Online/Offline password guessing

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Goal:

Using hydra, a password guessing tool, and a dictionary, access a users profile on a server.

Steps:

The attack is really easy to set up. The only thing that you would have to provide is a dictionary. Of course, you have to know who and what you are attacking.

Retrospective:

It is important, when attacking, to look for vectors of attack that make it easier to access data we want, as every vector cuts down on the time it takes to execute the attack. Things like having an email, knowing how long a password is, how many requests at once can the server handle, how long is the password length, is there any more public info we can extract from the victim to help us make the attack easier and faster than it already is and ... It is not surprising that attacks are easier to execute, but it is a little surprising that the tools are so easily available. Since time to execute the attack rises exponentially, it is better to use long phrases and "safe" password managers instead of just plain old passwords.