

Forum: Software i¼ ê» Ÿé«"i¼‰

**Topic: Passwords Subject: Passwords**Posted by: Tim Luo

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Many people might think the system admin can know a user's password. The answer is no.

Passwords are stored in an encrypted format, not the literal password string you provided. When you login and enter your password, the system just encrypts it and compare the encrypted string with the one stored on the system to see if they match. If they do match, you are allowed to login then.

Of course there are some programs available to try to find out what a password is from the encrypted string. But this might take months, if not years, to find it. Thus it's not likely people will do that.

The system admin cannot know your password, but he/she can change the password for you.

Tim