

# Sysadministrivia

## Linux, Lagers, and Late Nights

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# S1E15: "Backwards Passwords"

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### Log

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Quicklisten:

A LOT about passwords (and we revisit the topic of HTTPS and general SSL/TLS auditing).

We mention it a lot during the intro- if you aren't familiar with what The Game is, you should. (If you are, we both just lost.)

- News
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## News

Starts at **5m41s**.

- I totally forgot to mention it, but I was on an episode of the Radio Statler podcast!
- Hillary Clinton (well, her IT) used bleachbit to wipe her server. (Presumably.)
  - In addition to BleachBit, we mention DBAN and nwipe (which is included in the default package list for BDisk).
- An activist is compromised, and Apple patches three 0days as a result.
- Dropbox is telling users to reset their passwords, despite "no compromise"...
  - Except lol there totally was.
- FINALLY, a hospital that got slammed with ransomware is actually smart about it.
- Mozilla releases an alternative to Qualys' SSL Labs (though I think it's either bugged or their scoring is totally whack).
  - It's F/OSS and it even has a CLI utility.
  - The XMPP security scanner Jthan mentions is indeed XMPP.net.
- According to the FTC, password changes are bad security
  - And we talk about why that's wrong in the segment.

## Notes

Starts at **19m58s**.

I was drinking water, but I mention Killian's Red. Jthan was drinking Telluride's Whacked Out Wheat. Paden was drinking Grant's Family Reserve whisky.

- Qualys has a Github repo full of awesome docs. **(14m46s)**
- Passwords are terrible. Let's get that out of the way. **(19m58s)**
  - But we don't really have anything "better" that can do what passwords do.
  - You need something: you can store in your brain instead of physical, you can change, can't be stolen physically, isn't biometrics (because lel).
  - It was also found that the department in question had no complexity requirements, just a rotation/expiration policy.
  - We also go on a tangent of how "previous password" detection might work- how many are authentication mechanisms storing it in plaintext, are there alternate ways besides a generated regex pattern or a simplified permutation being hashed, etc. If you've implemented this, please contact us!
  - The "luggage" reference is from Space Balls.

- And as a kicker, we didn't mention it in the show but I'm not convinced we should follow FTC's concepts of 'security'.

## Sysadministration Award

In this segment, we highlight system administration mistakes. Think of them as the IT equivalent of the Darwin Awards. **(50m42s)**

So funny. Despite being changed, I've redacted out his old password to avoid wide exposure of his generation schema.

```
10:20:49< jedijf> paden: good luck
10:50:25< jthan> KyleYankan: I'm not actually. Been awhile.
11:28:17< jthan> [REDACTED]
11:28:24< jthan> that
11:28:25< jthan> is
11:29:36< r00t^2> your password
11:29:49< jthan> well
11:29:50< jthan> for one thing
11:29:54< jthan> OBVIOUSLY NOT ANYMORE
```

## Errata

- I said Jthan brought the Game back. I was wrong, after checking my logs- it was Paden. Oops.
- The story Paden references during the intro is here.

## Music

### Music Credits

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**Categories** Season One

## Comments

There are currently no comments on this article.