

[LoginWindow crash](#)

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Filed under: [mac](#) — root @ 4:58 pm

I've recently had a problem with OsX starting, it just tried to launch loginwindow repeatedly and was stuck at blue startup screen. I've tried all the usual ways, repaired permissions, checked drives, nothing helped. After starting in verbose-mode(Command+v on startup) i've noticed i have two crashes going on, securityd and loginwindow. I've googled for loginwindow related failures and tried a few things(reset PRAM, delete loginwindow plists(/Library/Preferences/com.apple.loginwindow.plist, ~/Library/Preferences/loginwindow.plist) but nothing helped. After that, i tried to investigate securityd crashes and bingo, it was crashing in CFDictionaryContainsKey. After googling some more i found a very useful blog post about fixing osx crashes: <http://sutes.co.uk/2008/09/itunes-8-update.html> which details how to investigate the problems and fix them.

Apparently, i had the same issue as Chris in my case. So what i did in the end is booted in single-user mode(Command+s on startup), then type

```
/sbin/mount -uw /
fs_usage >/var/log/fs-usage &
exit
```

After it hang on startup again i rebooted into single-user mode again and did

```
/sbin/mount -uw /
cd /var/log
grep securityd fs-usage
```

and found that the last read was of /private/etc/authorization. So the problem was with the corrupted authorization file. Unfortunately, i didn't have any backups to restore the file. Thankfully, there was a solution at apple discussions board. Apparently, the osx install disk also has the right /etc/authorization file. So I just booted using osX install disk, launched terminal and did

```
rm /Volumes/osx/private/etc/authorization
cp /etc/authorization /Volumes/osx/private/etc
```

After that, it started up succesfully. Thanks to Chris for the method

3 Comments

1. saved my life!!!!Big THX

Comment by Harzbirne — June 4, 2010 @ [5:16 am](#)

2. [...] but that didn't help me much (where is this file?). Googleing for that lead me to a blog entry labeled "LoginWindow crash" which explains things quite detailed. A second hint came from the insanelymac.com forum, [...]

Pingback by [Mac hangs at blue screen \(login window crash\)](#) — August 16, 2010 @ [10:00 pm](#)

3. Hey, I can't figure out how to type the underscore key... :/ could you help me, please? many thanks.

Comment by Diogo Freitas — January 30, 2011 @ [11:45 pm](#)

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