

# Checking password strength for squirrelmail

Posted by [kroshka](#) on Fri 28 Mar 2008 at 10:39

I have successfully used the method below to configure the `change_ldappass` plugin of Squirrelmail to perform password strength checks using `cracklib`. I made a few assumptions, but it should be easy to adapt it to your own situation.

For example squirrelmail is custom installed, in `/usr/share/squirrelmail/`, using the newest stable version and I preferred to use `php5`, since it didn't require a recompile. `PHP4` on debian is not configured/compiled with the required extension. As a side effect this removed `php4` which was fine to me, though it did require a slight configuration change here and there.

Install `php5` and related packages:

```
apt-get install php-pear php5 libapache2-mod-php5 php5-dev php5-ldap php5-cli
```

Install `cracklib` if it doesn't exist:

```
apt-get install cracklib2-dev cracklib-runtime
```

Download compile and install `php's` `crack` extension:

```
pecl install crack
```

There is a tiny bug in the compilation procedure, to avoid it do:

```
cd /tmp/pear/cache/crack-0.4
./configure; make; make install
```

Enable `PHP5` in `apache2` if it hasn't been done yet:

```
a2enmod php5
```

Edit `/etc/apache2/sites-enabled/squirrelmail` (not essential)

Change the two occurrences of `php4` into `php5`

Configure `php5` to work with `crack`, edit `/etc/php5/apache2/php.ini` and enter:

```
[Crack]
; Modify the setting below to match the directory location of the cracklib
; dictionary files. Include the base filename, but not the file extension.
extension=crack.so
crack.default_dictionary = "/var/cache/cracklib/cracklib_dict"
```

Edit `/usr/share/squirrelmail/plugins/change_ldappass/config.php`:

```
change the line $lcp_crack_dict = '';
to read: $lcp_crack_dict = '/var/cache/cracklib/cracklib_dict';
```

You may need to run:

```
ldconfig
```

Now restart `apache`:

```
/etc/init.d/apache2 restart
```

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This article can be found online at the **Debian Administration** website at the following bookmarkable URL:

- <http://www.debian-administration.org/articles/589>

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