

How Passwords are stored?



Windows Passwords

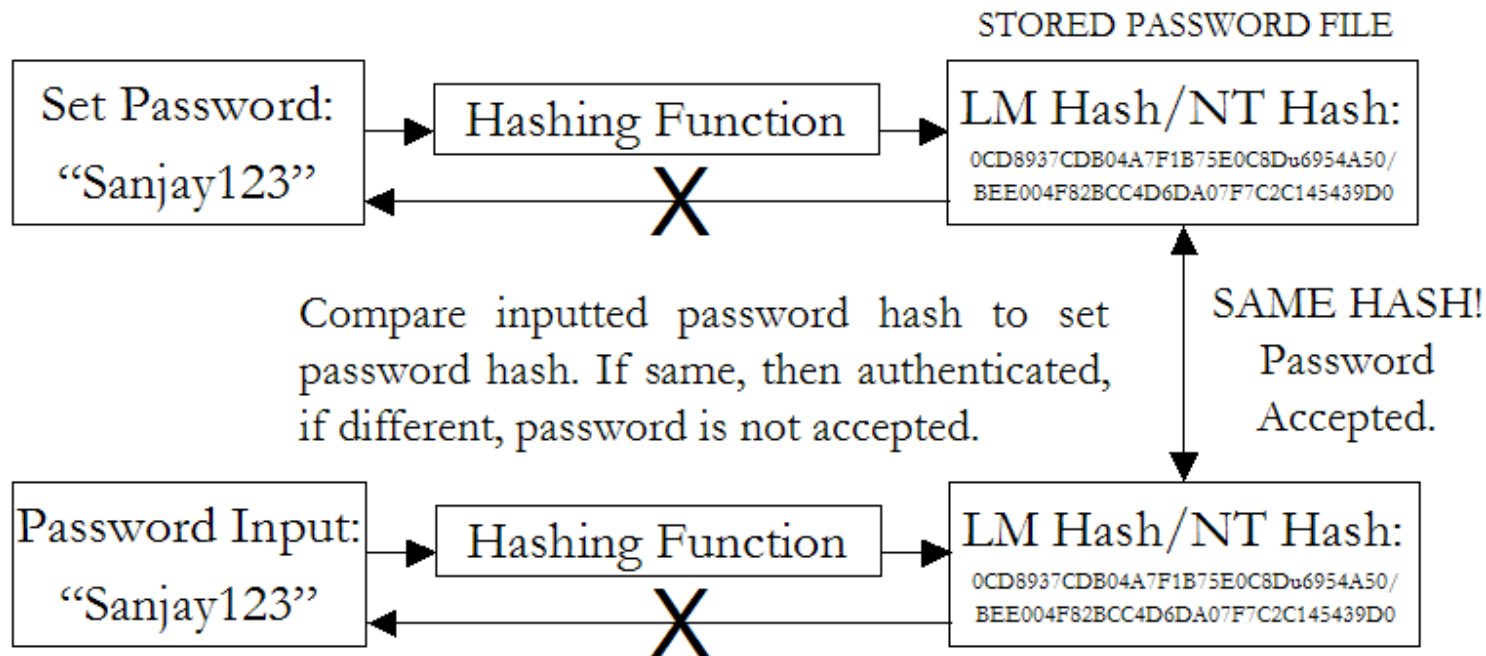
Methodology

- Set or change password -> Windows generates a LM hash and a NT hash
- Hashes are stored in the Security Accounts Manager database
Commonly known as “SAM” or “the SAM file”

HASHES ARE IRREVERSIBLE

Login

- ❖ When user enters password, compute its hash and compare with entry in password file



A wide-angle photograph of a calm sea under a hazy sky. In the distance, a small, dark, rectangular structure with a platform on top stands in the water. The horizon is marked by a range of low, misty mountains. The word "THANKS" is centered in the middle of the image in a large, dark, sans-serif font. The entire image is framed by a thin white border.

THANKS