

# Resetting User Passwords in KeycloakNew Page

Password resets are a critical part of account lifecycle management. Keycloak provides multiple secure methods for resetting a user's password manually through the Admin Console, programmatically via REST API, or via user self-service workflows using email links. This guide walks through all these approaches, including configuration steps, best practices, and common issues.

## Resetting Password via Admin Console

This is the most direct method for administrators to reset passwords.

### Access the Admin Console

Log in to:

http://<your-keycloak-domain>/admin/

Select the desired realm.

### Reset a User's Password

1. Go to **Users > [username] > Credentials**
2. Under **Set Password**:
  - Enter a new password
  - Confirm it
  - Toggle **Temporary**:
    - **ON** = user will be forced to change it on next login
    - **OFF** = permanent change
3. Click **Set Password**

The new password takes effect immediately.

## Set password for root

Password \*

New password confirmation \*

Temporary ?

On

Save

Cancel

# Resetting Password via REST API

## Get Admin Access Token

```
curl -X POST "https://<keycloak-domain>/realms/master/protocol/openid-connect/token" \  
-H "Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded" \  
-d "username=admin" \  
-d "password=admin-password" \  
-d "grant_type=password" \  
-d "client_id=admin-cli"
```

## Set New Password for a User

```
curl -X PUT "https://<keycloak-domain>/admin/realms/<realm>/users/<user-id>/reset-password" \  
-H "Authorization: Bearer <access_token>" \  
-H "Content-Type: application/json" \  
-d '{  
  "type": "password",  
  "value": "SecurePassword123!",  
  "temporary": false  
'
```

To get <user-id>:

```
curl -H "Authorization: Bearer <access_token>" \  
https://<keycloak-domain>/admin/realms/<realm>/users?username=<username>
```

# Resetting Password via Docker CLI

## Inside the Container

```
docker exec -it keycloak bash
```

## Reset User Password

```
/opt/keycloak/bin/kcadm.sh config credentials \  
--server http://localhost:8080 \  
--realm master --user admin --password admin  
  
/opt/keycloak/bin/kcadm.sh set-password -r <realm> \  
--username <username> --new-password "SecurePassword123!" --temporary=false
```

# Resetting Password via Email (Self-Service)

## Configure SMTP

1. Go to **Realm Settings > Email**
2. Enter your SMTP configuration:
  - Host
  - Port
  - From address
  - Username/password
3. Click **Test Connection**
4. Click **Save**

### Connection & Authentication

Host \*

Port

SMTP port (defaults to 25)

Encryption

☐ Enable SSL

☐ Enable StartTLS

Authentication

☒ Disabled

☐ Enable Debug SMTP

## Enable “Forgot Password” Option

1. Go to **Authentication > Flows > Browser**
2. Ensure **Reset Credentials** subflow is present
3. Under **Realm Settings > Login**, enable:
  - **Forgot Password**
  - **Email as Username** (optional)

master

Enabled

Action

Realm settings are settings that control the options for users, applications, roles, and groups in the current realm. [Learn more](#)

<

General

Login

Email

Themes

Keys

Events

Localization

Security defenses

Sessions

>

### Login screen customization

User registration

☐

Off

Forgot password

☒

On

Remember me

☐

Off

### Email settings

Email as username

☒

On

Login with email

☒

On

Duplicate emails

☐

Off

Verify email

☐

Off

## Trigger Reset Link (User Side)

Users can go to the login page, click **Forgot Password**, and receive a reset link via email.

# Required Permissions

- Admin Console: Must have manage-users role
- REST API: Token must have manage-users in the target realm

To assign via Admin Console:

Users > [admin-user] > Role Mappings > Realm Roles > Add 'manage-users'

# Best Practices for Password Resets

- **Always Use Temporary Passwords for Manual Resets:** For admin-initiated resets, mark passwords as temporary to enforce user re-entry.
- **Secure SMTP Configuration:** Always use TLS/SSL for SMTP and avoid using free/public SMTP providers in production.
- **Limit Password Reset Frequency:** Use brute-force protection under **Realm Settings > Security Defenses > Brute Force Detection**.
- **Log and Audit Password Resets:** Enable **Events > Settings** to log password reset events and maintain an audit trail.
- **Inform Users of Security Practices:** Add disclaimers to reset emails and verify request intent using short-lived links.

# Common Issues and Troubleshooting

Issue	Possible Cause	Solution
Password reset link not received	SMTP not configured or invalid	Set up SMTP under Realm Settings > Email
Reset link expired	Time limit exceeded	Increase <b>Reset Link Lifespan</b> under Realm Settings > Tokens
User not prompted to change password	Password not marked as temporary	Enable temporary: true or configure as required action
REST API returns 403 Forbidden	Missing permissions	Ensure admin token has manage-users role
User not found error	Wrong realm or username	Confirm realm and check Users > View all users

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