

8-302. Passwords.

(1) Minimum Password Requirements. The following are the minimum password requirements for state government passwords:

- (a) Must contain a minimum of 12 characters;
- (b) Must contain at least three of the following: (i) at least one uppercase character; (ii) at least one lowercase character; (iii) at least one numeric character; or (iv) at least one symbol (!@#\$\$%^&);
- (c) Must expire after 90 days;
- (d) Must have a minimum password age of at least 15 days prior to changing;
- (e) Must use multi-factor authentication;
- (f) Must not repeat any of the passwords used during the previous 366 days;
- (g) Accounts must automatically lock after three consecutive unsuccessful password attempts;
- (h) Authentication and credentials must be transmitted over secure protocols; and
- (i) Default passwords must be changed before a system is put into production.

(2) Restricted Account and Service Account Passwords. Non-expiring passwords may be used for restricted accounts (“RA”) where the end user is not given the password and service accounts (“SA”) that are used only for machine-to-machine communications. These accounts are used for programmatic purposes only. For these use cases the following criteria apply:

- (a) Must contain a minimum of 20 characters;
- (b) Must only be used for a single purpose; and
- (c) Must be approved by the state information security officer.

(3) System Equipment/Device Passwords. Agencies may use non-expiring passwords for system equipment/devices. It is common for many devices (e.g., IP cameras, HVAC controls) in today's IT environment to utilize login capabilities to protect the device from unauthorized access. While many of these devices make use of a user ID and password in a manner like those found while authenticating a user, the distinction to be made is that the user ID is used to authenticate the device itself to the system and not a person in which case the following requirements apply:

- (a) Must contain a minimum of 20 characters; and
- (b) Remote access and administration must use multi-factor authentication.

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History: Adopted on July 12, 2017. Amended on July 14, 2023 and November 8, 2024.

URL: <https://nirc.nebraska.gov/standards/8-302.pdf>