

Password_Audit_&_Securing

Strong passwords are a MUST. Secure connections are also a MUST. I.E. no ftp etc.

Audit Passwords

To audit your passwords - you need to install a program called 'john the ripper' or simply "john"

```
apt-get install john
john -single /etc/passwd # does a single pass
john -single /etc/shadow (if exists)
john /etc/passwd # does all three passes
john # to get all available options.
john /path/to/htpasswd # also happily does htaccess passwords!
```

Hydra is the name of a similar app used to test password strength.

Source/More info: <http://www.debian-administration.org/articles/59>

Force Strong Passwords

```
apt-get install libpam-cracklib
# the above installs itself ontop of the 'passwd' command.
# issuing a passwd (changing password) will test the strength of the new password.
vi /etc/pam.d/common.password
#comment out the following line:
#password required pam_unix.so nullok obscure min=4 max=8 md5
#uncomment:
password required pam_cracklib.so retry=3 minlen=6 difok=3
password required pam_unix.so use_authtok nullok md5
```

Thats it. A user trying to set too short a password etc. won't be able. Legend:

```
retry=2 : Prompt user at most 2 times before returning with error
minlen=10 : minimum length allowed for an account password is set to 10 characters. This is the mini
difok=6: How many characters can be the same in the new password relative to the old. User will see
You can also apply following options to compute the 'unsimplicity' of the password.
dcredit=N : Digits characters
ucredit=N : Upper characters
lcredit=N : Lower characters
ocredit=N : Other characters
```

Note: The restrictions are only applied to normal users. Root still can set a weak password.

References: http://darwish-07.blogspot.com/2007_06_01_archive.html

<http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/linux-check-passwords-against-a-dictionary-attack.html> (Legend Info.)

<http://idahopcug.apcug.org/Debian/securing-debian-howto.en.pdf>

Debian page -> <http://packages.debian.org/unstable/libs/libpam-cracklib>

Generate a Strong Random Password

```
pwgen
```

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as described already on this wiki here -> [pwgen](#)