

Re: Is Excel Security worth anything?

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Excel/microsoft.public.excel.programming/2006-04/msg01499.html>

- *From:* "Jean-Yves" <nomail_I_hate_spam@xxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 7 Apr 2006 10:06:42 +0200
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Hi Jim,

Just to give you an idea how some works.
Create a new Wb, with your own PW. Run the utility to crack PW.
The Wb you want to crack now has the PW of your new Wb
This only difference is if you want just to open or just have the PW.
Some utilities are even free, other you have to buy or send the file.

Another example. In word, protect the content with PW.
Save in html. Reopen in word, resave as Word : the PW is gone !
Note that with earlier version of word, the PW could be found in the HTML source code.
For security, the more you want the better the application must be.
I have a user ID and PW to access an Oracle DB. If I access/identify via the Oracle GUI,
a second layer will give the rights I need. If I access via ADO, I only get readOnly mode.

Regards

Jean-Yves Tfelt

"Jim Bennett" <JimBennett@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:E5DA0F48-C906-45C9-9B49-A3A94BC7B078@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Thanks for the reply JY.
I searched google quite a bit but was unable to get a definitive answer.
It seems like every password cracker out there claims to be able to break the Microsoft Strong Crypto but are they employing dictionary and brute force attacks? If I generate a truly random key of say 12 char or longer will the resulting excel file be too difficult to crack in a reasonable time period?
I did read about the "flaw" found in MS-Office encryption but it seems to require slightly different versions of the same file encrypted with the same password to be able to cryptanalyze it.

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This lead me to ask the question "How does Internet Explorer encrypt data when connecting to a secure website using SSL?" Does it also use the same crypto dll's that Office uses? Is it any safer?

"Jean-Yves" wrote:

from a none expert point of view :
Just make a google search
Made one on ms "Access security" to compare.
First hit, an author explains in a book how to secure access
Second hit, Get/crack all PW instantaneously from Access.
It is like the size of the safe
Regards
Jean-Yves

Jim Bennett" <JimBennett@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:0D4F2A54-84BB-4EFA-AE62-751A53058183@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Can anyone enlighten me on the subject of Excel security?
Does the
Microsoft
Strong Cryptographic Provider provide a reasonable level of
security
given
a
randomly generated 12 char password (including
non-alphanumeric chars)?
Is
the only method of attack Brute Force?
Also, does internet explorer share the same underlying dll's
when
encrypting
data for an SSL session.

Any info would be very much appreciated.