

5.2.9 Ensure SSH PermitEmptyPasswords is disabled (Scored)

Profile Applicability

```
Level 1 - Server  
Level 1 - Workstation
```

Description

The PermitEmptyPasswords parameter specifies if the SSH server allows login to accounts with empty password strings.

Rationale

Disallowing remote shell access to accounts that have an empty password reduces the probability of unauthorized access to the system

Audit

Run the following command and verify that output matches:

```
# grep "^PermitEmptyPasswords" /etc/ssh/sshd_config  
PermitEmptyPasswords no
```

Remediation

Edit the /etc/ssh/sshd_config file to set the parameter as follows:

```
PermitEmptyPasswords no
```

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Permanent link:

<https://secscan.acron.pl/ubuntu1604/5/2/9>

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