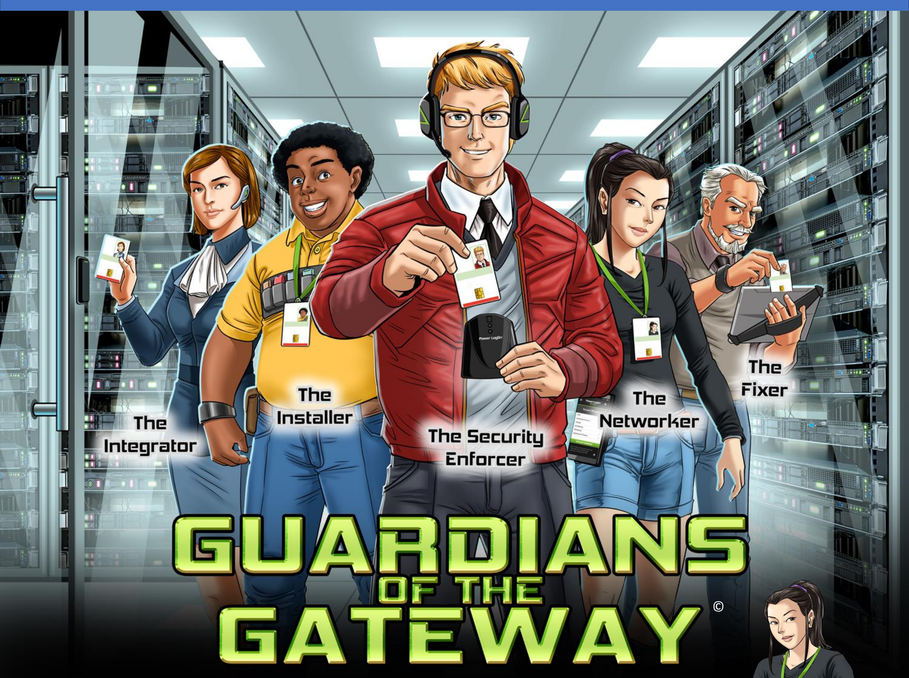
Employees Circumvent Security



The Networker: I secure my network by requiring employees to have random, 10-character passwords they have to change every 60-days, and no two accounts can have the same password. Now that's security.

However, I just found password laden sticky notes at different employee stations. Okay Password Concierge, how do I get the employees to stop that?

It's interesting that a security policy designed to protect the network can actually weaken the network.

Just hold on there, PC. What I 've implemented complies with government regulations and our own internal security policies as specified by The Security Enforcer.

That's true. But security and compliance are two different things. While your policy looks good on paper and matches best practices, you are not looking at the problem from the employee's viewpoint. They have to live with it. If they can, employees will always circumvent security for convenience. They're not being difficult, they're just busy and stressed out.

You suggesting I reduce the number of characters and the change frequency?

On the contrary. I'm suggesting you stop delegating the roll of "Network Security Manager" to your employees. When you allow them to manage their own passwords, your network is only as secure as their weakest password. The latest SplashData report still has "123456" as the most commonly used password for the past six years.

About 60% of CISO are fired after a data breach, and many can't find another job. So, are you willing to place your career in the hands of employees?

I've already seen what employee-managed passwords can do to my network 'Diana'. So, I can do nothing or do something. I've already tried nothing.

Power LogOn puts IT Administrators in full control of all passwords. Employees no longer have to remember, type, know, generate or manage any more company passwords. By reducing your risk of a breach, management can stay focused on sales generation.

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