

Hacking

As many of you know, a hacker broke into one of the TCC computers. This person succeeded in copying the password file. This file contains a list of usernames and an encrypted version of the password. An example entry for the username johndoe, whose password is susan47, might be:

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johndoe:8BttCDewEUrUo
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Note that the password susan47 is encrypted to 8BttCDewEUrUo, so the hacker does **not** have the actual password. Since a password can be eight characters long and there are 84 valid characters, there are 2,478,758,911,082,496 (over two quadrillion) possible combinations for a password. While it is unlikely that the hacker would spend the time to guess a password, we felt it prudent to disable all passwords and have the actual users select new passwords. We have also upgraded the hardware and software that permitted access to the hacker. The problem has been reported to the FBI and they have asked that we not discuss the actual details.

To minimize the pain to our users, we took the following steps:

1. The Help Desk stayed open later hours on Wednesday through Friday, Jan. 15–17.
2. The Help Desk opened Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 18 and 19.
3. The TCC phoned all departments offering assistance.
4. TCC staff visited all departments offering personal assistance.

5. TCC staff were available at registration offering assistance.
 6. The TCC phoned all faculty who had not yet changed their passwords.
 7. TCC staff attended many of the classes scheduled in computer classrooms.
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Terminated services

To increase security, the following services have been disabled from off-campus: telnet, rlogin, and gopher.

Scheduled maintenance

The TCC will schedule maintenance every Sunday from 4:00am to 10:00am to upgrade software and hardware. During this time users should **not** expect any of the TCC hardware, software, or network equipment to be available. This includes e-mail and web service. Also, the network between buildings may be slow or even unavailable.

Test lab

Speare 9 will be our standard test lab, where new versions of software will be available for testing. We encourage users to evaluate the software and provide us with feedback.

DVD software

Most DVDs can be played using the Windows Media Player software. However, some vendors are now creating DVDs that **cannot** be accessed with this software. If this happens, try using the Matrox Cineplayer software.

New software

The following software was installed on all Windows 2000 workstations.

- Acrobat 5.0
- Ansys 5.71
- Arcview
- Arena 6.0
- Cadkey 20.3
- Cygwin 1.3.18-1
- Decision tools
- Emacs 21.2
- Erdas imagine 8.4
- FrameMaker 7
- Maple 7
- Matlab R13
- Matrox Cineplayer
- McAfee
- Minitab 13.a
- Mozilla 1.02
- MS Office 2000
- Netscape 7.0
- OpenOffice 1.0.1
- Opera 6.05
- PageMaker
- Perl 5.6.1
- Photoshop 7.0
- Putty SSH Client
- Python 2.2
- Quicktime Pro 6.0
- RealMedia Player 8
- Roxio 5.0
- Storm 4
- Stuffit 7.5
- Sun JRE 2.0
- Winamp 3.0
- Windows Media Player 9
- XWin32 5.4

Note that Interleaf was deleted since it is no longer available, and Quicktime was added.