

Ethical Student Hackers

Advanced Password Cracking



The Legal Bit

- The skills taught in these sessions allow identification and exploitation of security vulnerabilities in systems. We strive to give you a place to practice legally, and can point you to other places to practice. These skills should not be used on systems where you do not have explicit permission from the owner of the system. It is VERY easy to end up in breach of relevant laws, and we can accept no responsibility for anything you do with the skills learnt here.
- If we have reason to believe that you are utilising these skills against systems where you are not authorised you will be banned from our events, and if necessary the relevant authorities will be alerted.
- Remember, if you have any doubts as to if something is legal or authorised, just don't do it until you are able to confirm you are allowed to.
- Relevant UK Law: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/18/contents>



Code of Conduct

- Before proceeding past this point you must read and agree to our Code of Conduct - this is a requirement from the University for us to operate as a society.
- If you have any doubts or need anything clarified, please ask a member of the committee.
- Breaching the Code of Conduct = immediate ejection and further consequences.
- Code of Conduct can be found at **shefesh.com/conduct**



Acknowledgement

This session / talk is heavily inspired by a talk from Steelcon by Will Hunt - [Plundering and Pillaging Password and Passphrase Plains for Profit](#)



Prerequisites

- Basic Linux command line knowledge
- Hashcat
- Password cracking

Key tidbits:

MD5: useless

bcrypt: strong



Hashcat Recap

```
hashcat -m <hash-type> -a <attack-mode> hash.txt wordlist.txt [mask]
```

```
hashcat -m 0 -a 0 hashes.txt rockyou.txt
```

Modes:

0 -> dictionary

3 -> brute force

6 -> wordlist + mask (append) ?d?d?d -> password000

7 -> mask + wordlist (prepend) ?d?d?d -> 000password

?d?!?u?s?a -> digit, lowercase, uppercase, symbol, any



Rules

We can modify our wordlist at runtime to make it more powerful

Add to your command “-r ruleList.rules”

<https://github.com/wolframalpha/hashcat/blob/master/rules/best64.rule>

ONLY WORKS ON MODE 0



Rules

```
GNU nano 8.7  
c  
u  
$1 $2 $3  
c $1 $2 $3
```

```
Password  
PASSWORD  
password123  
Password123  
/eohq/Dee
```

--stdout flag to output the results of the rules

https://hashcat.net/wiki/doku.php?id=rule_based_attack



Combinators and Delimiters

CombinatorX, PrinceProcessor

Hashcat -m0 hashes.txt -a1 wordlist.txt wordlist2.txt -w3 -o

Can be more powerful, add delimiters, add rules. Using --stdout

Using combinator tools, you can do combinator attacks far more powerfully than raw hashcat.

<https://github.com/Sudo-Aju/CombinatorX>

<https://github.com/hashcat/princeprocessor>

I will leave you to look into these.



Hash Shucking

Some websites use MD5

What happens when you upgrade?

Update when the user next logs in? (password stored insecurely until then)

Hash the hash: $\text{SHA256}\{\text{MD5}\{\text{password}\}\}$

Can we find the password?



Hash Shucking

If we have (from a previous breach) a set of (e.g.) MD5 Hashes

And from a new breach, a set of bcrypt{MD5} hashes

We can use use the MD5 hashes as a wordlist

And if any match, we can crack the MD5 to get the password!

Some people WILLINGLY will SHA256/MD5 their password!!! Idiots.

What are problems with this?



Transliteration

ji32k7au4a83

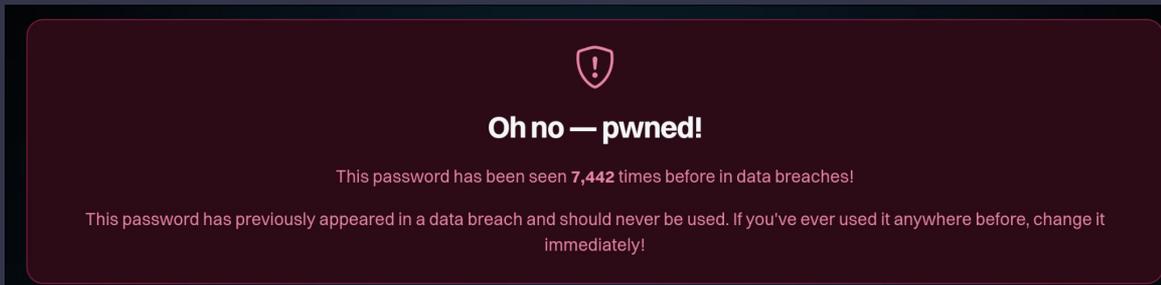
ji3 -> m

2k7 -> y

au4 -> pass

a83 -> word

Zhuyin / BoPoMoFo keyboard

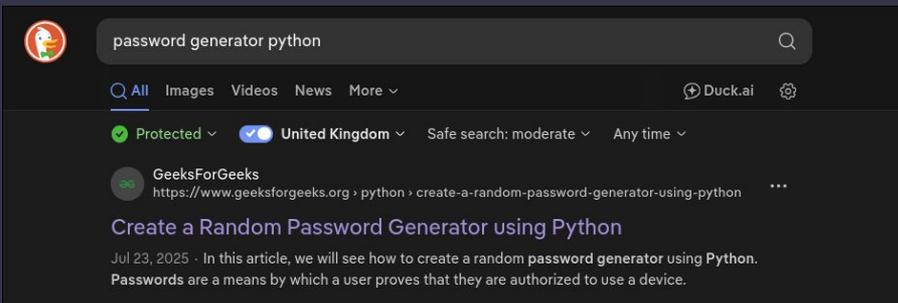


A dark red warning box with a shield icon containing an exclamation mark. The text reads: "Oh no — pwned! This password has been seen 7,442 times before in data breaches! This password has previously appeared in a data breach and should never be used. If you've ever used it anywhere before, change it immediately!"



Stupid Passwords

Using python “random”



A screenshot of a search engine result for "password generator python". The search bar shows the query and a search icon. Below the search bar, there are filters for "Protected", "United Kingdom", "Safe search: moderate", and "Any time". The search results show a link to "GeeksForGeeks" with the URL "https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/python/create-a-random-password-generator-using-python". The title of the article is "Create a Random Password Generator using Python". The date is "Jul 23, 2025". The snippet of the article reads: "In this article, we will see how to create a random password generator using Python. Passwords are a means by which a user proves that they are authorized to use a device."

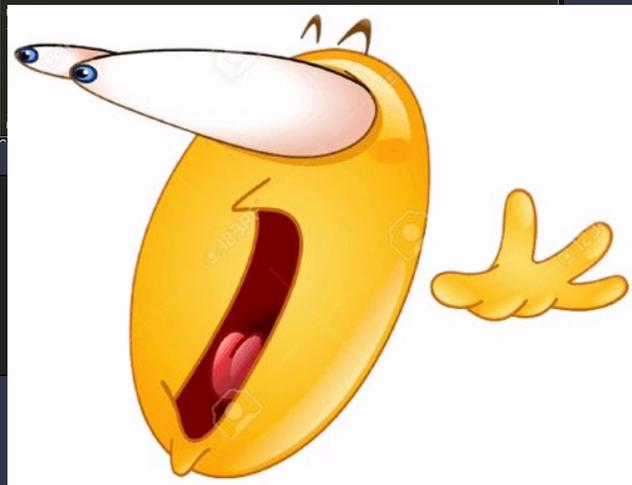
```
import string
import random

# Getting password length
length = int(input("Enter password length: "))

print("Choose character set for password from these :
1. Digits
2. Letters
3. Special characters
4. Exit(')

characterlist = ""

# Getting character set for password
while True:
    choice = int(input("Pick a number "))
    if(choice == 1):
        # Adding letters to possible characters
        characterlist += string.ascii_letters
    elif(choice == 2):
        # Adding digits to possible characters
        characterlist += string.digits
    elif(choice == 3):
        # Adding special characters to possible
        # characters
        characterlist += string.punctuation
    elif(choice == 4):
        break
    else:
        print("Please pick a valid option!")
```



`random.seed(a=None, version=2)`

Initialize the random number generator.

If `a` is omitted or `None`, the current system time is used. If randomness sources are provided by the operating system, they are used instead of the system time (see the [`os.urandom\(\)`](#) function for details on availability).



Practical

- 1) \$2a\$12\$ixp2x4HzHxKFC5zsy.RrYuO3ZXcXy8crCedvxzbzWKp9XviyYffhG
- 2) 1e69d4314f9b9439cac0acb9ac5179f52a1be059b11de6672e7545f56180d840
- 3) 5B338CF333708D59751561431BDA046E
- 4) \$2a\$12\$kMHdRXVtp5HTi7nI9UUCOus/emSIh3LW0GC1ehOQ1aaDhvHd3KQNY
- 5) 5493a8316373df21e0226c11a26f0c31
- 6) 81ad37eec22086a3680370e2454b6a9e

<https://github.com/HavelBeenPwned/PwnedPasswordsDownloader>



Feedback

Please leave your feedback :) We want to know what we can do to improve.

Please leave constructive and honest feedback only.

<https://forms.gle/VTYd74K5BHqbC7F68>



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<https://forms.gle/Qct6Wyfesv8dWmej7>



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