

## Re: LC4 (L0phtCrack) error "Couldn't open SAM\Domains\Account\Users in SAM file. Possibly improper format."

*Source:* <http://www.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/securityfocus/pen-test/2003-04/0081.html>

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*From:* Chris McNab ([chris.mcnab@trustmatta.com](mailto:chris.mcnab@trustmatta.com))

*Date:* 04/17/03

From: "Chris McNab" <[chris.mcnab@trustmatta.com](mailto:chris.mcnab@trustmatta.com)>

To: <[pen-test@securityfocus.com](mailto:pen-test@securityfocus.com)>

Date: Thu, 17 Apr 2003 18:42:46 +0100

Hey,

I am aware that in the UK at least, Ministry of Defence (MOD) and other government systems holding classified or restricted data often run NTSE (NT Secure Edition), which apparently is a government build of NT that doesn't use the standard SAM cryptographic format, and has been quoted as 'not vulnerable to L0phtCrack attacks' as the RC4-based stuff is. I can't find any reference to the CESG (UK government Communications and Electronic Security Group) NTSE build details on the web, so can't dig up any supporting evidence right now.

Are these government or corporate systems that are supposed to be hardened in this fashion? If not, have you tried using the pwdump3.exe command-line tool to extract the hashes into an ASCII text file, then transport them?

Regards,

Chris

-----Original Message-----

From: [flexicon33@yahoo.com](mailto:flexicon33@yahoo.com) [mailto:[flexicon33@yahoo.com](mailto:flexicon33@yahoo.com)]

Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2003 2:25 PM

To: [pen-test@securityfocus.com](mailto:pen-test@securityfocus.com)

Subject: LC4 (L0phtCrack) error "Couldn't open SAM\Domains\Account\Users in SAM file. Possibly improper format."

Hi,

I'm trying to import some SAM files into LC4, and for some reason LC4 doesn't like the format. I get the above error for any of 5 SAM files I'm trying.

For a pen test, I got these sam files by sending a 'tftp put' command to the SQL server (had no 'sa' password) so the SAM files were sent to my tftp

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server. There were 5 of these servers, so I got 5 SAM files to try. LC4 doesn't like any of them.

However, LC4 works for other SAM files... I tested with my own SAM file (w2k) and also another I downloaded from a machine via an http exploit... LC4 had no problems opening those 2 and working on them.

Why does LC4 complain about these other SAM files? Does some other sam format exist or did they get mangled somehow?

Thanks...

Flexicon33, CISSP

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