

# Re: Password Complexity Question...

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[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.active\\_directory/2007-05/msg00287](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.active_directory/2007-05/msg00287)

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- *From:* "Joe Richards [MVP]" <[humorexpress@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:humorexpress@xxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Fri, 04 May 2007 15:46:17 -0400
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1. Password complexity comes into play when you change or set a password. Any pre-existing passwords will not be impacted. Clear text passwords are not maintained so there is no way to check a password to see if it is complex after it has been accepted. This means it can only be done when the password is actually being changed.

2. Next required password change

Password expiration will take effect immediately, but since you are increasing it, this will not be an issue.

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xXVanquishXx wrote:

We want to implement password complexity in our AD environment, and we have a couple of concerns before we implement it.

1. Will it affect Service accounts that do not have complex passwords?
2. Will it require that all existing user accounts change to a complex password immediately or upon the next required password change?

(our policy is currently set for 45 days and will be increased to 90 days after we implement the change)

Thanks!