UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
Information Technology

Policy: Authentication Management

Purpose:

Authentication mechanisms such as passwords are the primary means of protecting access to computer systems and data. It is essential that these authenticators be strongly constructed and used in a manner that prevents their compromise.

Scope:

This policy applies to all passwords and other authentication methods used at the university.

Policy:

1. Access to all university data and systems not intended for unrestricted public access requires authentication.
2. Passwords and other authenticators must be constructed to have a resistance to attack commensurate with the level of system or data access granted to the account.
3. Systems must be designed and configured to protect passwords during storage and transmission.
4. No one may ask another to share a password, for example as a condition of employment or in order to provide technical support.

Responsibilities:

1. All members of the University of Florida Constituency are responsible for any activity that occurs as a result of the use of authentication methods issued to them.
2. All members of the University of Florida Constituency are responsible for protecting the password or authentication method associated with a university account. Passwords may not be shared or disclosed to anyone else.
3. Users are responsible for reporting any suspicious use of assigned authentication mechanisms. Anyone that reasonably believes their password to be known by anyone else

must change it immediately. Lost or stolen authentication devices are to be reported immediately.

4. Information Security Managers (ISM) are responsible for verifying that information systems under their control, and those intended for acquisition or development by their unit, comply with this policy.

Authority:

UF-1.0102: Policies on Information Technology and Security

References:

NIST 800-53 revision 3: AC-7, IA-5, IA-5 (1), IA-7

SEC-AC-002.01: Authentication Management Standard

SEC-AC-002.02: Password Complexity Standard