Subject: login fails after upgrade to ver 1.42
Posted by David Lee on Sun, 28 Dec 2008 21:25:48 GMT
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I upgraded a system that stored passwords as plain text , including updating the menu database and table. After this, I could not log in.

I think that the update to the menu database reset the password storage to encrypted. I have solved my problem by

Edit the config.inc file to output all sql queries
Try logging in as a user - this fails
extract the encrypted password from the saved sql query
replace the plain text password in the menu database with the encrypted password, using, in my case phpmyadmin

This needs repeating for all users with plain text passwords

Generally, the best option is do not use plain text passwords. As this is a one-time problem, I expect to use the work round rather than have a patch issued.

However, does my workround expose a security weakness if logging of sql queries are enabled?

Subject: Re: login fails after upgrade to ver 1.42
Posted by AJM on Mon, 29 Dec 2008 11:22:01 GMT
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There was no file in the 1.42 upgrade which reset the value of PSWD_ENCRYPT in the MNU_CONTROL table. You may have reloaded the whole of 'radicore\menu\sql\mysql\menu-data.sql', but this would be a mistake as this is only supposed to be used for new installations, not upgrades.

You could have solved this problem with a single SQL update by changing the value of PSWD_ENCRYPT instead of going through each user one at a time.

It is generally considered bad practice to store plain text passwords in your database, so what is your reason for doing so? This is far more of a security weakness than exposing encrypted passwords when logging sql queries.

Subject: Re: login fails after upgrade to ver 1.42
Posted by David Lee on Mon, 29 Dec 2008 20:56:07 GMT
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Thanks for the response. Plain text passwords was a test setting that did not get reset, and the smiley in the OP was intended to convey that was bad practice. I don't understand how the upgrade caused it, but have no other explanation of how it could have happened, so I guess it can only be recorded as finger trouble.
My knowledge of which variables control RADICORE is limited, so I am not surprised that there was better ways to sort it out. Thinking security, I realised that my method requires quite a lot of unusual privileges, so was unlikely to be a security hazard on a well configured system.

Subject: Re: login fails after upgrade to ver 1.42
Posted by AJM on Tue, 30 Dec 2008 10:08:58 GMT
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David Lee wrote on Mon, 29 December 2008 20:56My knowledge of which variables control RADICORE is limited...
There are only two places where configuration parameters are stored:

in the MNU_CONTROL table, as shown in screen Menu Control Data
in the CONFIG.INC file
