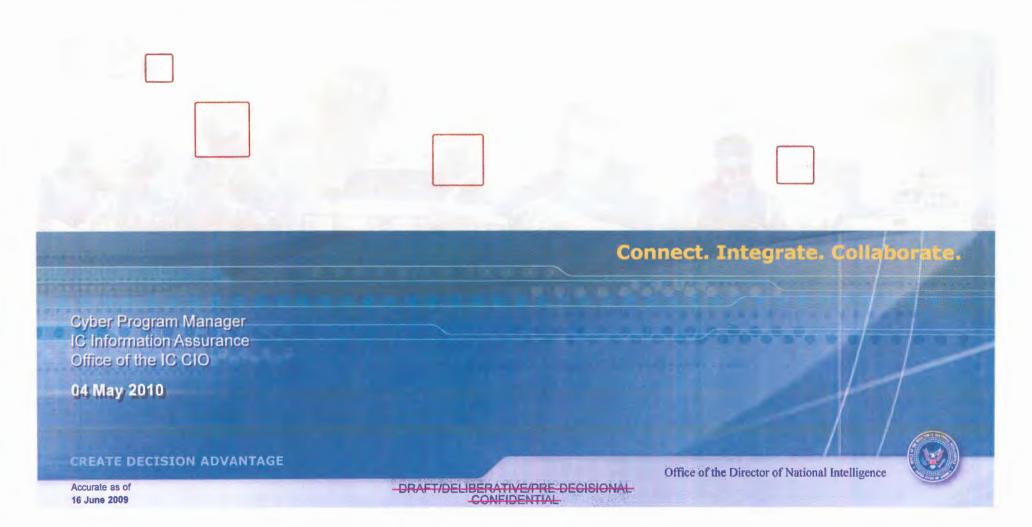
INTERLIGENCE COMMUNITY
INFORMATION INTEGRATION
& MANAGEMENT

ICS Password Management

Policy Background Briefing

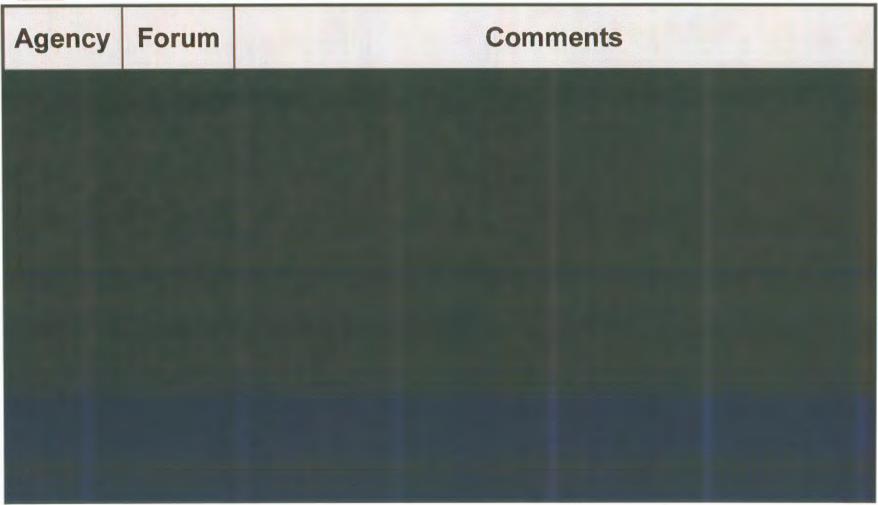


ICS Password Management History/Background

- ICS Password Management establishes criteria for managing all passwords used on any IC IT resource.
- No community consensus
- Recommendation for CIO Council to resolve
- Outstanding Issues
 - Minimum password length: 8 or 12 characters?
 - Maximum password age: 180 or 60 days?

Comments Received

(b)(1) (b)(5)





Issue 1: Minimum Password Length

- Alternative A: 8 characters
 - Pros: Easier to remember.
 - Cons: Easier to guess/brute-force attack. Not consistent with FDCC.
- Alternative B: 12 characters
 - Pros: Harder to guess/brute-force attack. Consistent with FDCC.
 - Cons: Difficult to remember.

Issue 1: Minimum Password Length

(b)(1)
(b)(5)

	Current Draft	FDCC
Minimum Password Length	8 characters	12 characters

PL = Password Length CS = Character Set	Password Cracking* (based on 3 CS)	# of Password Combinations (CS ^ PL)
PL = 8 CS = 94	0.001 days (roughly a minute and half)	6,095,689,385,410,816
PL = 12 CS = 94	18,671 days	475,920,314,814,253,376,475,136

^{*} Source SANS Institute: http://blogs.sans.org/windows-security/2009/06/12/how-to-crack-a-password-spreadsheet



Issue 2: Maximum Password Age

- Alternative A: 180 days
 - Pros: Easier for users.
 - Cons: Not consistent with FDCC.
- Alternative B: 60 days
 - Pros: Consistent with FDCC.
 - Cons: Annoying to users. Higher support costs (i.e. Help Desk).

Current Draft

Maximum 180 60 days days Age

(b)(5)

Comparison Summary

(b)(1) (b)(5)

	Draft ICS 500-16	FDCC
Password Length	12	12
Password Age	180 days	60 days
Password	3 of 4 character	3 of 4 character
Requirements	classes	classes
Password reuse		

ICS Password Management

