

User password education presentation instructions

Your organization's users are the first line of defense between the enterprise and someone who wants to hack into its systems. All you have to do is convince users to create passwords that can stand up to an attack. Sounds easy, but it can seem almost impossible to get users to take passwords seriously. Part of your strategy should be to teach them about good password habits, like keeping a password in a safe place instead of on a sticky note on the side of a monitor.

This presentation is just what IT managers need to educate users on the basics of password management. In the presentation, you'll find a brief explanation of why users should care about their passwords' strength, what a strong password looks like, and why a strong password is important to the safety of the organization and their own personal information.

Add to the presentation

The presentation is just a backbone of what you may want to present to users. Here are some additions to consider that may compliment this PowerPoint document.

- Show users how quickly a hacker can compromise a system with a weak password. A demonstration of how fast an attack can happen is a good visual tool and should make users think twice about using weak passwords.
- Ask your systems administrator or another member of the IT group to provide you with examples of bad passwords that have been used in your organization before. Don't mention which users used them, but do explain what's wrong with the examples.
- Get examples of good passwords to add to those in the presentation. Remember, if you show users examples of good passwords, remind them that they shouldn't use the examples verbatim, just consider them good models to follow.

One technique

If users ask for help creating a strong password, you can offer the following advice:

Personal information is often easy for users to remember. Tell each user to think of a significant event in their lives. For example, "My second daughter was married in 2001." Then tell the users to take the first letter of each word to form a password. From this sentence, you're given "Msdwmi2001." Now tell them to make that password stronger. For example, "M2dWmI201" incorporates three of the four available character classes, which is a necessary attribute of a strong password.

Want to make it even stronger? Make a password from the last letter of each word in the sentence. "M2dWmI201" from our previous example becomes "Y2RSdn201." Add another character class for added protection. For example, separate the sample password's characters with a symbol and you get "M2dW%mi201," which is much stronger than "12345" or "QWERTY."