Passwords

Cybersecurity Awareness Month
October 2022

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Password Access Controls

Access controls, such as passwords, limit access to specific resources, systems and data.

- Limiting access helps to mitigate:
  - Unauthorized access to systems or data, and
  - Users performing incompatible functions or duties beyond their assigned responsibilities.

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Password Access Controls
(continued)

- To implement adequate password access controls:
  - Determine what level and type of protection is appropriate for various resources and the data they contain, and
  - Determine who needs access to those resources.

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Strong Passwords

- Long
- Unique
  - Different from passwords used for other systems, AND
  - Complex and difficult to guess, OR
  - Do not match a list of common, expected, previously used or compromised passwords

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Strengthen Passwords

- Passwords can be strengthened by:
  - Making your password a sentence;
  - Using unique passwords for unique accounts;
  - Locking down your login.

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OSC Audit Findings

Our audits have identified password-related findings.

- As appropriate, these findings can be found in our publicly-issued reports.
- When of a sensitive nature, we communicate those findings confidentially to officials.

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OSC Audit Findings (continued)

- Common password-related findings
  - Lack of comprehensive written policies, procedures and training
  - Passwords were:
    - Not required or, when required, allowed to be short and/or simple;
    - Not required to be changed, and/or not changed from default values;
    - Not set by users.

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OSC Audit Findings (continued)

- Common password-related findings
  - Invalid password attempts did not lock out accounts or account lockouts were set for only a short amount of time.

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Additional LGSA Resources

Visit our website for additional cybersecurity resources:

- Publications
  - https://www.osc.state.ny.us/local-government/publications
- Training
  - https://www.osc.state.ny.us/local-government/academy

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Additional LGSA Resources
(continued)

Visit our website for additional cybersecurity resources:

- Audits
  - https://www.osc.state.ny.us/local-government/audits

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Other Resources

- Center for Internet Security (CIS)
  - https://www.cisecurity.org/
- Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)
  - https://www.cisa.gov/
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
  - https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/cyber

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Other Resources (continued)

- National Institute of Information Technology Services (NIST)
  - https://www.nist.gov/cybersecurity

- New York State
  - Office of Information Technology Services
    - https://www.its.ny.gov
  - Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services
    - https://www.dhses.ny.gov/cyber-incident-response-team

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Questions?

Contact us

- LGSA Applied Technology Unit's Cyber Team
  - LGSACyberTeam@osc.ny.gov

- LGSA Help Line
  - 1-866-321-8503 or
  - 518-408-4934

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Thank You!

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