

Computer Security
CS436
Assignment #1
Due Date: 31JAN2007

1. Describe a set of password restrictions that could be implemented to help users choose “good passwords”. (You should have at least four separate categories of restrictions that we discussed in class.
2. Try to change your password, or establish a new account on at least three systems to which you have access. (Create a “free website” account, or a “free email” account if you don’t have three systems to test with.) For each of the checks below, record your results on each of the three systems.
 - a. For your first attempt, try to use your first name as your password.
 - b. For your second attempt, try to use the word “football” as your password.
 - c. For your third attempt, try to use the the date as the password
 - d. Now choose what you would consider a “good” password.

How did the three systems respond to each of these attempts? What would you say about these systems ability to help users choose good passwords?

3. Describe means of accessing three systems remotely, such as checking your email, uploading a webpage, or logging in to a system with telnet or ssh, logging on to a webpage. Determine for each whether your password is encrypted or sent in plain text.
4. Find an example of a webpage that asks you for personal data with an “http:” form as opposed to an “https:” form. Describe your Risk Assessment of whether this is adequate protection for the type of system you are accessing.
5. Find a location (on campus or off) with “restricted access”. Describe how this area is protected. (Locked doors? Access cards? Code?) Evaluate whether you believe this security is adequate by stating your considerations as a Risk Statement:

$$\text{RISK} = \text{Vulnerabilities} \times \text{Threats} \times \text{Value(Assets)}$$

State what you believe the Vulnerabilities and Threats are to this area. Estimate the value of the assets in this area. State whether you believe this area is appropriately protected.