



SUBJ: Authentication Security Practices

1. **Purpose of this Notice.** This notice is to provide all VATUSA staff members with a change to the security policies of the network and division.
2. **Audience.** This notice applies to all facilities (ARTCCs, CCFs, CENRAPs) and division website.
3. **Effective Date.** This notice is effective May 15, 2016 and compliance must be achieved by the entire division no later than May 22, 2016. This notice is effective until replaced.
4. **Where Can I Find This Notice?** This policy will be available from the VATUSA website under the policies page.
5. **Background.** The request was originally made by VATSIM to ensure proper security procedures throughout the network and to ensure users do not confuse lower level website passwords with the user's network password.
6. **Policy.**
 - a. All facilities are strongly encouraged to implement and use VATSIM's SSO or VATUSA's ULS. SSO information can be obtained from the VATSIM Forum at <https://forums.vatsim.net/viewforum.php?f=134>. VATUSA's ULS information can be obtained by VATUSA Manual M1022 available at the VATUSA website under policies.
 - b. Facilities opting to not utilize VATSIM's SSO or VATUSA's ULS **must** prefix all password password input labels with the name of the facility or division. For example "VATUSA Password", "Anchorage ARTCC Password", "Boston Password", or similar to ensure understanding that the password being entered is specific to this website and not the network password.
 - c. All websites utilizing password storage shall utilize a hashing algorithm no weaker than SHA1. Salt usage is strongly encouraged. Plain text or MD5 storage of passwords is not authorized.
 - d. Webmasters are also encouraged to consider using an alternative username method other than the CID, IE a username, email, etc. While the CID is simple and easy to remember, this is merely a recommendation.
 - e. Facilities requesting assistance in application of the policy should direct their requests for support to vatusa6@vatusa.net.

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