

Password Security & Authentication Analysis

Hashing – Converts text into some random text. It can't be reversed into same text.

Encryption – Converts text into some random text. But it can be decrypt to same text.

Hashing has lot types like MD5, SHA-1, bcrypt.

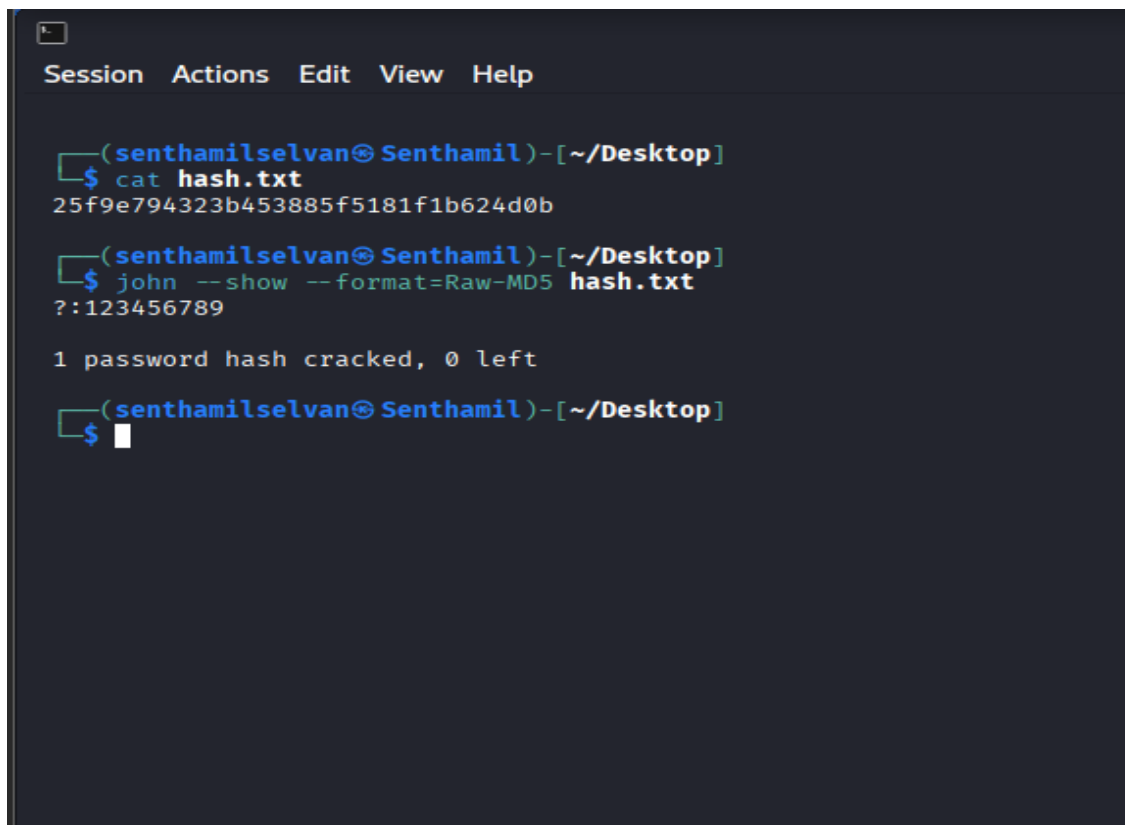
MD5: it is a 128-bit hash. It can be easily brute forceable.

SHA-1: it is a 160-bit hash. It vulnerable for collision attacks.

bcrypt: it generates hashes slower then MD5, SHA-1. But it is more secure then MD5, SHA-1.

Password Cracking:

I generated MD5 hash for 123456789 and I used john the ripper tool for crack it.



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Session  Actions  Edit  View  Help

(senthamilselvan@Senthamil) - [~/Desktop]
$ cat hash.txt
25f9e794323b453885f5181f1b624d0b

(senthamilselvan@Senthamil) - [~/Desktop]
$ john --show --format=Raw-MD5 hash.txt
?:123456789

1 password hash cracked, 0 left

(senthamilselvan@Senthamil) - [~/Desktop]
$
```

Hash value for 123456789 in MD5- 25f9e794323b453885f5181f1b624d0b.

MFA (Multi Factor Authentication):

Multi factor authentication protect our data securely. It adds extra layer on our password security. It useful when our password is cracked by attacker. Using fingerprint with pin as password is far more than using pin only as password. Using MFA can reduce the vulnerability of password cracking.

Brute Force Attack:

Trying every possible combination of characters until the correct password is found. It is useful when the password rules are known like length of the password. Sometimes it takes a lot of time to find the password.

Dictionary Attack:

Using a predefined list of sample common passwords to match the hashes. It won't take a lot of time like Brute Force Attack. But, sometimes it can fail when the password is unique or uncommon.

Weak Password:

Weak passwords like 123456789, aabbcc, are usually stored in many wordlists. Even a normal human being without proper knowledge about the victim can also break this password. So weak passwords are like a human locked his home's all door but slightly opened a backdoor for the attacker.

Recommendation for strong authentication:

- Pin + Fingerprint
- Password + Eye Rays
- Pattern + Face

I recommend to use unusual or unique passwords and pins. Change the password regularly as a routine. If it is not possible to change password frequently then at least change it for 6 months once. I think this thing gives more security than usual passwords.