



## SECURITY WATCH

Research reveals lax password security policies

ManageEngine, the IT systems management company, surveyed a number of visitors to GITEX about their password policies. The company's findings suggest that, despite clear interest in tightening security controls, flawed password practices are being followed.

One of the key trends revealed is that organisations concentrate more on perimeter security and tend to ignore the most important aspect of privileged password security, which is fundamental to information security.

More than 70% of the respondents said that they were storing administrative passwords in plain text on paper or in unsecured files; 35% repeated passwords from one system to the next, and 40% said they shared passwords by email or phone.

**35%**

of respondents  
use same  
passwords  
across systems

**40%**

of respondents  
share  
passwords  
through e-mail  
and phone calls

**9%**

of respondents  
change  
passwords once  
a month

### Passwords: **Points of weakness**

- Unrestricted or uncontrolled access
- Unaudited access with no trace of 'who' accessed
- Temporary access becomes permanent
- Technician leaves the organisation, takes the passwords with them
- Passwords fall into malicious hands
- Passwords remain unchanged for long time