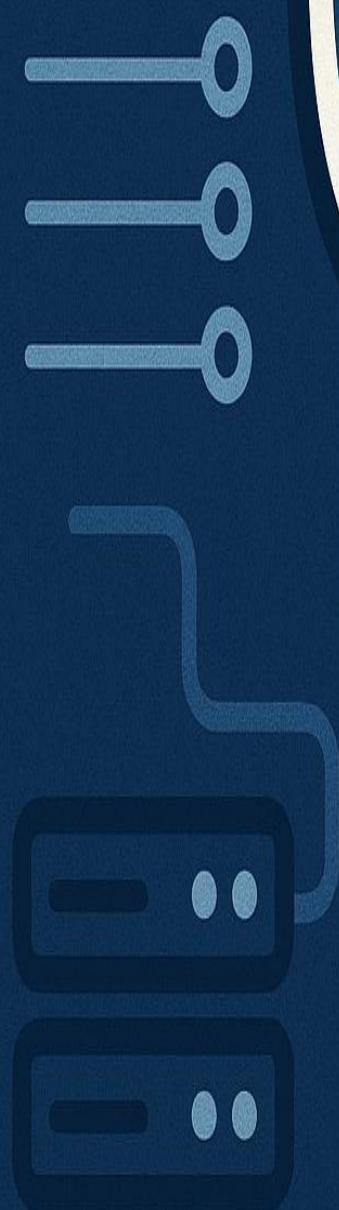


Name: Nelisiwe Kaziwa
Course: IT Security - Defense
Against the Digital Dark Arts
Date: 29 October 2025
Submission Due: 31 October
2025



Contents

Introduction	3
Password Strength Check	3
Firewall Status Check.....	3
Software Updates	4
Security Best Practices Review	5
Security Audit Checklist.....	5
Conclusion	5



IT Security Audit Report

Introduction

Cybersecurity is a critical aspect of modern digital life. This report presents a basic security audit conducted on a personal computer as part of the IT Security course. The audit focused on four key areas: password strength, firewall status, software updates, and general security best practices. The goal was to assess the current security posture and identify areas for improvement.

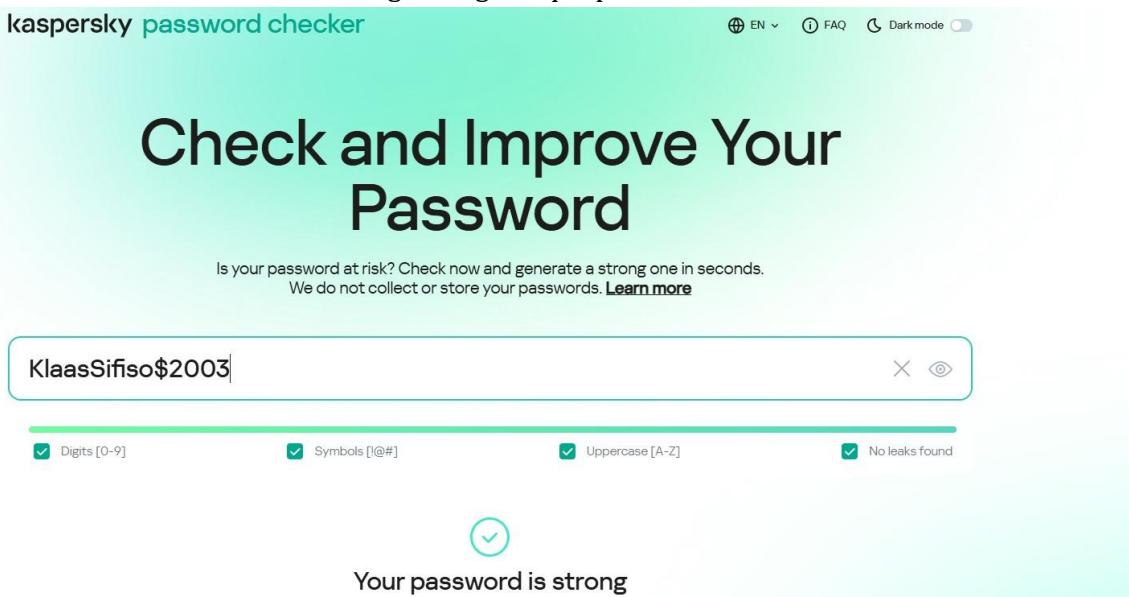
Password Strength Check

To evaluate password strength, I used the Kaspersky Password Checker tool. I entered a fake version of my password to avoid exposing sensitive information.

Result: The tool confirmed that the password was strong.

Conclusion: No changes were needed.

Recommendation: Continue using strong, unique passwords for each account.



The screenshot shows the Kaspersky Password Checker interface. At the top, it says "kaspersky password checker" and has language and dark mode settings. The main title is "Check and Improve Your Password". Below that, it asks "Is your password at risk? Check now and generate a strong one in seconds." It states "We do not collect or store your passwords." and has a "Learn more" link. A password input field contains "KlaasSifiso\$2003". Below the input are four checked checkboxes: "Digits [0-9]", "Symbols [!@#]", "Uppercase [A-Z]", and "No leaks found". At the bottom, a green checkmark icon indicates "Your password is strong".

Firewall Status Check

I checked the firewall settings using the Windows Security tool.

Steps Taken:

- Opened 'Windows Security' from the Start Menu.
- Clicked on 'Firewall & network protection.'
- Verified that the firewall was active for Domain, Private, and Public networks.

Result: All firewalls were on and marked with green checkmarks.

Conclusion: No action was needed.

Recommendation: Keep the firewall enabled at all times.

The screenshot shows the Windows Firewall & network protection settings. On the left, a sidebar lists various security options: Home, Virus & threat protection, Account protection, Firewall & network protection (which is selected), App & browser control, Device security, Device performance & health, Family options, and Protection history. The main content area is divided into three sections: **Domain network** (No action needed), **Private network** (No action needed), and **Public network** (No action needed). Each network section includes links for Allow an app through firewall, Network and Internet troubleshooter, Firewall notification settings, Advanced settings, and Restore firewalls to default. To the right, there are links for Who's protecting me? and Manage providers under the Domain network section, and Help improve Windows Security and Give us feedback under the Public network section. At the bottom, there are links for Change your privacy settings, Privacy settings, Privacy dashboard, and Privacy Statement.

Software Updates

I checked for system updates to ensure the latest security patches were installed.

Steps Taken:

- Opened 'Windows Update Settings.'
- Clicked 'Check for updates.'
- Found a pending Windows 11 update and completed the installation.

Result: System is now up to date.

Conclusion: Keeping the system updated is essential for security.

Recommendation: Enable automatic updates and check manually weekly.

The screenshot shows the Windows Update Settings window. At the top, it says 'Windows Update' and shows a user profile for 'CAPACITI-JHB Local Account'. Below this, there's a summary: 'You're up to date' (Last checked: Today, 1:42 PM) with a 'Check for updates' button. On the left, a sidebar lists: Home, System, Bluetooth & devices, Network & internet, Personalization, Apps, Accounts, Time & language, Gaming, and Accessibility. The main area shows a message: 'Windows 11, version 25H2 is available.' with 'Download & install' and 'X' buttons. Below this, there's a 'More options' section with two items: 'Get the latest updates as soon as they're available' (with a toggle switch set to 'Off') and 'Pause updates' (with a dropdown menu set to 'Pause for 1 week').

Security Best Practices Review

I reviewed my personal habits related to cybersecurity.

Findings:

- I do not reuse passwords across different accounts.
- I am cautious about suspicious links and emails.
- I lock my screen when stepping away.

Conclusion: My habits align with good security practices.

Recommendation: Continue following these habits and enable two-factor authentication where possible.

Security Audit Checklist

Item Checked	Status	Improvements/Suggestions
Password Strength	✓Strong	No changes needed
Firewall Status	✓On	No changes needed
Software Updates	✓Completed	Keep checking weekly for updates
Best Practices	✓Reviewed	Continue using strong passwords and safe habits

Conclusion

This security audit confirmed that my system is well-protected in key areas. My password is strong, the firewall is active, and the system is fully updated. I also follow good security habits, such as not reusing passwords and locking my screen. These steps contribute to a safer digital environment and reflect the importance of regular security checks.