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OpenMRS stands for Open Medical Record System. It’s a common framework for creating an electronic medical record. and it’s a platform that everyone can download and use for free.

They did a really good job in privacy policy by adding the link on the bottom of the page and highlighting the most important things. Here’s the thing they highlighted “Please assume that everything you contribute intentionally to OpenMRS is public.”. It’s reasonable to think about because of its public mission, but it’s hard for the user to take into account if they don’t know anything.

By reading this, users know that everything they post on the OpenMRS website will be seen by everyone, so they will be extra careful about the information they put online.

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One observation is the multiple access control strategies. OpenMRS uses role-based access control, which means the user’s access is restricted by the role. In OpenMRS, we have to choose the privilege level when creating an account. The other strategy is the discretionary access control and there are two ways to implement this.

Google doc is an example that the access is given by the owner. OpenMRS, instead, uses capacities so that the users have different views and can perform different actions. This allows the admin to limit the access to certain files.

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Another observation is the password complexity. We can change the strength rules, but here are the two default rules on the wiki page. First, the length should be at least eight. “At least 8 character(s) are required” error message is shown when the password is too short.

The other rule is to have uppercase, lowercase, and at least one number. The interesting thing is no message is given when we only enter the numbers. The error, “Validation errors found. Failed to save account details.”, is given when we try to save it but it doesn’t show where we did wrong.

This leads to our next discussion about the error message. As you can see, OpenMRS does a good job in not providing the overly informative error message. For example, same error message, “Invalid username/password. Please try again.”, is given when the user enters the wrong username or password.

However, it doesn’t work so well in some case. For example, according to the wiki, the account will be locked out after seven failed attempts. However, the same message, “Invalid username/password. Please try again.”, is displayed again in this case. This doesn’t provide meaningful information that allows the user to (do anything to) secure their account

So even we should not provide overly informative error messages, some information should be included so that the user can secure their accounts by either changing the password or reporting to the administrator.

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