

Lab 4.6.7 Changing Root/Admin Password on a Linux System

From TestOut CompTIA Security+ Course

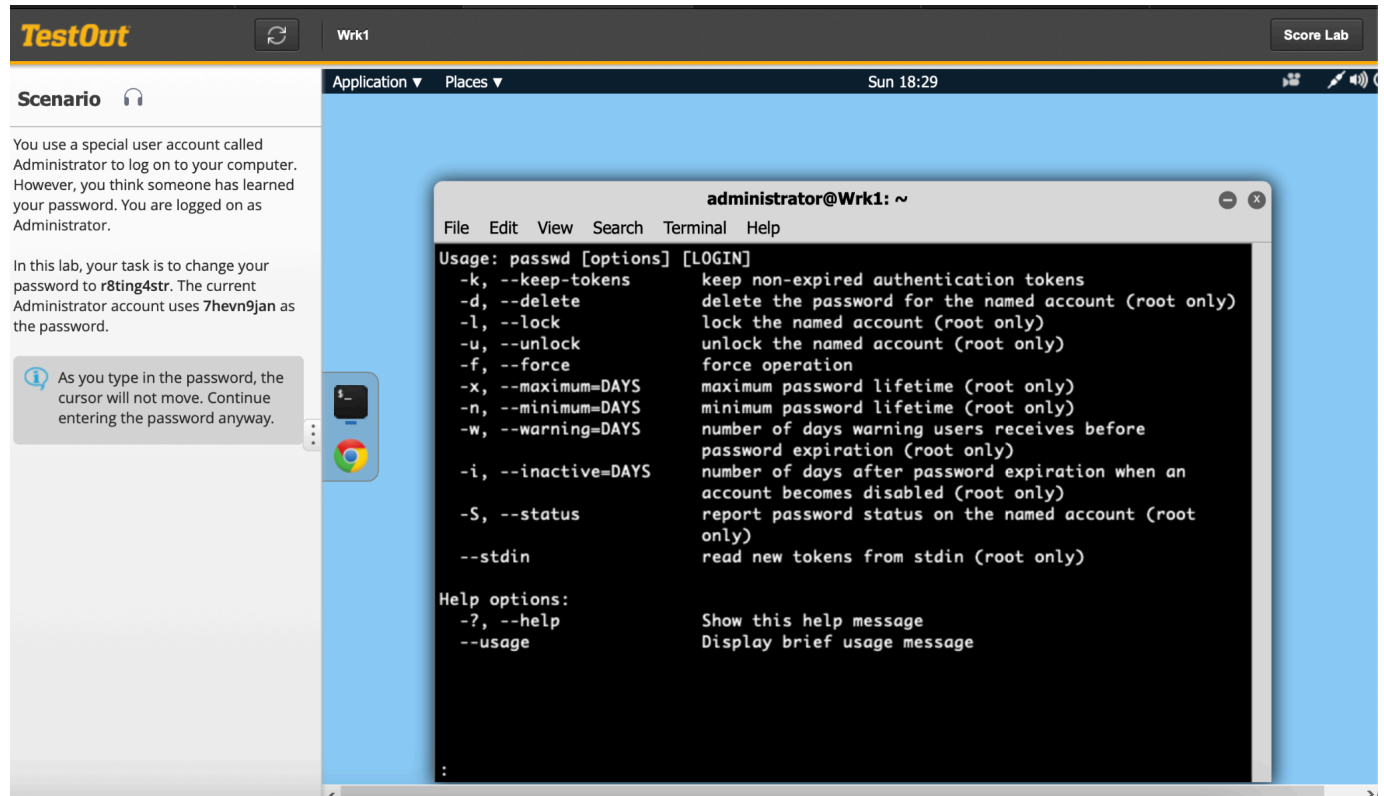
In this lab, I will be changing the password for a given user on a Linux system.

“The scenario for this lab is as follows:

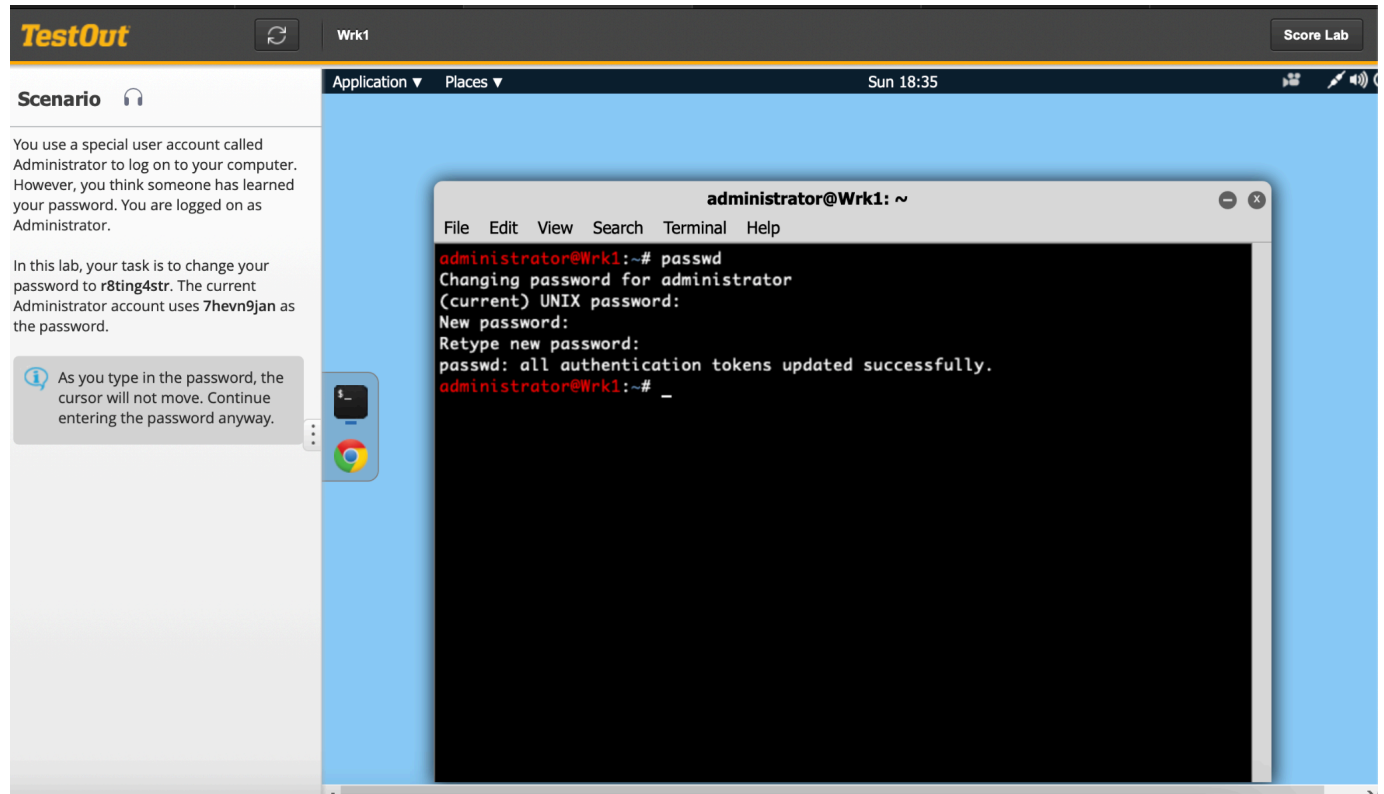
You use a special user account called Administrator to log on to your computer. However, you think someone has learned your password. You are logged on as Administrator.

In this lab, your task is to change your password to r8ting4str. The current Administrator account uses 7hevn9jan as the password.”

Based off the scenario above, I can already tell this will be a very easy task. GNU/Linux makes it very easy for you to change your password by using the “passwd” binary. Let’s first query it to see it’s use case, enter at the shell “man passwd” to see all the flags and args we can pass the shell.



After reviewing the options , we can just keep it simple by passing the command “# passwd [login name] “ (Note: the symbol “#” means this command must be ran as root). Since we want to change the password for administrator and we are currently logged into that account, we don’t need to supply a username. Only root and the user can change the password.



Notice that when you're typing, the password nor the cursor is present in the shell. This behavior is intentional as GNU/Linux does a great job of hiding the characters of the password for security reasons. Not even asterisks (****) are present as this would give an attacker the exact length of the password. Then, all an attacker has to do is update their Dictionary or Wordlist to match the character length.

That concludes this brief Lab!

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The screenshot shows the TestOut application interface. On the left, a sidebar contains a 'Scenario' section with a headset icon. The main content area displays a 'Lab Report' modal window. The modal has a title 'Lab Report' and a subtitle 'Time Spent: 03:15'. Below this, it shows a 'Score: 1/1 (100%)' with a full orange progress bar. The 'TASK SUMMARY' section includes a 'Required Actions' list with one item: 'Change the administrator user password to r8ting4str', which is marked with a green checkmark. The 'EXPLANATION' section, also with a headset icon, contains the text 'Complete this lab as follows:'. The background of the application shows a 'Wrk1' workspace with a 'Score Lab' button in the top right corner. The top status bar indicates 'Sun 18:38'.

TestOut Wrk1 Score Lab

Application Places Sun 18:38

Scenario 🎧

You use a special user account called Administrator to log on to your computer. However, you think someone has learned your password. You are logged on as Administrator.

In this lab, your task is to change your password to **r8ting4str**. The current Administrator account uses **7hevn9jan** as the password.

🔔 As you type in the password, the cursor will not move. Continue entering the password anyway.

Lab Report 🖨️ ✕

Time Spent: 03:15

Score: 1/1 (100%)

TASK SUMMARY

Required Actions

- ✓ Change the administrator user password to r8ting4str

EXPLANATION 🎧

Complete this lab as follows: