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### Build a Web Interface to Allow Users to Change their Passwords (The Web Password Page)

The purpose of this paper is to show you (the System Administrator) how to break free from the mundane task of periodically changing user passwords (in keeping with good security practices from GIAC Security Essentials). This document is designed to show you step-by-step how to build a web page for users to update their passwords on a UNIX or Windows server, easily, securely and without spending too much money on software! You'll need to be a little resourceful gathering the mostly free and a little commercial software...

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# Build a Web Interface to Allow Users to Change their Passwords (The Web Password Page)

SANS Security Essentials GSEC Practical Assignment  
Version 1.3 (amended December 12, 2001)  
Updated to include inline content February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009

## Overview

The purpose of this paper is to show you (the System Administrator) how to break free from the mundane task of periodically changing user passwords (in keeping with good security practices from GIAC Security Essentials). This document is designed to show you step-by-step how to build a web page for users to update their passwords on a UNIX or Windows server, easily, securely and without spending too much money on software! You'll need to be a little resourceful gathering the mostly free and a little commercial software, understanding basic shell programming, and knowing a little about compiling/installing UNIX software.

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## Notice

*This document serves as an example of what you can implement within your own place of work. Proprietary security configuration assumptions in this example may or may not be consistent with your own security configurations. I do not intend to show how your web server's security can be strengthened outside of the web server related components. There are many security configurations for the Apache httpd.conf file and the UNIX server it runs on in this paper. This paper only modifies the particular options/configurations intrinsic to setting up the Web Password Page. The paper only does so much!*

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## Preliminary Notes

- This paper demonstrates how to build your own Web Password Page. Assembling it is kind of like building something with [Lego®](http://shop.lego.com/default.asp) (<http://shop.lego.com/default.asp>). Although I didn't design each sub-component, I did design the overall construction - how it all fits together. It's nothing fancy and you could probably find someone who's already built something similar (I didn't). It's hard to design (or write about) anything someone hasn't already done before. I like it because past the initial appearance, it's totally my design. This isn't a new concept, just an easy one to construct yourself. I also like it because the group using it likes and uses it. It saves them time, it's cheap (inexpensive), and frees up their admins for more meaningful tasks.
- Apache's web server (<http://httpd.apache.org>) running on an SGI server (IRIX 6.5) will be used in all examples. Statistics gathered by Netcraft

(<http://www.netcraft.com/survey>) show Apache to be the most widely used web server (and has been since '96) on the Internet.

### Totals for Top Servers Across All Domains\*

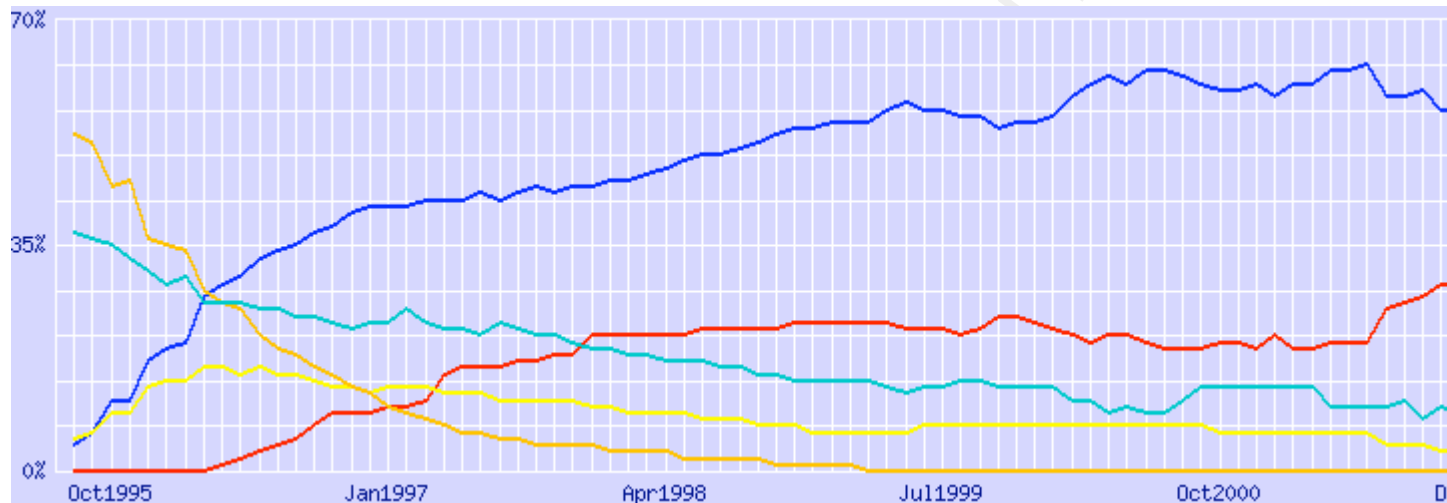


Figure 1:

"**iPlanet** is the sum of sites running iPlanet-Enterprise, Netscape-Enterprise, Netscape-FastTrack, Netscape-Commerce, Netscape-Communications, Netsite-Commerce & Netsite-Communications. **Microsoft** is the sum of sites running Microsoft-Internet-Information-Server, Microsoft-IIS, Microsoft-IIS-W, Microsoft-PWS-95, & Microsoft-PWS." <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.netcraft.com/survey>

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- You may need to rename bstring.h in the /usr/local/include directory to something else to avoid being seen by the Apache configuration script (observed problem with Sun Solaris). The Kerberos distribution provides a copy of bstring.h that incorrectly redefines the memset() prototype. The Apache configuration script looks for header files and assumes every one it finds on the system is correct and attempts to include it in the buff.c code.
- Get the latest Apache from <http://www.apache.org/dist/httpd/>
  - Untar the Apache source
    - tar xvf apache\_x.y.z.tar
- Get the latest OpenSSL from <http://www.openssl.org/source/>
  - See [http://httpd.apache.org/docs-2.0/ssl/ssl\\_overview.html](http://httpd.apache.org/docs-2.0/ssl/ssl_overview.html)
  - Build OpenSSL
    - tar xvf openssl-x.y.z.tar
    - # cd openssl-x.y.z
    - # ./config
    - # make
    - # make install
    - # cd ..
- Get the latest mod\_ssl from <http://www.modssl.org/source/>
  - Untar mod\_ssl and configure the SSL-aware Apache
    - tar xvf mod\_ssl-a.b.c-x.y.z.tar
    - # cd mod\_ssl-a.b.c-x.y.z
    - # ./configure \
      - with-apache=../apache\_x.y.z \
      - with-ssl=../openssl-x.y.z \
      - prefix=/usr/local/apache
    - # cd ..
  - Modify the SSL-aware Apache configuration
    - # cd apache\_x.y.z
    - # cd src
    - # cp Configuration.apaci Configuration
    - Edit the Configuration file for the following:
      - # The location of the kerberos library
      - EXTRA\_LDFLAGS=-L/usr/local/lib
      - EXTRA\_LIBS=-lcom\_err -lkrb5 -lk5crypto
      - # The location of the kerberos header files
      - EXTRA\_INCLUDES=-I/usr/local/include
      - AddModule modules/kerb/libkerb.a
    - # cd ../../apache\_x.y.z
    - # cd src
    - # Configure
    - # cd ../..
- Make and Install Apache
  - # cd apache\_x.y.z
  - # make

- Check the httpd binary to see that mod\_kerb, mod\_ssl, and other appropriate modules are in it by doing an "apache\_x.y.z/src/httpd -l". The "-l" is not a negative one. It is phonetically a "dash-el".

The output should like like this:

```
secureserver_xyz# apache_x.y.z/src/httpd -l  
Compiled-in modules:
```

```
http_core.c  
mod_kerb.c  
mod_env.c  
mod_log_config.c  
mod_mime.c  
mod_negotiation.c  
mod_status.c  
mod_include.c  
mod_autoindex.c  
mod_dir.c  
mod_cgi.c  
mod_asis.c  
mod_imap.c  
mod_actions.c  
mod_userdir.c  
mod_alias.c  
mod_access.c  
mod_auth.c  
mod_setenvif.c  
mod_ssl.c
```

- At this point you have successfully made Apache. The next step is to install it. Before you do, if you're going to get a certificate for your server in the future, you may want to:
  - "# make certificate"

This is not necessary but may be helpful to your installation later when you get your server's certificate. It will make some default entries for SSL certificate usage in your httpd.conf file. It won't disrupt anything and can only help you. It's not that difficult, but the installation of a certificate for your server is beyond the purpose of this paper. The certificate basically means the server is who it claims to be, assuming the issuing authority of the certificate is who it claims to be. When you use a check or credit card to purchase something, most stores require an additional piece of identification. Like your driver's license from your state's motor vehicle department helps tell who you are, a certificate from a credible certifying authority vouches for your computer's identification. The

scope of this paper is more about the "driving" and less about the "license".

- Finally, do a:
  - # make install
- Edit the httpd.conf file to be kerberos aware
  - In "Section 1: Global Environment", after the line "ServerType standalone":

```
KrbAuthCache On
KrbLog logs/kerberos_log
```

- In the "SSL Support" paragraph, modify the listening ports. Port 80 for http and 443 for https are standard numbers for these ports, however you can make them different.

```
## SSL Support
##
## When we also provide SSL we have to listen to the
## standard HTTP port (see above) and to the HTTPS port
##
<IfDefine SSL>
    Listen 80
    Listen 443
</IfDefine>
```

- You may restrict access to your server to particular IPs or DNS domains. I would recommend you restrict the https access to only those individuals needing access, based on their kerberos login only. This gives the user the flexibility to authenticate from any machine on your network, without preloading Apache's authentication mechanism with users. Apache's authentication mechanism is far inferior to a Kerberos login anyway. Put in the httpd.conf for a directory restriction (example):

```
<Directory />
    Options Indexes FollowSymLinks MultiViews
    #AllowOverride None
    AllowOverride AuthConfig
    # You can substitute your custom short string for "Secure-
    Kerberos".
    # It is the text in a dialogue box that prompts the user for their
    password
    # and usually defines the Kerberos authentication realm
    AuthName Secure-Kerberos
    AuthType KerberosV5
    require valid-user
```

```
Order allow,deny
Allow from all
</Directory>
```

- For the sake of simplicity, make ".htaccess" the AccessFileName and restrict it's viewing using the directive:

```
<Files ~ "\.ht">
Order allow,deny
Deny from all
</Files>
```

- In httpd.conf, edit the CustomLog directive section to include the line:

```
LogFormat "%{%D%T}t %h %u \"%r\" %>s %{KerbAuth}n"
Kerberos
```

- You are strongly encouraged to run the Apache server as a non-root user. The example here shows the account "wwwuser" with it's own group of "www". You could use a restricted shell (<http://www.securityfocus.com/tools/590>) for the non-root user or use suexec (<http://httpd.apache.org/docs-2.0/suexec.html>), which allows CGI programs to be run with different user permissions. It is good practice to only put the web account in the web group. However, at a minimum, make an entity account with a locked out password field (use an asterisk in the password field of the /etc/passwd or /etc/shadow) and add the lines to httpd.conf:

```
User wwwuser
Group wwwgroup
```

- Start the server. Use the "startssl" parameter in start script, usually located in /etc/rc2.d/S98apache. For example:
  - /usr/local/apache/bin/apachectl startssl
- Connect to your server from a client browser using the "https" prefix. You should be prompted for your Kerberos password in order to gain access. For example:
  - https://seureserver\_xyz/

---

## Section II: Set Up CGI Scripts

### Overview

This section's objective is to set up appropriate directories with appropriate access controls to the account running the web server and to the user authenticating via the web server. It uses some interesting scripts which allow the selection of a password, which is stored in encrypted form in a protected



directory. The contents of the encrypted file are then read by a privileged account, which modifies the password for the specified user.

## Tasks

- Set Up cgi-bin/password CGI scripts
  - You will need to obtain Perl (<http://www.perl.org>) which is used to obtain information from invalid access to the web password form. Typically and for the purposes of this paper, it is installed in /usr/local/bin.
  - Enable files with extensions of "cgi" to be run from your web server, assuming your ScriptAlias variable in httpd.conf is set to /usr/local/apache/cgi-bin (the Apache default):
    - In the "<IfModule mod\_alias.c>" section of your httpd.conf, ensure the directive is present:

```
<Directory "/usr/local/apache/cgi-bin">  
    SSLOptions +StdEnvVars  
</Directory>
```

```
<Directory "/usr/local/apache/cgi-bin">  
    AllowOverride AuthConfig  
    #AllowOverride None  
    Options None  
    Order allow,deny  
    Allow from all  
</Directory>
```

```
<Files ~ "\.(cgi|shtml|phtml|php3?)$">  
    SSLOptions +StdEnvVars  
</Files>
```

- Make the directory /usr/local/apache/cgi-bin/passwd. Set the permissions on this directory are 0755, owned by root and grouped to bin. The log files kept by these scripts will not contain any password information. Combined with Apache's log files, produce an accurate record of a user Web Password Page access and script actions. The scripts use the "post" method of transferring data to one another. As opposed to the "get" method, the "post" method is a bit more complex to use and allows that data to be separate from the URL. It's used here to prevent users from using URL arguments to compromise data or even see how information is being passed around. The variables are "posted" internal to the process on the Apache server, separate from the memory process on the browser client end. Deposit the following scripts, also with the same permissions in this directory:
  - [pwform.cgi](#):

```
#!/bin/sh
```

```

#####
#
# Program:          /usr/local/apache/cgi-bin/password/pwform.cgi
# Credit:  In God We Trust
#
# Purpose:  The Web Password Form:
#           1) Dynamically generate a user page in memory.
#           2) Redirect the browser to load the page in the server's memory.
#
# OS:  IRIX, IRIX64
#
#####

#####
# Variable setup
#####
UPDATE_NAME="Web Password Form: Generate user page in memory. Transfer user to it."
SCRIPT_SHORTNAME="pwform.cgi"
SCRIPT_VERSION=1.0
LOGDATE=`/usr/bin/date +%d%h%y-%T`
# Make the LOGFILE directory mode 500 and owned by the web account
LOGFILE=/usr/local/apache/logs/harvest/form.log
DAYMONTHYEAR=`/usr/bin/date +%d%h%y`

#####
# Independent Variables #
#####
AWK=/bin/awk
CAT=/usr/bin/cat
CD=cd
CHGRP=/usr/bin/chgrp
CHGRP=/usr/bin/chgrp
CHMOD=/usr/bin/chmod
CHOWN=/usr/bin/chown
CP=/usr/bin/cp
CUT=/usr/bin/cut
DATE=/usr/bin/date
ECHO=/usr/bin/echo
EGREP=/usr/bin/egrep
EXPR=/sbin/expr
GREP=/usr/bin/grep
MAIL=/usr/sbin/Mail
MKDIR=/usr/bin/mkdir
MV=/usr/bin/mv
PS=/usr/bin/ps
RM=/bin/rm
SED=/usr/bin/sed
SLEEP=/bin/sleep
SORT=/usr/bin/sort
TAR=/usr/bin/tar
TEE=/usr/bin/tee
TOUCH=/usr/bin/touch
TR=/usr/bin/tr
UNIQ=/usr/bin/uniq
WC=/sbin/wc

#####
# Dependent Variables #
#####
MINUTES=`ECHO $LOGDATE |SAWK -F: '{ print $2 }'`
OS=`/bin/uname -s | $CUT -c1-4`
OSR=`/bin/uname -r | $CUT -d. -f1`
OSRR=`/bin/uname -r | $CUT -d. -f2`
SYS_NAME=`/sbin/uname -s | $CUT -c1-4`

#####
# Script Specific Variables #
#####
ADMIN_EMAIL="webadmin@servername_xyz.com"

```





- Place this file (be sure to dos2unix it in order to remove the hard returns from the ascii code) in the cgi-bin/passwd directory and rename it to "pwform.cgi".
- It uses an IRIX binary to generate passwords. Various options give more different types of passwords for the user to select from. I've chosen to parse through the password specification options "-c -d -m -C -D -M", using each one type for each row (6 rows, 5 columns). Although you can use just about any password generator, gen\_password<sup>1</sup> has several options (see also the output [example](#) below, "User Password Change Form") including:

```
./gen_password -h
```

Usage:

```
gen_password [-h | -c | -d | -m | -C | -D | -M] [-P #]
Generate 8 Character Pseudo-Pronouncible Passwords
with
Characteristics defined by one of the flags.
```

Option ==> Meaning:

h ==> Print this list

Password Specifications:

c ==> 1 Uppercase, 7 lowercase, no digits

d ==> 1 Uppercase, 1-7 lowercase, 0-6 digits

m ==> 1 Uppercase, 1-6 lowercase, 1-6 digits

C ==> 1-7 Uppercase, 1-7 lowercase, no digits

D ==> 1-7 Uppercase, 1-7 lowercase, 0-6 digits

M ==> 1-6 Uppercase, 1-6 lowercase, 1-6 digits

A ==> 0-8 Uppercase, 0-8 lowercase, 0-8 digits

P ==> Password Count / Loop (-L #)

1-1000 (Default = 1)

<sup>1</sup> Rahe, Bill, and others. "gen\_password" Jan. 1998. URL:

[http://www.lanl.gov/ascii/DCE/Presentations/Workshop-Jan98/dce\\_accounts.ppt](http://www.lanl.gov/ascii/DCE/Presentations/Workshop-Jan98/dce_accounts.ppt)

- [pwupdate.cgi](#):

```
#!/bin/sh
#####
#
# Program: /usr/local/apache/cgi-bin/password/pwupdate.cgi
# Credit: In God We Trust
#
```

```

# Purpose: The Web Password Form: Update data directory with password for user.
#
#   OS: IRIX, IRIX64
#
#####

#####
# Variable setup
#####
UPDATE_NAME="Web Password Form: Update data directory with password for user."
SCRIPT_SHORTNAME="pwupdate.cgi"
SCRIPT_VERSION=1.0
LOGDATE=`/usr/bin/date +%d%h%y-%T`
# Make the LOGFILE directory mode 500 and owned by the web account
LOGFILE=/usr/local/apache/logs/harvest/form.log
DAYMONTHYEAR=`/usr/bin/date +%d%h%y`

#####
# Independent Variables #
#####
AWK=/bin/awk
CAT=/usr/bin/cat
CD=cd
CHGRP=/usr/bin/chgrp
CHGRP=/usr/bin/chgrp
CHMOD=/usr/bin/chmod
CHOWN=/usr/bin/chown
CP=/usr/bin/cp
CRYPT=/usr/bin/encrypt
CUT=/usr/bin/cut
DATE=/usr/bin/date
ECHO=/usr/bin/echo
EGREP=/usr/bin/egrep
EXPR=/sbin/expr
GREP=/usr/bin/grep
MAIL=/usr/sbin/Mail
MKDIR=/usr/bin/mkdir
MV=/usr/bin/mv
PS=/usr/bin/ps
RM=/bin/rm
SED=/usr/bin/sed
SLEEP=/bin/sleep
SORT=/usr/bin/sort
TAR=/usr/bin/tar
TEE=/usr/bin/tee
TOUCH=/usr/bin/touch
TR=/usr/bin/tr
UNIQ=/usr/bin/uniq
WC=/sbin/wc

#####
# Dependent Variables #
#####
MINUTES=`ECHO $LOGDATE | $AWK -F: '{ print $2 }'`
OS=`/bin/uname -s | $CUT -c1-4`
OSR=`/bin/uname -r | $CUT -d. -f1`
OSRR=`/bin/uname -r | $CUT -d. -f2`
SYS_NAME=`/sbin/uname -s | $CUT -c1-4`

#####
# Script Specific Variables #
#####
ADMIN_EMAIL="webadmin@servername_xyz.com"
IDEA=/bin/idea
DATADIR=/opt/securewebdata/passwords
PASSWORD_LENGTH_MAX=8
PUBLICKEY=`$CAT /opt/securewebdata/keys/public.unix`
PRIVATEKEYFILE=/opt/securewebdata/keys/private.unix
PRIVATEKEY=`$IDEA -d -k $PUBLICKEY $PRIVATEKEYFILE`
# WWWUSER and WWWGROUP are the account and group that runs the https server.

```

```

WWWUSER="wwwuser"
WWWGROUP="wwwgroup"

#####
# Configure mail message (optional)
#####
UPDATE_DESC="Description: ${UPDATE_NAME}"
#####

#####
#Subroutine Declarations
#####
# lecho - Logged echo to stdout
#   Arg 0 to N = Data to be echoed
lecho()
{
    $ECHO "$REMOTE_USER:   @" >> $LOGFILE
    $ECHO "$@"
}

echolog()
{
    $ECHO "$REMOTE_USER:   @" >> $LOGFILE
}

#####
# nuke - a kinder, gentler obliterator
nuke()
{
    if [ -n "$1" -a "$1" != "/" ]; then
        $RM -fr "$1"
    fi
}

#####
# own_grp_mod -   Changes user and group ownership and modifies permissions
own_grp_mod()
{
    if [ -n $1 -a -n $2 -a -n $3 -a -n $4 ];then
        if [ -f "$4" -o -d "$4" ];then
            OLD_OBJECTDATA=`ls -ld $4`
            echolog "OLD: $OLD_OBJECTDATA"
            $CHOWN $1 $4
            $CHGRP $2 $4
            $CHMOD $3 $4
            NEW_OBJECTDATA=`ls -ld $4`
            echolog "NEW: $NEW_OBJECTDATA"
        else
            echolog "File or directory \"${4}\" does not exist."
        fi
    else
        echolog "Parameter missing, did not change permissions for \"${4}\"."
    fi
}

#####
# makedirectory
makedirectory()
{
    if [ ! -d "$1" ];then
        $MKDIR -p "$1"
    fi
}

#####
# invalid_access
log_invalid_access()
{
    lecho "$LOGDATE   Your wrongful attempt to access this page was logged.<br>Appropriate personnel will be notified."
    echolog "QUERY_STRING=$QUERY_STRING"
    echolog "ARGS=$ARGS"
    echolog "Environment follows:"
}

```

```

        /usr/local/bin/perl /usr/local/apache/cgi-bin/password/getenv.pl | STEE -a $LOGFILE | $MAIL -s "$SCRIPT_SHORTNAME -
Wrongful Attempt to Access Web Password Change Form" $ADMIN_EMAIL
        exit 1
    }

# disable filename globbing
set -f

$ECHO "Content-type: text/html"
$ECHO ""

$TOUCH $LOGFILE
echolog "##### BEGIN Script: $SCRIPT_SHORTNAME, $LOGDATE"
echolog "$UPDATE_DESC"

NUMBER=0
echolog "Result of User Web Password Change Form"
$ECHO "<head><title>Result of User Web Password Change Form</title><meta http-equiv='Content-Type' content='text/html; charset=iso-
8859-1'>
</head>"
#read buffer
ARGS1=`STR "&+" " "`
ARGS=`$ECHO $ARGS1 | $SED s@%2F@/@g`
IFS=" "

$CAT << EOF
<meta name="Description" content="">
<meta name="Keywords" content="">
<meta name="Author" content="Mark Holbrook">
<meta name="Generator" content="Web Password Generator">
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=iso-8859-1">

<center>
<h2>Results of User Web Password Change Form</h2>
<p>
<blockquote>
<blockquote>

EOF

USERNAME="$REMOTE_USER"
echolog "Attempting password change."
if [ -z "$QUERY_STRING" -a -n "$ARGS" ]; then
    for ITEM in "$ARGS"; do
        NUMBER=`$EXPR $NUMBER + 1`
        VARNAME=`$ECHO $ITEM | $AWK -F=" " '{ print $1 }'`
        VARVALUE=`$ECHO $ITEM | $AWK -F=" " '{ print $2 }'`
        if [ "$VARNAME" = "NEWPASSWORD1" ]; then
            PASSWORD1="$VARVALUE"
            # $ECHO "ITEM number $NUMBER = $ITEM<br>"
            # $ECHO "VARVALUE = $VARVALUE<br>"
        fi
        if [ "$VARNAME" = "NEWPASSWORD2" ]; then
            PASSWORD2="$VARVALUE"
        fi
    done
    makedirectory $DATADIR/$USERNAME
    own_grp_mod $WWWUSER $WWWGROUP 700 $DATADIR/$USERNAME

    PASSWORD_IN_CHOICES="no"
    if [ "$PASSWORD1" = "$PASSWORD2" ]; then
        PASSWORD="$PASSWORD1"
        PASSWORD_LENGTH=`$ECHO $PASSWORD | $WC -m`

        # Check out password for spaces - possible tampering with input
        COUNT=1
        while [ $COUNT -le $PASSWORD_LENGTH ]; do
            CHAR=`$ECHO "$PASSWORD" | $CUT -c${COUNT},${COUNT}`
            $ECHO "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz1234567890" | $GREP -s
"$CHAR" > /dev/null

```



```

        if [ $? -ne 0 ]; then
            log_invalid_access
        fi
        COUNT=`expr $COUNT + 1`
    done

    PASSWORD_LENGTH=`$EXPR $PASSWORD_LENGTH - 1`
    if [ -n "$PASSWORD" ]; then
        if [ "$PASSWORD_IN_CHOICES" = "yes" ]; then
            if [ $PASSWORD_LENGTH -eq $PASSWORD_LENGTH_MAX ]; then
                lecho "Your password has been entered successfully."
                $ECHO "<br>"
                $ECHO $PASSWORD | $IDEA -e -k $PRIVATEKEY >
"$DATADIR/$USERNAME/${USERNAME}.unix"
                $ECHO "[data]" > $DATADIR/$USERNAME/${USERNAME}.txt
                $ECHO "NewPassword=$PASSWORD" >>
"$DATADIR/$USERNAME/${USERNAME}.txt"
                $IDEA -e -k $PRIVATEKEY $DATADIR/$USERNAME/${USERNAME}.txt
                nuke $DATADIR/$USERNAME/${USERNAME}.txt
                own_grp_mod $WWWUSER $WWWGROUP 750
                own_grp_mod $WWWUSER $WWWGROUP 750
            else
                lecho "Your password must be $PASSWORD_LENGTH_MAX characters long."
                $ECHO "<br>"
                lecho "Your password was NOT updated."
                $ECHO "<br>"
            fi
        else
            lecho "You must choose a password within the given choices."
            $ECHO "<br>"
            lecho "Your choice did not match any of the choices provided."
            $ECHO "<br>"
            lecho "Your password was NOT updated."
            $ECHO "<br>"
        fi
    else
        lecho "You did not enter a password."
        $ECHO "<br>"
        lecho "Your password was NOT updated."
        $ECHO "<br>"
    fi
else
    lecho "Your password entries did not match."
    $ECHO "<br>"
    lecho "Your password was NOT updated."
    $ECHO "<br>"
fi

$CAT << EOF
</blockquote>
</blockquote>
<p>
<center>
<script language="JavaScript">
<!-- Begin
var name = navigator.appName
url=(document.referrer)
document.write('<A HREF="' + url + '">Go Back</A>');
// End -->
</script>
</center>
<p>
<div align="right">
<font size="-2">Web Password Page<br>Ver. 1.0, February 2001</font>
</div>

EOF

```

```

else
    log_invalid_access
fi

$TOUCH $LOGFILE

echolog "##### END Script: $SCRIPT_SHORTNAME"

exit 0

```

- This file has been re-named to pwform.txt for the purposes of viewing and not executing it.
- Place this file (be sure to dos2unix it in order to remove the hard returns from the ascii code) in the cgi-bin/passwd directory and rename it to "pwupdate.cgi".
- This script security takes data entered via the web form and stores it in a protected file on the server.
- You will need to review the variables used in the script to customize it for your use ([example output](#), "Results of User Password Change Form" pictured below).
- getenv.pl
  - This is a perl script which gathers information about a client in order to log invalid accesses to the password form.
  - Perl seems to do a very nice job at detecting and collecting the browser data.
  - Contents of the getenv.pl file (this script came packaged with my Apache source):

```

#!/usr/local/bin/perl
##
## printenv -- demo CGI program which just prints its
environment
##
print "Content-type: text/plain\n\n";
foreach $var (sort(keys(%ENV))) {
    $val = $ENV{$var};
    $val =~ s|\n|\\n|g;
    $val =~ s|"|\\"|g;
    print "${var}=\"${val}\"\\n";
}

```

- Set Up the Password Data Harvest Mechanism
  - You will also need to get IDEA, (International Data Encryption Algorithm, <ftp://ftp.cert.dfn.de/pub/tools/crypt/idea>), or another strong symmetric key cipher.
  - You will also need to install Expect. Expect is a wrapper for just about any command needing stdin. Expect (<http://expect.nist.gov>) for IRIX can be found at <http://freeware.sgi.com>.

- Be sure to set the securewebdata (see the pwupdate.cgi script) to permissions: root owned, sys grouped, chmod 755.
- Be sure to set the securewebdata/passwords subdirectory permissions: web account owned, webgroup grouped, chmod 500.
- Make the directory securewebdata/keys, and set the permissions to: root owned, webgroup grouped, chmod 550. This is the directory where the "private" and "public" Windows and UNIX encrypted and unencrypted files will reside (root owned, webgroup grouped and chmod 440). Of course these "public" and "private" keys are strictly by PKI (see <http://www.pki-page.org>) definition, but the concept does loosely apply. The "public" key is not encrypted, while the "private" one is and is more closely guarded.
- Make the directory securewebdata/bin, and set the permissions to: root owned, bin grouped, chmod 500. This is where the scripts run by root will gather the data deposited by the web account and modify the user passwords.
- Make the expect script expectpass.sh, and set permissions to root owned, bin grouped, chmod 500:

```
#!/usr/bin/expect
# this script called with username and password args, respectively
set password [lindex $argv 1]
spawn /bin/passwd [lindex $argv 0]
expect "assword*:"
send "$password\r"
expect "assword*:"
send "$password\r"
expect eof
exit 0
```

- The Cipher Key Files
  - The key files are just another way to implement an added layer of security to the password harvest data mechanism. Simply put, a "public" file contains an unencrypted password in plain text that is used by the IDEA cipher to decrypt the contents of the "private" file (the contents of these "public" and "private" key files must be set manually before-hand). This content is the private password used to decrypt the password data files deposited by the web password forms. The password is fed to the expect script, thereby changing the user's password. During all of this no temp files are used. No user's password resides on the disk unencrypted. No sensitive password information is written to disk, unencrypted or encrypted, except for the expect script using the /bin/passwd binary to write the encrypted password to the /etc/shadow file. It is all done in protected memory, running as root. This minimizes the necessity of viewing the password while manually running the /bin/passwd command, thereby exposing it to the administrator. Granted the

administrator has access to the data, but is not required to view the actual password, minimizing password exposure.

- Examples
  - #cat securewebdata/keys/public.unix  
passwordinplaintext
  - #cat securewebdata/keys/private.unix  
Tf Fq.↓≡tN△△A█k||q
  - #cat securewebdata/keys/public.nt  
[data]  
password="passwordinplaintext"
  - #cat securewebdata/keys/private.nt  
²1C≡í\$|1ö--ì\_ì|êal3W{}G|+mùz!!V`ç¹¼ Öxg/-
- Use a Script to Automatically Update the Passwords
  - UNIX  
Overview: Use "pwharvest.sh" to gather the data from the private files and populate the local authentication mechanism (/etc/shadow).
    - [pwharvest.sh](#):

```
#!/bin/sh
#####
#
# Program: /usr/local/apache/cgi-bin/password/pwupdate.cgi
# Credit: In God We Trust
#
# Purpose: The Web Password Form: Update data directory with password for user.
#
# OS: IRIX, IRIX64
#
#####

#####
# Variable setup
#####
UPDATE_NAME="Web Password Form: Update data directory with password for user."
SCRIPT_SHORTNAME="pwupdate.cgi"
SCRIPT_VERSION=1.0
LOGDATE=`/usr/bin/date +%d%h%y-%T`
# Make the LOGFILE directory mode 500 and owned by the web account
LOGFILE=/usr/local/apache/logs/harvest/form.log
DAYMONTHYEAR=`/usr/bin/date +%d%h%y`

#####
# Independent Variables #
#####
AWK=/bin/awk
CAT=/usr/bin/cat
CD=cd
CHGRP=/usr/bin/chgrp
CHGRP=/usr/bin/chgrp
CHMOD=/usr/bin/chmod
CHOWN=/usr/bin/chown
CP=/usr/bin/cp
CRYPT=/usr/bin/crypt
CUT=/usr/bin/cut
DATE=/usr/bin/date
ECHO=/usr/bin/echo
EGREP=/usr/bin/egrep
EXPR=/sbin/expr
GREP=/usr/bin/grep
MAIL=/usr/sbin/Mail
```

```
MKDIR=/usr/bin/mkdir
MV=/usr/bin/mv
PS=/usr/bin/ps
RM=/bin/rm
SED=/usr/bin/sed
SLEEP=/bin/sleep
SORT=/usr/bin/sort
TAR=/usr/bin/tar
TEE=/usr/bin/tee
TOUCH=/usr/bin/touch
TR=/usr/bin/tr
UNIQ=/usr/bin/uniq
WC=/sbin/wc
```

```
#####
```

```
# Dependent Variables #
```

```
#####
```

```
MINUTES=`$ECHO $LOGDATE | $AWK -F: '{ print $2 }'`
OS=`/bin/uname -s | $CUT -c1-4`
OSR=`/bin/uname -r | $CUT -d. -f1`
OSRR=`/bin/uname -r | $CUT -d. -f2`
SYS_NAME=`/sbin/uname -s | $CUT -c1-4`
```

```
#####
```

```
# Script Specific Variables #
```

```
#####
```

```
ADMIN_EMAIL="webadmin@servername_xyz.com"
IDEA=/bin/idea
DATADIR=/opt/securewebdata/passwords
PASSWORD_LENGTH_MAX=8
PUBLICKEY=`$CAT /opt/securewebdata/keys/public.unix`
PRIVATEKEYFILE=/opt/securewebdata/keys/private.unix
PRIVATEKEY=`$IDEA -d -k $PUBLICKEY $PRIVATEKEYFILE`
# WWWUSER and WWWGROUP are the account and group that runs the https server.
WWWUSER="wwwuser"
WWWGROUP="wwwgroup"
```

```
#####
```

```
# Configure mail message (optional)
```

```
#####
```

```
UPDATE_DESC="Description: ${UPDATE_NAME}"
```

```
#####
```

```
#####
```

```
#Subroutine Declarations
```

```
#####
```

```
# lecho - Logged echo to stdout
```

```
# Arg 0 to N = Data to be echoed
```

```
lecho()
```

```
{
    $ECHO "$REMOTE_USER:  $@" >> $LOGFILE
    $ECHO "$@"
}
```

```
echolog()
```

```
{
    $ECHO "$REMOTE_USER:  $@" >> $LOGFILE
}
```

```
#####
```

```
# nuke - a kinder, gentler obliterater
```

```
nuke()
```

```
{
    if [ -n "$1" -a "$1" != "/" ]; then
        $RM -fr "$1"
    fi
}
```

```
#####
```

```
# own_grp_mod - Changes user and group ownership and modifies permissions
```

```
own_grp_mod()
```

```

{
if [ -n $1 -a -n $2 -a -n $3 -a -n $4 ];then
    if [ -f "$4" -o -d "$4" ];then
        OLD_OBJECTDATA=`ls -ld $4`
        echolog "OLD: $OLD_OBJECTDATA"
        $CHOWN $1 $4
        $CHGRP $2 $4
        $CHMOD $3 $4
        NEW_OBJECTDATA=`ls -ld $4`
        echolog "NEW: $NEW_OBJECTDATA"
    else
        echolog "File or directory \"${4}\" does not exist."
    fi
else
    echolog "Parameter missing, did not change permissions for \"${4}\"."
fi
}

#####
# makedirectory
makedirectory()
{
    if [ ! -d "$1" ];then
        $MKDIR -p "$1"
    fi
}

#####
# invalid_access
log_invalid_access()
{
    lecho "$LOGDATE Your wrongful attempt to access this page was logged.<br>Appropriate personnel will be notified."
    echolog "QUERY_STRING=$QUERY_STRING"
    echolog "ARGS=$ARGS"
    echolog "Environment follows:"
    /usr/local/bin/perl /usr/local/apache/cgi-bin/password/getenv.pl | $TEE -a $LOGFILE | $MAIL -s "$SCRIPT_SHORTNAME -
Wrongful Attempt to Access Web Password Change Form" $ADMIN_EMAIL
    exit 1
}

# disable filename globbing
set -f

$ECHO "Content-type: text/html"
$ECHO ""

$TOUCH $LOGFILE
echolog "##### BEGIN Script: $SCRIPT_SHORTNAME, $LOGDATE"
echolog "$UPDATE_DESC"

NUMBER=0
echolog "Result of User Web Password Change Form"
$ECHO "<head><title>Result of User Web Password Change Form</title><meta http-equiv='Content-Type' content='text/html; charset=iso-
8859-1'>
</head>"
#read buffer
ARGS1=`$STR "&+" " "`
ARGS=`$ECHO $ARGS1 | $SED s@%2F@/@g`
IFS=" "

$CAT << EOF
<meta name="Description" content="">
<meta name="Keywords" content="">
<meta name="Author" content="Mark Holbrook">
<meta name="Generator" content="Web Password Generator">
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=iso-8859-1">
<center>
<h2>Results of User Web Password Change Form</h2>
<p>
<blockquote>
</blockquote>

```



```

                fi
            else
                lecho "You did not enter a password."
                $ECHO "<br>"
                lecho "Your password was NOT updated."
                $ECHO "<br>"
            fi
        else
            lecho "Your password entries did not match."
            $ECHO "<br>"
            lecho "Your password was NOT updated."
            $ECHO "<br>"
        fi
    fi

$CAT << EOF
</blockquote>
</blockquote>
<p>
<center>
<script language="JavaScript">
<!-- Begin
var name = navigator.appName
url=(document.referrer)
document.write('<A HREF="' + url + '">Go Back</A>');
// End -->
</script>
</center>
<p>
<div align="right">
<font size="-2">Web Password Page<br>Ver. 1.0, February 2001</font>
</div>

EOF

else
    log_invalid_access
fi

$TOUCH $LOGFILE

echolog "##### END Script: $SCRIPT_SHORTNAME"

exit 0

```

- This file has been re-named to pwharvest.txt for the purposes of viewing and not executing it.
- Place this file (be sure to dos2unix it in order to remove the hard returns from the ascii code) in the securewebdata/bin directory, rename it to "pwharvest.sh", and set the permissions to root owned, bin grouped, chmod 500.
- Set Root's Crontab to include (as an extra precaution, pipe the stdout and stderr to the secure bit bucket, /dev/null):

```

# Update Passwords
#
0 18 * * * /opt/securewebdata/bin/pwharvest.sh >
/dev/null 2>&1

```

- Windows  
Overview: Use "pwharvest\_winbatch.wbt" to gather the data from



the private files and populate the local authentication mechanism.  
 The method of transferring the private files from the UNIX server to the Windows server is not covered in this paper.

- [pwharvest\\_winbatch.wbt](#):

```

;
=====
;
=====
; Program Name: pwharvest_winbatch.wbt
;.....
; Script Version Number          Date          Modification Description      Modified by
;.....
; Purpose: Extract password data from a plain text file and insert into local accounts
;
=====
;
=====

; Total DLLs needed:
;       wdbu32i.dll - bundled with .exe when "large exe" is chosen for compiling
;       wwwnt32i.dll
AddExtender("WWWNT32I.DLL")
AddExtender("wdbu32i.dll")

;=====
;=====
;=====
; Initialize Variables

ProgramName="pwharvest_winbatch"
ProgramVersion="1.1"
ProgramComments="Matt 9.37-38"

ErrorMode(@CANCEL)
PWD=DirGet( )
SystemRoot=Environment("SystemRoot"); e.g. C:\WINNT
SystemDrive=Environment("SystemDrive"); e.g. C:
TimeNow=TimeYmdHms( )
NormalDateTime=TimeDate( )
TimeNowModified=Strreplace (TimeNow,":","-")
LogFileDirectory="%SystemDrive%\web_password_harvest\%ProgramName%\log"
LogFileName="LogFile_%TimeNowModified%.txt"
LogFile="%LogFileDirectory%\%LogFileName%"
LogRegKey="SYSTEM\%ProgramName%"
INIdir="%PWD%ini"
TEMP=Environment("TEMP")
USERNAME=wntGetUser(@DEFAULT)
NetBIOS_ComputerName=RegQueryValue(@REGMACHINE,
"SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\ComputerName\ActiveComputerName[ComputerName]")
; DateStamp=TimeDate( )
; Day of week, mdy, time am/pm
PublicKeyFile=".keys\public.nt"
PrivateKeyFile=".keys\private.nt"
PrivateKeyINI=".keys\private.ini"

;=====
;=====
;=====
; Verify Prerequisites

; Make log file directories
IF !DirExist("%LogFileDirectory%") THEN DirMake("%LogFileDirectory%")

; Record runtime in the registry
RegSetEx(@RegMachine, "%LogRegKey%[Program Name]", "%ProgramName%", ":", "1")
RegSetEx(@RegMachine, "%LogRegKey%[Program Comments]", "%ProgramComments%", ":", "1")
RegSetEx(@RegMachine, "%LogRegKey%[Program Version]", "%ProgramVersion%", ":", "1")

```

```
RegSetEx(@RegMachine, "%LogRegKey%[Last run on yyyy-mm-dd-hh-mm-ss]", "%TimeNowModified%", ":", "1")
RegSetEx(@RegMachine, "%LogRegKey%[Run by UserName]", "%USERNAME%", ":", "1")
RegSetEx(@RegMachine, "%LogRegKey%[Log File Name]", "%LogFileDirectory%%LogFileName%", ":", "1")
```

```
; Record program version and date in logfile
```

```
IniWritePvt("Initialization Data", "%ProgramName% version", "%ProgramVersion%", "%LogFile%")
IniWritePvt("Initialization Data", "current yyyy-mm-dd-hh-mm-ss", "%TimeNowModified%", "%LogFile%")
```

```
=====
; Verify OS Type is Windows NT 4.0 or Windows 2000
WinType=WinMetrics(-4) ;What type of windows are you running??
WinVersionMajor=WinVersion(1) ;What is the major build type (Windows 2000 will be "5")
; Check for Administrators group inclusion of account running this script.
IF (%WinType%%WinVersionMajor% == "44") || (%WinType%%WinVersionMajor% == "45")
    ; Windows NT 4.0 or 2000 is running
    ELSE
        Message("ERROR", "This OS is NOT Windows NT 4.0. Program exiting.")
        GOTO END
ENDIF
```

```
=====
; Verify user running script has Administrator privileges
Result=wntMemberGet("", "Administrators", "%USERNAME%", @LOCALGROUP)
IF Result == @FALSE
    Message("ERROR", "%USERNAME% is not in the Local Administrators Group. Program exiting.")
    GOTO END
ENDIF
```

```
; Record username running program
IniWritePvt("Initialization Data", "Username running program with Administrator privileges", USERNAME,
"%LogFileDirectory%%LogFileName%")
```

```
=====
=====
=====
```

```
PublicKey=IniReadPvt( "data", "password", "Not Found", PublicKeyFile)
RunShell("cmd.exe", "/c .idea.exe -d -k %PublicKey% %PrivateKeyFile% %PrivateKeyINI%", ".", @HIDDEN, @WAIT)
PrivateKey=IniReadPvt( "data", "password", "Not Found", PrivateKeyINI)
FileDelete( PrivateKeyINI )
```

```
Files=FileItemize("*.nt")
FilesTotal=ItemCount(Files, @TAB)
FOR FileNumber=1 TO FilesTotal
    File=ItemExtract(FileNumber, Files, @TAB)
    UserName=StrSub(File,1,strlen(File)-3)
    FullName=FileFullName(File)
    GoSub ProcessFile
```

```
NEXT
```

```
GOTO SkipProcessFile
:ProcessFile
DataFile=".\\%UserName%.ini"
RunShell("cmd.exe", "/c .idea.exe -d -k %PrivateKey% %File% %DataFile%", ".", @HIDDEN, @WAIT)
SectionName="Data"
DataNumber=0
NewPassword="something"
NewPassword=IniReadPvt( "Data", "NewPassword", "Not Found", DataFile)
LogText="Error encountered while changing password for account '%name%"
IF "%NewPassword%" != "Not Found"
    ;NOTE: Use *UNKNOWN* when you want overwrite existing password, without needing to know the current password
    Result=wntChgPswd("", "%UserName%", "*UNKNOWN*", "%NewPassword%")
    ;message("changing password", "new password for '%UserName%' is '%NewPassword%")
    IF Result
        ;Message("%ProgramName%", "Successfully changed password for account '%name%")
        LogText="Password changed for account '%UserName%"
    ELSE
        Message("ERROR: Password Change for '%name%", "Error encountered while changing password for account
'%name%")
    ENDF
```

```

ELSE
    Message("ERROR: Password Change for '%name%', "Error encountered while changing password for account '%name%'")
ENDIF
IniWritePvt("Change Password Results", UserName, LogText, "%LogFileDirectory%%LogFileName%")
FileDelete( DataFile )

RETURN

:SkipProcessFile

;=====
;=====
;=====

:END

TimeNowModified=Strreplace (TimeNow,":","-")
IniWritePvt("Change Password Results", "%ProgramName% completed mm-dd-yy-hh-mm", "%TimeNowModified%",
"%LogFileDirectory%%LogFileName%")
; To force the ini updates to disk, add an additional IniWritePvt statement as follows:
IniWritePvt("","","","%LogFileDirectory%%LogFileName%")

Message("%ProgramName% version %ProgramVersion% completed","%@CRLF%The log file is located at
%LogFileDirectory%%LogFileName%.")

```

- This is just one example of how to extract the data from the private file and update a user's password with the unencrypted contents.
- You can get Winbatch from [www.winbatch.com](http://www.winbatch.com).

### Section III: Example Screen Shots: What does it look like?

#### Overview

This section provides examples of what the Web Password Page looks like.

#### Examples

- The Initial Login Screen - authenticates user. Note that kerberos is used here. The text in this box is configurable via your Apache httpd.conf file.

**Enter Network Password**

Please type your user name and password.

Site: secoreserver\_xyz.subdomain.domain

Realm: XYZ Kerberos

User Name:

Password:

Save this password in your password list

OK Cancel

- User selects a password (pwform.cgi html stdout).

### User Password Change Form for 'kelli'

**Directions:**

- 1) Choose a new password.
- 2) Enter it twice (once in each box).
- 3) Check your selections and click on the *Submit New Password* button at the bottom of this page.

Fiuvyiwz	Tyuqgorf	oiftonHu	ziaCmaeh	moegDabg
Veisriwz	obdaEnty	kaorqutT	jvAebwaq	iqryqLia
75Axkaaq	4evXyujc	2obLoebt	ep32faR7	86ipBuey
oiWcuvdo	vaeHkEft	esjOIXHo	ASQOGpae	WiOkRUjR
AU9b4U3U	wGAOwvOk	BOoQWASG	vpiAjzYp	LHIOFwiH
2ubviydb	82eQYAJb	PoQeNOX9	48aPbEyP	3oMCEEkg

NOTE: "l" is a letter and "O" is a letter.

**None** of these choices contain the digit 1 or the digit 0.

Enter your new password once:

Enter your new password a second time:

**WARNING:** The password you choose will not be displayed again. If you don't already have it committed to memory, write it down now.

- Successful submission of password (pwupdate.cgi html stdout)

## Results of User Password Change Form

Your password has been entered successfully.

[Go Back](#)

### Section IV: Summary

The Web Password Page allows the user to change their password local to a UNIX or Windows server, authenticating through the user's Kerberos domain login password (assuming there is one). You could also apply the core concepts of this paper to update a Kerberos server, Windows Domain Controller, UNIX NIS or NIS+, or other such server's authentication database. Your job as a system administrator is primarily to make the computer do the work. It is the tool and the product of your efforts. You can do it with a little know-how, a couple of popular high-energy software tools, and little "elbow grease". The Web Password Page is a pre-emptive strike approach to attacking the administrative overhead of managing user passwords. Its engine is built on the idea of automating the mundane. Isn't this one of the computer's primary tasks anyway? As the industrial age alleviated mankind's manual labor tasks, so the information age frees up mankind's mental capacities for more rewarding pursuits.

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