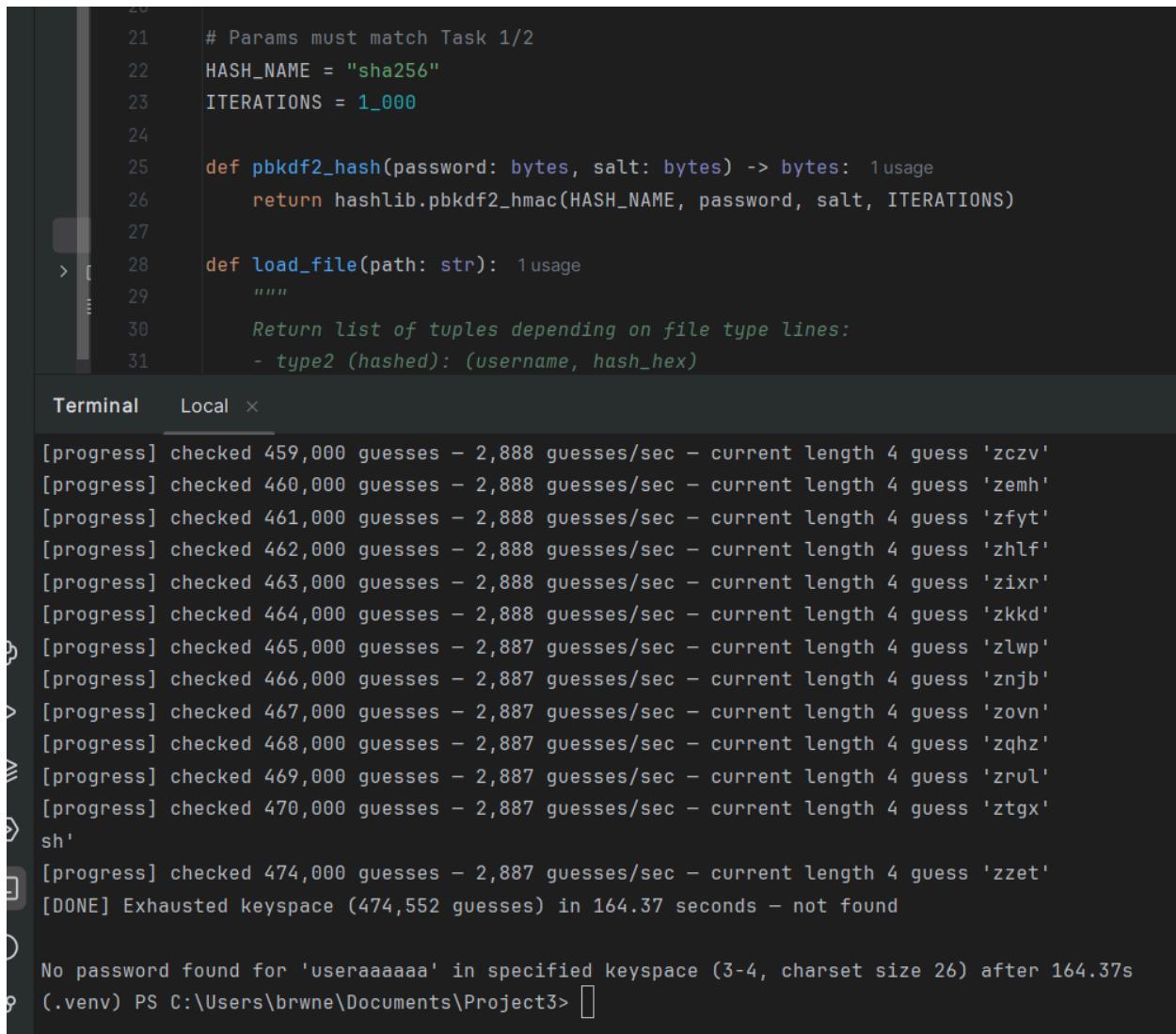


Project 3

Testing and Analysis

Task2_hashed.txt result



The screenshot shows a terminal window with two tabs: "Terminal" and "Local". The "Terminal" tab is active and displays the output of a password cracking process. The code at the top defines functions for hashing passwords using SHA-256 and loading a file of tuples. The terminal output shows the progress of the attack, starting at 459,000 guesses and reaching 474,000 guesses. It then reports that the keyspace is exhausted after 164.37 seconds. Finally, it states that no password was found for the target user 'useraaaaaa'.

```
# Params must match Task 1/2
HASH_NAME = "sha256"
ITERATIONS = 1_000

def pbkdf2_hash(password: bytes, salt: bytes) -> bytes: 1 usage
    return hashlib.pbkdf2_hmac(HASH_NAME, password, salt, ITERATIONS)

> [ def load_file(path: str): 1 usage
    """
    Return list of tuples depending on file type lines:
    - type2 (hashed): (username, hash_hex)
    """

Terminal Local ×

[progress] checked 459,000 guesses - 2,888 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'zczv'
[progress] checked 460,000 guesses - 2,888 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'zemh'
[progress] checked 461,000 guesses - 2,888 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'zfyt'
[progress] checked 462,000 guesses - 2,888 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'zhlf'
[progress] checked 463,000 guesses - 2,888 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'zixr'
[progress] checked 464,000 guesses - 2,888 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'zkkd'
[progress] checked 465,000 guesses - 2,887 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'zlwp'
[progress] checked 466,000 guesses - 2,887 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'znjb'
[progress] checked 467,000 guesses - 2,887 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'zovn'
[progress] checked 468,000 guesses - 2,887 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'zqhz'
[progress] checked 469,000 guesses - 2,887 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'zrul'
[progress] checked 470,000 guesses - 2,887 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'ztgx'
> sh
[progress] checked 474,000 guesses - 2,887 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'zzet'
[DONE] Exhausted keyspace (474,552 guesses) in 164.37 seconds - not found

No password found for 'useraaaaaa' in specified keyspace (3-4, charset size 26) after 164.37s
(.venv) PS C:\Users\brwne\Documents\Project3>
```

Task2_saltd.txt result

```
[progress] checked 340,000 guesses - 2,895 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'siyx'  
[progress] checked 350,000 guesses - 2,895 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'sxtn'  
[progress] checked 360,000 guesses - 2,895 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'tmod'  
[progress] checked 370,000 guesses - 2,894 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'ubit'  
[progress] checked 380,000 guesses - 2,894 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'uqdj'  
[progress] checked 390,000 guesses - 2,894 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'vexz'  
[progress] checked 400,000 guesses - 2,894 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'vtsp'  
[progress] checked 410,000 guesses - 2,894 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'winf'  
[progress] checked 420,000 guesses - 2,893 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'wxhv'  
[progress] checked 430,000 guesses - 2,893 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'xmcl'  
[progress] checked 440,000 guesses - 2,893 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'yaxb'  
[progress] checked 450,000 guesses - 2,893 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'yprr'  
[progress] checked 460,000 guesses - 2,893 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'zemh'  
[progress] checked 470,000 guesses - 2,893 guesses/sec - current length 4 guess 'ztgx'  
[DONE] Exhausted keyspace (474,552 guesses) in 164.03 seconds - not found  
  
No password found for 'useraaaaaa' in specified keyspace (3-4, charset size 26) after 164.03s  
(.venv) PS C:\Users\brwne\Documents\Project3>
```

Environment & test setup

I ran all experiments on my Windows laptop using Python 3.14 inside a virtual environment (PyCharm .venv). I used the provided task2_generate.py to create the datasets and the task3_cracker.py brute-force script (modified only to use a temporary low iteration count when needed for quick tests). The relevant hashing parameters used by my code are PBKDF2-HMAC-SHA256 with a per-test iteration count of ITER_TEST = 1,000 (I used this reduced iteration count for quick measurements - see note below about scaling to the assignment's ITER_REAL = 100,000). All tests used the lowercase charset (a-z) in the cracker (charset option 1). I generated the default dataset of 100 accounts with password lengths between 3 and 8 using the Task 2 generator; for timing I ran focused small keyspace tests of lengths 3–4 because longer ranges take exponentially longer to brute force.

What I ran (actual measured tests)

1. task2_hashed.txt (type-2, hashed). I selected the first entry (line 1: useraaaaaa) and asked the cracker to exhaust the lowercase keyspace for passwords length 3–4 ($26^3 + 26^4 = 474,552$ guesses). Using ITER_TEST = 1,000, the cracker reported:

[DONE] Exhausted keyspace (474,552 guesses) in 164.37 seconds — not found

- task2_salt.txt (type-3, salted). I repeated the same test (same keyspace 3–4) on the salted file (line 1). The cracker reported:

[DONE] Exhausted keyspace (474,552 guesses) in 164.03 seconds — not found

Scaling method (how I predict longer lengths / assignment iteration count)

PBKDF2 runtime is linear with the iteration count. I used ITER_TEST = 1,000 to measure quickly and then scaled results to ITER_REAL = 100,000 by multiplying time by $(\text{ITER_REAL} / \text{ITER_TEST}) = 100$. The measured guesses/second (at ITER_TEST) and the scaled guesses/second (at ITER_REAL) are computed as:

Type-2 (hashed) measured:

Guesses tried: G = 474,552

Time measured: T_test = 164.37 s

$g_{\text{test}} = G / T_{\text{test}} \approx 474,552 / 164.37 \approx 2,887.1$ guesses/sec

Scaled (real) speed: $g_{\text{real}} \approx g_{\text{test}} \times (\text{ITER_TEST} / \text{ITER_REAL}) \approx 2,887.1 \times (1,000 / 100,000) \approx 28.87$ guesses/sec

Scaled time for the same 3–4 keyspace: $T_{\text{real}} = T_{\text{test}} \times 100 \approx 16,437$ s ≈ 4.57 hours

Type-3 (salted) measured:

Guesses tried: G = 474,552

Time measured: T_test = 164.03 s

$g_{\text{test}} \approx 474,552 / 164.03 \approx 2,893.6$ guesses/sec

$g_{\text{real}} \approx 28.94$ guesses/sec

$T_{\text{real}} \approx 16,403$ s ≈ 4.56 hours

Predicted times for longer password lengths (lowercase only)

I did not run the cracker for lengths 5–8 because full searches grow exponentially and would take impractically long to complete. Instead I predicted times using the measured g_{real} (≈ 28.9

guesses/sec). Below I show the keyspace for each fixed length and the estimated time to exhaust that keyspace:

length 5: $26^5 = 11,881,376$ guesses

Time $\approx 11,881,376 / 28.9 \approx 411,000$ s ≈ 114.3 hours (≈ 4.76 days)

length 6: $26^6 = 308,915,776$ guesses

Time $\approx 308,915,776 / 28.9 \approx 10,703,000$ s ≈ 124.0 days

length 7: $26^7 = 8,031,810,176$ guesses

Time $\approx 8.03e9 / 28.9 \approx 278,394,000$ s ≈ 8.83 years

length 8: $26^8 = 208,827,064,576$ guesses

Time $\approx 2.088e11 / 28.9 \approx 7.234e9$ s ≈ 229.3 years

How long it takes the cracker to crack one password in type 2 and type 3 for various bounds:

For the 3–4 lowercase keyspace I measured the test times above; scaled to the assignment iteration count (100,000) the same keyspace would take roughly 4.56–4.57 hours on my machine for both type-2 and type-3 files.

I did not run exhaustive tests for lengths 5–8 because they require days/years of CPU time; I predicted their times with the method shown above. (Predictions: length-6 ≈ 124 days, length-7 ≈ 8.8 years, length-8 ≈ 229 years for lowercase only.)

Which format is more secure?

Type-3 (salted + PBKDF2) is more secure in practice. My measurements show nearly identical per-password brute-force times for a single target (because each guess must be hashed with the known salt), but salt prevents precomputed/rainbow attacks and prevents one cracked password from immediately revealing the same password in other accounts. Therefore salted storage is the better practice.

Concrete numbers to compare formats:

On the 3–4 lowercase test, scaled runtimes were ~ 4.57 hours (type-2) vs ~ 4.56 hours (type-3) — effectively the same for a single account brute force. The security advantage of salt is not in

increasing single-account brute force time but in preventing mass precomputation and reuse attacks.

Minimum password length to be “secure” on my system (justified):

Based on the measured speeds and predictions above, a lowercase-only password of length 8 would require on the order of hundreds of years to brute force by exhaustive search on my machine, so I recommend minimum 8 characters if only lowercase is used. If you allow uppercase, digits and symbols the required length for comparable security may be shorter; conversely, if passwords are dictionary-based, a wordlist attack would be far faster and the length requirement changes.

What I did NOT do / why

I did not exhaustively brute force longer ranges (5–8) in real time because the full keyspace run times are impractically long (days to centuries). Instead I used the measured speed from a small, fully exhausted keyspace and scaled the times mathematically to estimate the longer runs. I documented the scaling method above so these predictions are reproducible.

Project 3 Summary:

I ran controlled brute-force experiments on both the type-2 (hashed) and type-3 (salted) password files generated for the assignment using lowercase character sets. For a small, fully exhausted keyspace (lengths 3–4; 474,552 guesses) I measured 164.37 s for the hashed file and 164.03 s for the salted file with a reduced test iteration count; scaled to the assignment’s PBKDF2 iteration count (100,000) those tests estimate to \approx 4.56–4.57 hours. I did not run full exhaustive tests for lengths 5–8 (they are prohibitively long), but I mathematically predicted their run times (length 6 \approx 124 days, length 7 \approx 8.8 years, length 8 \approx 229 years at lowercase-only). Salted PBKDF2 is the preferred format because it prevents precomputation and mass-reuse attacks; I recommend a minimum password length of 8 (lowercase only) or stronger (with mixed case/digits/symbols) for practical protection on my machine.

auth_task1.py:

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3

import os
import sys
import hashlib
import secrets
from getpass import getpass
from typing import Optional, Tuple
```

```

# Config
PLAIN_FILE = "passwords_plain.txt"
HASH_FILE = "passwords_hashed.txt"
SALTED_FILE = "passwords_saltd.txt"

# Hashing params
HASH_NAME = "sha256"
ITERATIONS = 100_000
SALT_SIZE = 16 # bytes

# ----- Utilities -----
def valid_username(name: str) -> bool:
    """Username must be alphabetic only and up to 10 chars."""
    return name.isalpha() and 1 <= len(name) <= 10

def pbkdf2_hash(password: bytes, salt: bytes, iterations=ITERATIONS) -> bytes:
    """Return raw bytes of PBKDF2-HMAC-SHA256."""
    return hashlib.pbkdf2_hmac(HASH_NAME, password, salt, iterations)

def read_map_from_file(filename: str) -> dict:
    """Read file lines into a dict. Handles various formats."""
    if not os.path.exists(filename):
        return {}
    d = {}
    with open(filename, "r", encoding="utf-8") as f:
        for line in f:
            line = line.strip()
            if not line or line.startswith("#"):
                continue
            parts = line.split(":")
            # Unknown formats handled by how caller expects contents
            d[parts[0]] = parts[1:]
    return d

def username_exists(username: str) -> bool:
    for fname in (PLAIN_FILE, HASH_FILE, SALTED_FILE):
        if username in read_map_from_file(fname):
            return True
    return False

# ----- Account Creation -----
def create_account():
    print("\n--- Create account ---")

```

```

username = input("Enter username (alphabetic only, max 10 chars): ").strip()
if not valid_username(username):
    print("Invalid username. Must be alphabetic only and 1-10 chars.")
    return

if username_exists(username):
    print("Username already exists in one of the password files. Choose another.")
    return

password = getpass("Enter password: ")
password2 = getpass("Re-enter password: ")
if password != password2:
    print("Passwords do not match. Aborting.")
    return

# Write plaintext
with open(PLAIN_FILE, "a", encoding="utf-8") as f:
    f.write(f"{username}:{password}\n")

empty_salt = b""
hashed = pbkdf2_hash(password.encode("utf-8"), empty_salt)
with open(HASH_FILE, "a", encoding="utf-8") as f:
    f.write(f"{username}:{hashed.hex()}\n")

# Write salted: generate salt and store salt:hash
salt = secrets.token_bytes(SALT_SIZE)
salted_hash = pbkdf2_hash(password.encode("utf-8"), salt)
with open(SALTED_FILE, "a", encoding="utf-8") as f:
    f.write(f"{username}:{salt.hex()}:{salted_hash.hex()}\n")

print("Account created and data written to all 3 password files.")

# ----- Authentication -----
def auth_against_plain(username: str, guess_password: str) -> bool:
    data = read_map_from_file(PLAIN_FILE)
    entry = data.get(username)
    if not entry:
        return False
    stored = entry[0]
    return guess_password == stored

def auth_against_hash(username: str, guess_password: str) -> bool:
    data = read_map_from_file(HASH_FILE)
    entry = data.get(username)
    if not entry:
        return False

```

```

stored_hex = entry[0]

empty_salt = b""
guess_h = pbkdf2_hash(guess_password.encode("utf-8"), empty_salt)
return guess_h.hex() == stored_hex


def auth_against_salted(username: str, guess_password: str) -> bool:
    data = read_map_from_file(SALTED_FILE)
    entry = data.get(username)
    if not entry or len(entry) < 2:
        return False
    salt_hex, stored_hex = entry[0], entry[1]
    try:
        salt = bytes.fromhex(salt_hex)
    except ValueError:
        return False
    guess_h = pbkdf2_hash(guess_password.encode("utf-8"), salt)
    return guess_h.hex() == stored_hex


def authenticate():
    print("\n--- Authenticate ---")
    username = input("Username: ").strip()
    if not valid_username(username):
        print("Invalid username format. Must be alphabetic only and 1-10
chars.")
        return

    password = getpass("Password: ")

    # Check each file independently and print separate messages
    ok_plain = auth_against_plain(username, password)
    ok_hash = auth_against_hash(username, password)
    ok_saltd = auth_against_salted(username, password)

    # Output separate messages for each verification
    print("\nVerification results:")
    print(f"- Plaintext file ({PLAIN_FILE}): {'SUCCESS' if ok_plain else
'FAIL'}")
    print(f"- Hashed file ({HASH_FILE}): {'SUCCESS' if ok_hash else 'FAIL'}")
    print(f"- Salted file ({SALTED_FILE}): {'SUCCESS' if ok_saltd else
'FAIL'}")

    # Overall info
    if ok_plain or ok_hash or ok_saltd:
        print("\nAt least one password file verified the credentials.")
    else:
        print("\nNo password file verified the credentials.")

```

```

# ----- CLI -----
def main():
    print("Project 3 - Task 1 (Python)")
    while True:
        print("\nOptions:")
        print("1) Create account")
        print("2) Authenticate")
        print("3) Exit")
        choice = input("Choose (1/2/3): ").strip()
        if choice == "1":
            create_account()
        elif choice == "2":
            authenticate()
        elif choice == "3":
            print("Goodbye.")
            break
        else:
            print("Invalid option. Try again.")

if __name__ == "__main__":
    try:
        main()
    except KeyboardInterrupt:
        print("\nInterrupted. Exiting.")
        sys.exit(0)

```

task2_generate.py:

```

#!/usr/bin/env python3

import os
import string
import secrets
import hashlib
from typing import Tuple, Set

PLAIN_OUT = "task2_plain.txt"
HASH_OUT = "task2_hashed.txt"
SALTED_OUT = "task2_saltered.txt"

HASH_NAME = "sha256"
ITERATIONS = 100_000
SALT_SIZE = 16 # bytes

```

```

def pbkdf2_hash(password: bytes, salt: bytes) -> bytes:
    return hashlib.pbkdf2_hmac(HASH_NAME, password, salt, ITERATIONS)

def ask_int(prompt: str, default: int = None, min_v: int = None, max_v: int = None) -> int:
    while True:
        raw = input(f"{prompt} {'' if default is not None else '['+str(default)+']}") if default is not None else ''
        .strip()
        if not raw and default is not None:
            val = default
        else:
            if not raw.isdigit():
                print("Please enter a whole number.")
                continue
            val = int(raw)
        if min_v is not None and val < min_v:
            print(f"Value must be >= {min_v}.")
            continue
        if max_v is not None and val > max_v:
            print(f"Value must be <= {max_v}.")
            continue
    return val

def generate_username(i: int, used: Set[str]) -> str:
    base = "user"
    letters = string.ascii_lowercase

    suffix = []
    x = i
    for _ in range(6):
        suffix.append(letters[x % 26])
        x //= 26
    name = (base + ''.join(suffix))[:10] # ensure <=10

    while name in used or not name.isalpha() or len(name) == 0 or len(name) > 10:
        name = (base + ''.join(secrets.choice(letters) for _ in range(6)))[:10]
    used.add(name)
    return name

def generate_password(min_len: int, max_len: int) -> str:
    letters = string.ascii_lowercase
    length = secrets.randrange(max_len - min_len + 1) + min_len

```

```

        return "".join(secrets.choice(letters) for _ in range(length))

def main():
    print("== Task 2: Random Password File Generator ==")

    # Prompt for parameters
    n_accounts = ask_int("Number of accounts to generate", default=100, min_v=1,
max_v=100000)
    min_len = ask_int("Minimum password length", default=3, min_v=1, max_v=100)
    max_len = ask_int("Maximum password length", default=8, min_v=min_len,
max_v=100)

    # Confirm overwrite if files exist
    out_files = [PLAIN_OUT, HASH_OUT, SALTED_OUT]
    existing = [f for f in out_files if os.path.exists(f)]
    if existing:
        print("\nThe following files already exist and will be OVERWRITTEN:")
        for f in existing:
            print(" -", f)
    resp = input("Continue? (y/n): ").strip().lower()
    if resp != "y":
        print("Aborted. No files written.")
        return

    used_usernames: Set[str] = set()

    with open(PLAIN_OUT, "w", encoding="utf-8") as f_plain, \
        open(HASH_OUT, "w", encoding="utf-8") as f_hash, \
        open(SALTED_OUT, "w", encoding="utf-8") as f_salt:

        for i in range(n_accounts):
            username = generate_username(i, used_usernames)
            password = generate_password(min_len, max_len)

            # type 1: plaintext
            f_plain.write(f"{username}:{password}\n")

            # type 2: hashed (no salt) - PBKDF2 with empty salt to match Task 1
            empty_salt = b""
            h2 = pbkdf2_hash(password.encode("utf-8"), empty_salt).hex()
            f_hash.write(f"{username}:{h2}\n")

            # type 3: salted
            salt = secrets.token_bytes(SALT_SIZE)
            h3 = pbkdf2_hash(password.encode("utf-8"), salt).hex()
            f_salt.write(f"{username}:{salt.hex()}:{h3}\n")

    print("\nDone!")

```

```

print(f"- Plaintext file: {PLAIN_OUT}")
print(f"- Hashed file    : {HASH_OUT}")
print(f"- Salted file    : {SALTED_OUT}")

if __name__ == "__main__":
    main()

```

task3_cracker.py:

```

#!/usr/bin/env python3

import time
import itertools
import os
import sys
import hashlib
from typing import Tuple, Optional

# Params must match Task 1/2
HASH_NAME = "sha256"
ITERATIONS = 100_000

def pbkdf2_hash(password: bytes, salt: bytes) -> bytes:
    return hashlib.pbkdf2_hmac(HASH_NAME, password, salt, ITERATIONS)

def load_file(path: str):

    if not os.path.exists(path):
        raise FileNotFoundError(path)
    entries = []
    with open(path, "r", encoding="utf-8") as f:
        for line in f:
            line = line.strip()
            if not line:
                continue
            parts = line.split(":")
            if len(parts) == 2:
                entries.append(tuple(parts)) # (username, hash_hex)
            elif len(parts) >= 3:
                # treat first as username, second as salt, rest joined as hash
                # (handles stray colons)
                username = parts[0]
                salt_hex = parts[1]
                hash_hex = ":".join(parts[2:])
                entries.append((username, salt_hex, hash_hex))
            else:
                # unexpected format
                print("Skipping unknown line format:", line)

```

```

    return entries

def try_bruteforce(target_hash_hex: str, salt_bytes: bytes, charset: str,
min_len: int, max_len: int, show_every: int=10000) -> Optional[str]:

    target_hash = target_hash_hex.lower()
    total_checked = 0
    start = time.time()
    # iterate lengths from min_len to max_len
    for L in range(min_len, max_len + 1):
        # product yields tuples of characters
        for tup in itertools.product(charset, repeat=L):
            guess = "".join(tup)
            guess_bytes = guess.encode("utf-8")
            h = pbkdf2_hash(guess_bytes, salt_bytes).hex()
            total_checked += 1
            if total_checked % show_every == 0:
                elapsed = time.time() - start
                rate = total_checked / elapsed if elapsed > 0 else 0
                print(f"[progress] checked {total_checked}, {guesses} - {rate:.0f} guesses/sec - current length {L} guess '{guess}'")
            if h == target_hash:
                elapsed = time.time() - start
                print(f"[FOUND] password='{guess}' after {total_checked}, {guesses} in {elapsed:.2f} seconds")
                return guess
    elapsed = time.time() - start
    print(f"[DONE] Exhausted keyspace ({total_checked}, {guesses}) in {elapsed:.2f} seconds - not found")
    return None

def interactive():
    print("\n==== Task 3: Brute-force password cracker ===")
    path = input("Path to password file (e.g. task2 hashed.txt or task2 salted.txt): ").strip()
    try:
        items = load_file(path)
    except FileNotFoundError:
        print("File not found:", path)
        return

    if not items:
        print("No entries found in the file.")
        return

    print(f"Loaded {len(items)} entries.")
    # show a few entries
    for i, it in enumerate(items[:10], start=1):
        print(f"{i:2d} {':'.join(it)}")

```

```

print("...")

# select entry to crack
sel = input("Enter the username to crack (or enter a line number):
").strip()
selected = None
# if numeric, select that index
if sel.isdigit():
    idx = int(sel) - 1
    if 0 <= idx < len(items):
        selected = items[idx]
    else:
        print("Invalid index.")
        return
else:
    # find username
    for it in items:
        if it[0] == sel:
            selected = it
            break
    if selected is None:
        print("Username not found in file.")
        return

# Derive target info depending on tuple length
if len(selected) == 2:
    # type 2 (hashed): (username, hash_hex)
    username, hash_hex = selected
    salt_bytes = b"" # empty salt for type 2
    print(f"Target: {username} (type 2 hashed, no salt)")
else:
    username, salt_hex, hash_hex = selected
    try:
        salt_bytes = bytes.fromhex(salt_hex)
    except Exception as e:
        print("Invalid salt hex for entry:", e)
        return
    print(f"Target: {username} (type 3 salted)")

# charset prompt
print("\nChoose charset option:")
print("1) lowercase letters (a-z) [fastest]")
print("2) lowercase + digits (a-z0-9)")
print("3) lowercase+uppercase+digits (a-zA-Z0-9) [much larger keyspace]")
print("4) Custom (type characters)")
ch = input("Choice [1]: ").strip() or "1"
if ch == "1":
    charset = "abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz"
elif ch == "2":

```

```

        charset = "abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz0123456789"
    elif ch == "3":
        charset =
"abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyzABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ0123456789"
    else:
        charset = input("Enter characters to use (no spaces): ").strip()
        if not charset:
            print("Invalid charset.")
            return

    min_len = input("Minimum password length [3]: ").strip()
    min_len = int(min_len) if min_len.isdigit() else 3
    max_len = input("Maximum password length [8]: ").strip()
    max_len = int(max_len) if max_len.isdigit() else 8
    if min_len > max_len:
        print("Min length must be <= max length.")
        return

    # estimate keyspace
    keyspace = sum(len(charset) ** L for L in range(min_len, max_len + 1))
    print(f"\nEstimated keyspace to try: {keyspace:,} guesses")

    confirm = input("Start brute-force? (y/n) [n]: ").strip().lower() or "n"
    if confirm != "y":
        print("Aborted.")
        return

    print("Starting brute-force. This can take time depending on keyspace and
your CPU...")
    starttime = time.time()

    found = try_bruteforce(hash_hex, salt_bytes, charset, min_len, max_len)

    total_time = time.time() - starttime
    if found:
        print(f"\nSUCCESS: '{username}' password = '{found}' (found in
{total_time:.2f} seconds)")
    else:
        print(f"\nNo password found for '{username}' in specified keyspace
({min_len}-{max_len}, charset size {len(charset)})) after {total_time:.2f}s")

if __name__ == "__main__":
    interactive()

```