NAME

> su − become super-user or another user

SYNOPSIS

> su [−] [name [arg ...]]

DESCRIPTION

> *Su* allows one to become another user without logging off. The default user *name* is **root** (i.e., super-user).
>
> To use *su*, the appropriate password must be supplied (unless one is already super-user). If the password is correct, *su* will execute the Shell with the user-id set to that of the specified user. To restore normal user-id privileges, type an end-of-file to the super-user Shell.
>
> Any additional arguments are passed to the Shell, permitting the super-user to run Shell procedures with restricted privileges (an *arg* of the form −c *string* executes *string* via the Shell).
>
> An initial − flag causes the environment to be changed to the one that would be expected if the user actually logged in again. This is done by invoking the shell with an *arg0* of −**su** causing the **.profile** in the home directory of the new user-id to be executed. Otherwise, the environment is passed along. Note that the **.profile** can check *arg0* for −**sh** or −**su** to determine how it was invoked.

FILES

> | | |
> |---|---|
> | /etc/passwd | system's password file |
> | $HOME/.profile | user's profile |

SEE ALSO

> env(1), login(1), sh(1), environ(7).