

Enforce Password Complexity Policy

PAM pwquality modules to enforce password complexity policy

It is better to take a backup of the configuration file before making changes just in case things go wrong.

```
cp /etc/security/pwquality.conf/etc/security/pwquality.conf.original
```

```
cp /etc/pam.d/system-auth /etc/pam.d/system-auth.original
```

Open the configuration file for editing

```
vim /etc/pam.d/system-auth
```

Locate the line containing the **pam_pwquality.so** modules;

```
password requisite pam_pwquality.so try_first_pass  
  
local_users_only retry=3 authtok_type=
```

Comment the line and replace by the line below:

```
password requisite pam_pwquality.so try_first_pass local_users_only  
retry=3 authtok_type= minlen=8 lcredit=-1 ucredit=-1 dcredit=-1 ocredit=-1  
enforce_for_root
```

Where:

- **minlen=8**– sets the minimum password length to 8 characters.
- **lcredit=-1** -Sets the minimum number of lower case letters that the password should contain to at least one
- **ucredit=-1**-Sets the minimum number of upper case letters on a password to at least one.
- **dcredit=-1** – Sets the minimum number of digits to be contained in a password to at least one
- **ocredit=-1** – Set the minimum number of other symbols such as @, #, ! \$ % etc on a password to at least one

- **enforce_for_root** – Ensures that even if it is the root user that is setting the password, the complexity policies should be enforced
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Testing Password Enforcement Policy

As a root user, try to change the password of a user with a password that doesn't meet the set credentials.

```
[root@Cent7 ~]# passwd amos

Changing password for user amos.

New password: @moskifarul

BAD PASSWORD: The password contains less than 1 uppercase letters

New password: @mosKifarU

BAD PASSWORD: The password contains less than 1 digits

New password: mosKifarul1

BAD PASSWORD: The password contains less than 1 non-alphanumeric
characters

passwd: Have exhausted maximum number of retries for service
```

Test using a more complex password;

```
[root@Cent7 ~]# passwd amos

Changing password for user amos.

New password: @mosKifarul

Retype new password: @mosKifarul

passwd: all authentication tokens updated successfully.
```