

Memo

To: Corporate Computer Users
From: IT department
Re: Biometric authentication update

Dear users,

As you may know, we here in IT are always on the cutting edge of technology and security. We have been investigating new methods of user authentication for some time, and have finally selected the technology that we intend to use. From now on, all user authentication will be done using facial recognition biometric technology. This will, unfortunately, force us to make some changes to several of our long-standing policies with respect to authentication. These changes are necessary, as users will no longer have a "password" in the normal sense of the word. Instead, a user's face will play the part of a "password" on the company network. The following is a set of changes to our corporate password policy:

- It has long been company policy that passwords must be changed every 45 days. To this end, the company has hired Vinnie, who will be circulating amongst our offices with a baseball bat, which he will use to assist users in "changing" their "passwords".
- The company has always had a very strict policy that passwords must never be written down, shared, or in any way be made vulnerable to surreptitious capture. In order to apply this requirement to the new authentication methods, the company will be distributing ski masks to all employees. Employees are required to wear these masks at all times, in or out of the office, unless the employee is in the process of logging on to his or her computer. This is necessary to prevent attackers from surreptitiously capturing their "passwords". You may feel that this is an imposition, however, trust us, after the first few visits from Vinnie, it will become a welcome addition to your wardrobe.
- The company has long had a policy of using technology to enforce certain minimum complexity requirements for passwords. This policy required that users use a mix of upper and lower case characters, numbers, and symbols in their password, and prevented them from using dictionary words. In order to adapt this policy to the new authentication paradigm, we will be hiring plastic surgeons to assist our users who look a little too "normal". We have noticed that most of our users have a very similar complement of two ears, two eyes, one nose with two nostrils, and one mouth. This is far too insecure, and the new requirement will force users to abandon at least one of those features, and add a unique mixture of piercings, scars, burns and tattoos to their "password" in order to make it less likely that an attacker could guess what our users might look like.

We realize these changes may take some getting used to, but we are certain that you will all feel better knowing that our corporate data is secure. After all, everything we read seems to agree that biometric authentication is the next big thing, so we are certain that within a few years, everyone will be doing this.

Sincerely,

Your IT department.