

NMSU Privileged User Account Password Standard

Purpose of this Standard

This document sets forth Privileged User Account password requirements.

A **Privileged User Account** is one that can access IT resources and data for multiple persons or the systems that control access to such data or access to IT infrastructure to deliver IT services.

The password for a Privileged User Account must meet the specified minimum password requirements described below and must be managed by the user and IT support staff in accordance with the rules below.

Audience

Any employee, student, temporary employee, or an affiliate, including a contractor, outside vendor, or visitor to campus, that is fulfilling the duties of system, network or application administrator or user with elevated access that is assigned, or is providing maintenance support for, an NMSU Privileged User Account.

Standard

1. An NMSU Privileged User Account password must:
 - Be 20 to 64 characters in length
 - Not contain the username
 - Not contain 5 or more repeated characters
 - Never have been used with this account before
 - Expire every 180 days -or- Expire every 365 days if using multi-factor authentication
 - Contain at least one upper or lower-case letter and at least one numerical digit, and a special character
 - Must be stored encrypted at a standard at or above AES128
2. An NMSU Privileged User Account owner must:
 - Never share a password - passwords are to be treated as confidential sensitive information and protected from exposure
 - Immediately report a possible password compromise to abuse@nmsu.edu or the NMSU helpdesk or the responsible system administrator
 - Immediately change the password of an account that is or may be compromised

This standard does not supersede any unit or departmental password standard that imposes more stringent requirements for privileged account users.

Compliance Failure to meet or exceed this standard can put university information assets at risk and may have disciplinary consequences for employees, up to and including termination of employment. Contractors and vendors who fail to adhere to this standard

may face termination of their business relationships with the University. Violation of this standard may also carry the risk of civil or criminal penalties. NMSU IT Compliance Officer is responsible to ensure compliance with this standard.