

## Re: Minimum Password Age GPO

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*Source:*

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.group\\_policy/2008-03/msg00254.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.group_policy/2008-03/msg00254.html)

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  - *Date:* Fri, 14 Mar 2008 09:46:09 -0700
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UselessUser wrote:

Hi,

I am setting up a new domain for somebody who is very keen on security and is asking about password complexity etc... Now the real question is what is the effect of enforcing the minimum password age... I have got the description but it does not really make much sense...

Configure the minimum password age to be more than 0 if you want Enforce password history to be effective. Without a minimum password age, users can cycle through passwords repeatedly until they get to an old favorite. The default setting does not follow this recommendation, so that an administrator can specify a password for a user and then require the user to change the administrator-defined password when the user logs on. If the password history is set to 0, the user does not have to choose a new password. For this reason, Enforce password history is set to 1 by default.

The default setting does not follow this recommendation? what recommendation?? I notice it is set to 1 by default, but what does this mean? Does this mean that if I using ADUC reset someones password, then change their account to require them to change their password at next login, that if they then login in under 24 hours time they will be prompted to change their password but will not be able to change their password??

What do people set this value to, and what are the real nitty gritty implications of this... for example is it just the users who are restricted to a 24 hour limit or me as the administrator as well etc?

The security 'downside' is if a password is compromised, then the user can't change their password for the pw minimum time.

I don't subscribe to this method. I'd rather set the remembered passwords at

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max. If a user really has the motivation to find that value and cycle that many passwords just to get back to their old one, then they've way too much time on their hands.

Besides, that many password changes in one day should stand out in your auditing.

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/kj

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