

Cisco – Key Combinations for Break Sequence

Table of Contents

<u>Standard Break Key Sequence Combinations During Password Recovery</u>	1
<u>Please provide your feedback on this document</u>	1
<u>Introduction</u>	1
<u>Standard Break Key Combinations</u>	1
<u>Software</u>	1
<u>Platform</u>	1
<u>Operating System</u>	1
<u>Try This</u>	1
<u>Troubleshooting Tips</u>	2
<u>How to Simulate a Break Key Sequence</u>	2
<u>Related Information</u>	3

Standard Break Key Sequence Combinations During Password Recovery

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Introduction

[Standard Break Key Combinations](#)

[Troubleshooting Tips](#)

[How to Simulate a Break Key Sequence](#)

[Related Information](#)

Introduction

This document provides standard break key sequence combinations for the most common operating systems, and some troubleshooting tips.

Standard Break Key Combinations

Software	Platform	Operating System	Try This
Hyperterminal	IBM Compatible	Windows 2000	Ctrl-Break
Hyperterminal (version 595160)	IBM Compatible	Windows 95	Ctrl-F6-Break
Kermit	Sun Workstation	UNIX	Ctrl-
			Ctrl-\b
MicroPhone Pro	IBM Compatible	Windows	Ctrl-Break
Minicom	IBM Compatible	Linux	Ctrl-a f
ProComm Plus	IBM Compatible	DOS or Windows	Alt-b
Telix	IBM Compatible	DOS	Ctrl-End
Telnet to Cisco	IBM Compatible	N/A	Ctrl-]
Teraterm	IBM Compatible	Windows	Alt-b

Terminal	IBM Compatible	Windows	Break
			Ctrl-Break
Tip	Sun Workstation	UNIX	Ctrl-], then Break or Ctrl-c
			~#
VT 100 Emulation	Data General	N/A	F16
Windows NT	IBM Compatible	Windows	Break-F5
			Shift-F5
			Shift-6 Shift-4 Shift-b (^\$B)
Z-TERMINAL	Mac	Apple	Command-b
N/A	Break-Out Box	N/A	Connect pin 2 (X-mit) to +V for half a second
	Cisco to aux port	N/A	Control-Shft-6, then b
	IBM Compatible	N/A	Ctrl-Break

Troubleshooting Tips

- Problems encountered during password recovery often occur because users do not know what the break key sequence is for the (non-Cisco) software they are using. For software not listed above and for additional information, users should refer to the documentation of their individual software packages.
- The auxiliary (AUX) port is not active during the boot sequence of a router. Therefore, sending a break through the AUX port does not work. You need to be connected to the console port, and have the following settings:
 - 9600 baud rate
 - No parity
 - 8 data bits
 - 1 stop bit
 - No flow control
- Some versions of Windows NT have hyperterminal softwares that have a problem with sending the correct break key signal. You might consider visiting <http://www.hilgraeve.com/hpte/index.html> for an upgrade of the hyperterminal software.

How to Simulate a Break Key Sequence

This is useful if your terminal emulator doesn't support the break key, or if a bug prevents it from sending the correct signal (the hyperterminal under Windows NT used to suffer from this behavior):

1. Connect to the router with the following terminal settings:

Cisco – Key Combinations for Break Sequence

1200 baud rate
No parity
8 data bits
1 stop bit
No flow control

You no longer see any output on your screen. This is normal.

2. Power cycle (switch off and then on) the router and press the spacebar for 10–15 seconds. This generates a signal similar to the break sequence.
3. Disconnect your terminal and reconnect with a 9600 baud rate. You should now be in ROM Monitor mode.

Related Information

- [Password Recovery Procedures](#)
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