The Link Between Identity, Password & Access

In order to determine the appropriate level of access and maintain the confidentiality and integrity of the university's information, Ohio State must identify and verify an individual's identity based on his or her relationship with the university. Online methods of confirming your unique identity differ from in-person verification. Your digital identity:

- Consists of a set of information that defines who you are
- Verifies that you are really you
- Determines your access rights to university systems and applications

Why Does Ohio State Need Standard Practices?

Passwords are the key to Ohio State's valuable institutional assets. A single compromised password can affect the integrity of the entire university.

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<th>Password Compromised</th>
<th>Possible Results</th>
<th>Overall Impact</th>
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<td>E-mail Accessed</td>
<td>OSU Blacklisted (e.g. peer Institutions, Yahoo, Microsoft)</td>
<td>Academic, Research, and University</td>
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<td>100k Spam Distributed</td>
<td>Individual and University Reputation Questioned</td>
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<td>Intellectual Property</td>
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<td>Manipulated or Stolen</td>
<td>System with FERPA, HIPAA, GLB, etc. Accessed</td>
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An important part of why Ohio State is strengthening the Ohio State Username and password is because these are used to grant access to key university systems. Also, for the university to establish trusted relationships with peer institutions, federal resources, and businesses, we must be able to ensure your password meets certain security standards. The Password Practices address this need and help protect intellectual property, the integrity of our research data, and the identities of our community.
Is password complexity really that important?

Password complexity is one factor in protecting your identity, your personal information and the university’s resources.

The other factors of a strong password practice include password history, maximum password age, and awareness of good password behaviors.

Key Elements of University Password Practices

**Increased Password Complexity:** Passwords must
- Be a minimum of 8 characters (longer is encouraged)
- Contain 3 of 4 character sets (i.e. capital letters, lowercase letters, numerals or punctuation marks)
- Avoid dictionary words (e.g. Buckeye)

**Maximum Password Age:** All students, faculty, and staff will be required to change their password every 90-days.

**Password History:** A new password cannot match a previously used password.

Password Synchronization & Ohio State’s New Self-Service Tool

Ohio State will have a new self-service site – my.osu.edu – where the OSU community can activate their lastname.#, change their password, set security questions and answers to facilitate resetting a forgotten password, establish e-mail forwarding and more. One of the benefits of the new tool is the ability to synchronize usernames and passwords. Ohio State’s vision is to greatly reduce the number of usernames and passwords we use, and provide a simpler, more secure user experience.

- You will no longer need a separate OSU Wireless login and password; however, after you change your password, you will need to update wireless configuration settings.
- When you change your OSU Internet Username (lastname.#) password, it will change across several university systems, such as BuckeyeLink, Carmen, OSU Wireless, University E-mail, and Buckeye Mail. See full list at: buckeyesecure.osu.edu/Passwords/Synchronization
- You will receive notices of pending password expiration and can always check password expiration status at my.osu.edu.

Who is impacted?

- All faculty, staff, and students with an active lastname.# are required to change their current password by October 31, 2011. Once they change their password at my.osu.edu, their 90-day reset cycle begins.
- Faculty, staff, and students using the self-service tool after it is available to change a forgotten password or activate an Ohio State Username (lastname.#) will automatically experience the new password requirements.