

## Re: SP4 and n-2 password protection?

**Source:** <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.win2000.security/2003-07/0010.html>

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**From:** Scott (*spauseREMOVETHIS\_at\_excite.com*)

**Date:** 06/30/03

Date: Mon, 30 Jun 2003 11:27:50 -0700

I've tested this in my lab by upgrading both the (only) DC from SP3 and a win2K server. I changed my password normally (with a regular account) and then logged in again typing in my old password several times. The account was locked out.

Environ:

Win2k SP4 DC in Native mode with Exchange 2K  
Win2K SP4 server (doing nothing)

It would appear that the fix isn't in SP4, unless there is a reg entry. If someone has proof to the contrary, please let us know.

>-----Original Message-----

>On Sat, 28 Jun 2003 13:16:04 -0700, Scott wrote

><018201c33db2\$19e46f60\$a301280a@phx.gbl>

>> There was some ammount of advertising earlier this year

>> regarding a new capability coming with SP4 and Windows

>> 2003 called N-2 password protection. It was designed to

>> protect accounts from being locked out from there last >> two valid passwords.

>

>

>I believe Password History Check (N-2) and Single User Object Replication

>are both rolled into

><http://support.microsoft.com/?scid=812499>

>

>As such, both are enabled by default in Windows 2000 Server in an AD Domain

>running at SP4.

>

>

>> This is a critical feature that my company desperately

microsoft.public.win2000.security: Re: SP4 and n-2 password protection?

>> *needs. There is ZERO documentation regarding the*  
>> *inclusion of this and other related fixes in SP4.*  
>>  
>> *Could someone at MS please assist with tracking this*  
>> *down? It would also be highly advised to post this*  
>> *information in the SP4 Readme if it is included as*  
*this*  
>> *changes account lockout behavior and could be*  
*unexpected.*  
>  
>*I agree this could be documented better. If MS has*  
*implemented this*  
>*correctly, Password History Check (N-2) really doesn't*  
*weaken the security*  
>*posture. The Win2k3 version is here.*  
><http://www.microsoft.com/technet/prodtechnol/windows/serve/2003/maintain/operate/BPACTLCK.asp>  
>*but Win2k SP4 documentation needs clarified.*  
>  
>*The bottom line for me is that applications with expired*  
*passwords fail*  
>*instead of locking out the account. Same with users.*  
When Sally uses last  
>*months password on a Monday morning, she's simply denied*  
*access rather than*  
>*locking herself out. The unexpected change in SP4 may be*  
*fewer lockouts. :)*  
>  
>*Or maybe I'm wrong and getting this documented for Win2k*  
*is the better*  
>*answer...*  
>  
>*Matt Scarborough 2003-06-30*  
>  
>