Pi-adv

August 11th, 2024

PAM, linux visually

PAM is a tool that manages a lot of security modules that determines if a user is who they say they are.

Some are application specific

General ones are account, auth, password, and session.

These are the management team of the system.

Common- is the common configuration for those specific areas.

PAM is all about authenticating the user, it uses libraries to offfer module configurable support for anything ojn the system, so you can add multiple teams for multiple different rooms, to do a certain thing.

Common-password file

Appearance is a lot of comments, and the important bits near the bottom. Write your own comments to what you are changing.

You can have successive modules in PAM.

Each line specifies an action by the program that deals with authentication happens in sequencial order.

There are four fields. Fields are seperated by the spaces in between.

1st field

what are you dealing with, since it’s the common-password file, anything to do with passwords

is specified with the password value in the 1st field.

2nd field

defines the behavior of the line, all of the modules, based on the module used.

3rd field

deals with all of the actions in the line.

4th field

all the ways to customize the module. The arguments of the line, tells how to be executed.

ex of first line of common-password

pwquality.so module deals with setting are proper password. Third column deals all the actions

or what to do in the line.

Sample PAM stack

required NO YES YES YES

required YES YES YES YES

requisite YES NO YES YES

optional YES NO NO

sufficient YES YES NO

requisite YES YES

BAD BAD GOOD GOOD

required if fails, goes through everything but will fail the stack.

Requisite if fails, stops the stack and fails.

Optional doesn’t matter if it fails or succeeds, stacks continues without failing based on Optional.

Sufficient checks everything above it, if nothing fails, it doesn’t either. But if so, it will fail and the stack will stop based on what has failed.

Programs are linked to PAM as when installed, they have a file in the pam.d directory that calls certain commands or @include a common- file to the file.

important modules include

pwquality

pwhistory

unix

faillock

faildelay

PAM is sensitive.