

SIAST's Kelsey Campus takes advantage of ElcomSoft's Proactive Password Auditor to monitor Windows accounts.

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SIAST is a post-secondary non-profit education facility that routinely has an enrolment of over 2500 students per year into the CST Program (Computer Systems Technology). Most of our classes are service classes, meaning that the students are shown the computer basics and given a skillset in the Microsoft Office Suite.

We do, however, have full time and online students that take a 2-3 year course in computers ranging from programming, database, Linux, networking and security. We were tasked with the decision to increase our password lengths and complexness. After looking around at different software that would do an audit on our system, we chose the PPA from Elcomsoft. Although the trial was limited to 10 accounts at a time, the quickness of the software was able to show weak passwords on the network, and we were able to do a proof of concept to management on why our current policy must be changed. We were able to show that quite a few of the student accounts were easily cracked resulting in little opposition to the policy change from management and staff.

We found the options and granularity of the setup for scans very easy to implement, and with the integration into the GPU acceleration I was still able to work on my admin workstation (an i7 with dual ATI Radeon HD5450, and 16GB RAM) while running remote connections to 8 servers - with little noticeable system lag/drag.

Thank you for the opportunity to try the software first - it was greatly appreciated.