NAME

pam_pwhistory − PAM module to remember last passwords

SYNOPSIS

pam_pwhistory.so [debug] [use_authtok] [enforce_for_root] [remember=*N*] [retry=*N*] [authtok_type=*STRING*]

DESCRIPTION

This module saves the last passwords for each user in order to force password change history and keep the user from alternating between the same password too frequently.

This module does not work together with kerberos. In general, it does not make much sense to use this module in conjunction with NIS or LDAP, since the old passwords are stored on the local machine and are not available on another machine for password history checking.

OPTIONS

debug

Turns on debugging via **syslog**(3).

use_authtok

When password changing enforce the module to use the new password provided by a previously stacked **password** module (this is used in the example of the stacking of the **pam_cracklib** module documented below).

enforce_for_root

If this option is set, the check is enforced for root, too.

remember=*N*

The last *N* passwords for each user are saved in /etc/security/opasswd. The default is *10*. Value of *0* makes the module to keep the existing contents of the opasswd file unchanged.

retry=*N*

Prompt user at most *N* times before returning with error. The default is *1*.

authtok_type=*STRING*

See **pam_get_authtok**(3) for more details.

MODULE TYPES PROVIDED

Only the **password** module type is provided.

RETURN VALUES

PAM_AUTHTOK_ERR

No new password was entered, the user aborted password change or new password couldn't be set.

PAM_IGNORE

Password history was disabled.

PAM_MAXTRIES

Password was rejected too often.

PAM_USER_UNKNOWN

User is not known to system.

EXAMPLES

An example password section would be:

```
#%PAM−1.0
password    required    pam_pwhistory.so
password    required    pam_unix.so    use_authtok
```

In combination with **pam_cracklib**:

```
#%PAM−1.0
```

```
password    required      pam_cracklib.so   retry=3
password    required      pam_pwhistory.so  use_authtok
password    required      pam_unix.so       use_authtok
```

FILES

    /etc/security/opasswd

        File with password history

SEE ALSO

    pam.conf(5), **pam.d**(5), **pam**(7) **pam_get_authtok**(3)

AUTHOR

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