

CLASSIFIED: Investigation Evidence

Cyber Academy Middle School — Account Lockout Incident

⚠ Your Mission

Several student accounts have been locked out due to failed login attempts. The IT department has gathered evidence. Your detective team must investigate.

Questions to answer:

- Is this a security incident or coincidence?
- What happened and why?
- What should the school do next?

Document A: Login Attempt Logs

Source: School authentication server

USERNAME	DATE	TIME	ATTEMPTS	STATUS
jsmith2025	11/18/25	3:45 AM	12	LOCKED
mgarcia2025	11/18/25	3:47 AM	15	LOCKED
kchen2025	11/19/25	3:44 AM	8	LOCKED
rjones2025	11/19/25	3:46 AM	10	LOCKED
tpatel2025	11/20/25	2:15 PM	3	SUCCESS
akim2025	11/20/25	8:30 AM	1	SUCCESS
bwilson2025	11/21/25	3:45 AM	9	LOCKED

Document B: Password Security Analysis

Source: IT Department security audit

USERNAME	COMPLEXITY	LAST CHANGED	PATTERN DETECTED
jsmith2025	WEAK	8/15/25	Birthday-based (Jake0823)
mgarcia2025	WEAK	8/15/25	Pet name + year (Buddy2025)
kchen2025	WEAK	8/15/25	School name + numbers (CyberAcad123)
rjones2025	MEDIUM	10/01/25	Random with substitutions (R0nd0m99)
bwilson2025	WEAK	8/15/25	Favorite team (Lakers24)
tpatel2025	STRONG	11/01/25	Passphrase (correct-horse-battery)
akim2025	STRONG	11/15/25	Random generated

Document C: Social Media Activity (Public Posts)

Source: Publicly visible student social media

@JakeSmith_2025 — August 23: “Best birthday ever! Thanks everyone!”

@Maria_Garcia — September 5: “My dog Buddy is the cutest! ” [photo of golden retriever]

@KatieChen — October 10: “Cyber Academy spirit week! Go Eagles! #CyberAcad123”

@RJ_Jones — November 1: “Changed my password to something actually random this time lol”

@BrandonW — October 28: “Lakers game tonight! Lebron is the GOAT #Lakers24ever”

@tanyapatel — November 10: “Finally using a password manager like my mom keeps telling me”

Document D: Network Analysis

Source: School firewall and network monitoring

FAILED LOGIN ATTEMPTS – SOURCE ANALYSIS

IP Address: 203.45.67.89

Geolocation: Outside school district (unknown location)

User Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (compatible; AutoBrute/2.1)

Connection Type: VPN/Proxy detected

TIME PATTERN ANALYSIS:

11/18 attempts: 3:45 AM – 3:47 AM (2 minute window)

11/19 attempts: 3:44 AM – 3:46 AM (2 minute window)

11/21 attempts: 3:45 AM (single timestamp)

EXCEPTION:

tpatel2025 login (SUCCESS): 2:15 PM, School IP, Normal browser

akim2025 login (SUCCESS): 8:30 AM, School IP, Normal browser

Document E: IT Help Desk Tickets

Source: School IT support system

Date	Student	Issue	Resolution
11/18	Jake S.	“Can’t log in, says account locked”	Password reset issued
11/18	Maria G.	“Account locked out this morning”	Password reset issued
11/19	Katie C.	“Locked out again! Didn’t do anything”	Password reset, advised stronger password
11/19	Ryan J.	“Account locked, I just changed my password last month!”	Password reset issued
11/21	Brandon W.	“Same thing happened to me now”	Pending investigation

Document F: Student Interview Notes

Source: Brief conversations with affected students

Jake S.: "I didn't try to log in at 3 AM! I was sleeping!"

Maria G.: "This is so annoying. I have a really easy password so I don't forget it."

Katie C.: "I use the same password for everything, is that bad?"

Ryan J.: "I actually tried to make mine harder to guess. Why did this still happen to me?"

Brandon W.: "I post about the Lakers all the time. You think someone guessed my password from that?"

Investigation Tips

- Look for patterns across documents
- Consider what's similar AND what's different
- Think about what someone would need to know to do this
- Ask: What does the evidence show? What's still uncertain?

Security Detective Teams — NICE K12 2025