 27, 2013 6:03 pm

If people do succeed, would they post on the internet how? Probably not, so for 'proven hacks' you would still be the first - I'd wish you luck, but I think hacking would be a violation of the terms of use for the developer agreement, so you wouldn't be here long after.

Re: Is it possible to gain root access in Roku

by **TheEndless** » Fri Dec 27, 2013 7:24 pm

SimpleMinded wrote:

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The point was that two of the links you posted weren't valid to the OPs request. Pointing that out could save him/her a lot of time pursuing the wrong path, should they wish to pursue it. It wasn't an attempt at a slight on you or your impressive Google skills.. 😏

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Re: Is it possible to gain root access in Roku

by **SimpleMinded** » Fri Dec 27, 2013 7:41 pm

TheEndless wrote:

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I think he'd find a lot more help with his quest at any of those links that in this

SimpleMinded

Posts: 244
Joined: Wed Oct 30,
2013 8:43 pm

destruk

Posts: 1737
Joined: Sat Dec 18,
2010 7:58 pm

TheEndless

** Valued Community
Member **

Posts: 7186
Joined: Mon Oct 04,
2004 1:15 pm
Location: US

SimpleMinded

Posts: 244
Joined: Wed Oct 30,
2013 8:43 pm

forum. Note that all three efforts were successful and, like I said, the last is current.

Re: Is it possible to gain root access in Roku

by **TheEndless** » Fri Dec 27, 2013 8:01 pm

TheEndless

** Valued Community Member **

Posts: 7186

Joined: Mon Oct 04, 2004 1:15 pm

Location: US

SimpleMinded wrote:

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I think he'd find a lot more help with his quest at any of those links that in this forum. Note that all three efforts were successful and, like I said, the last is current.

The first link was for a completely different product line (the PhotoBridge), which had a development environment that actually provided root access, and SDK documentation that explained how to set up a cross-compiling environment, so it didn't require "hacking" to do anything in that article, despite its title. It's not even remotely relevant to the topic at hand.

The second article appears to be an attempt to hack the original Netflix Player, before it was able to run other applications. Slightly more relevant, but unlikely to yield anything worthwhile, due to the extensive hardware and firmware changes that the boxes have gone through over the past five years since that box was available.

The third xda-developers thread, however, looks promising, though it reads as though it would require some hardware mods (i.e., not as straight-forward as something like an iOS jailbreak). Will be interesting to see where that one goes...

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Channels (MYCHANNELS)

Re: Is it possible to gain root access in Roku

by **partyk1d24** » Fri Dec 27, 2013 8:59 pm

Thanks guys for all the feedback I will look into the last link. I get the other links

partyk1d24

Posts: 12

Joined: Thu Dec 26, 2013 6:10 pm

to some extent as understanding where the product came from, does help once you can get through the hardware portions.

Still confuses me why someone would "invent" a language just so people would have to "port" applications. Seems crazy (or at least short sighted) to me. Otherwise seems like a great product and HBO is great since I lost support on my revue.

Re: Is it possible to gain root access in Roku

by **TheEndless** » Fri Dec 27, 2013 10:02 pm

partyk1d24 wrote:

Thanks guys for all the feedback I will look into the last link. I get the other links to some extent as understanding where the product came from, does help once you can get through the hardware portions.

Still confuses me why someone would "invent" a language just so people would have to "port" applications. Seems crazy (or at least short sighted) to me. Otherwise seems like a great product and HBO is great since I lost support on my revue.

The BrightScript language was originally developed for Roku's BrightSign line of digital signage products (since broken off into their own sister company). Because that development platform was already there and relatively mature, it probably made more sense to build on top of that, instead if starting over from scratch.

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Re: Is it possible to gain root access in Roku

by **thetick** » Sat Dec 28, 2013 12:14 am

TheEndless wrote:

The BrightScript language was originally developed for Roku's BrightSign line of digital signage products (since broken off into their own sister company). Because that development platform was already there and relatively mature, it probably made more sense to build on top of that, instead if starting over from scratch.

Wow that's cool. I also wondered why BrightScript language was used. I noticed the latest Brightsign digital signage products have HTML5 support...so could we be expecting HTML5 support for Roku 3 or follow-ons sometime next year?

Re: Is it possible to gain root access in Roku

TheEndless

** Valued Community Member **

Posts: 7186

Joined: Mon Oct 04, 2004 1:15 pm

Location: US

thetick

Posts: 246

Joined: Mon Jul 01, 2013 7:27 pm

partyk1d24

by [partyk1d24](#) » Sat Dec 28, 2013 12:58 am

Posts: 12
Joined: Thu Dec 26,
2013 6:10 pm

I get all that it was built for a signage platform (we all develop and learn) but the box is clearly linux. For those of us that like to take a risk with our personal hardware, wouldn't it be fairly easy to allow us to install libc and start cross compiling. Right now I am considering a server and rendering through compressed UDP streams. But that seems a little extreme to me.

An HTML5 view would go a long way to help the platform. At least then people could consider it within a responsive design.

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