



# AIX System Hardening with aixpert



Used by PowerSC



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## Abstract

- This session covers the “aixpert” command
  - Which is a powerful AIX security tool
- aixpert sets many security hardening features in one go
  - The settings are stored in XML profiles
- We cover:
  - How to use the command?
  - How to determine what the profile rules do?
  - How to tune a standard profile to your needs?
  - How to check security compliance with your profile?
- Not to be confused with the DeveloperWorks AIXpert Blog (covers all of AIX)

## “aixpert” Overview

- aixpert = single command for AIX system hardening
  - Introduced ~ 2006 in AIX 5.3 TL5 with ~300 settings
  - A very powerful tool in its own right
  - Replaces 100's of home grown handmade rules and scripts
  - Gets you to higher security than you can by yourself
- IBM developed the initial profiles & newer ones
  - We worked with Banking customers to get these right
  - Designed to meet various industry security standards
  - Much better for IBM to get it right once → then all benefit

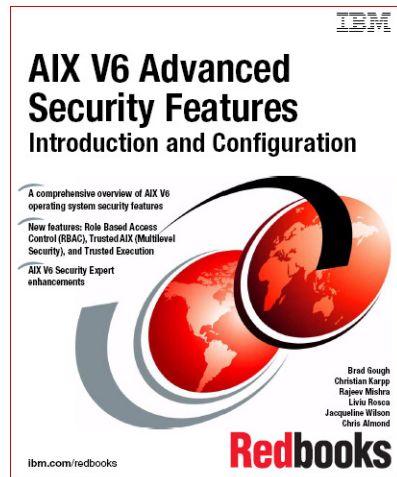
## Information sources

- AIX Manuals for aixpert command
  - <http://tinyurl.com/aixpert-cmd>
- DeveloperWorks AIX Wiki PowerSC page
  - <http://tinyurl.com/PowerSC>
- Older DeveloperWorks aixpert Hints and Tips article
  - <http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/wikis/display/WikiPtype/aixpert>
- Older DeveloperWorks Using AIX Security Expert article
  - <http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/aix/library/au-aixsecurity/>
- Aixpert – The Movie →
  - 23 minutes
  - By a genius ☺
  - <http://tinyurl.com/AIXmovies>



## AIX Security Expert - aixpert

Want More? <http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/>



# Go no further until you have watch the movie

**No,  
Seriously!  
Watch it now**

### **Six year on ... a quick Update**

- Profile improvements with each AIX release
  - Now 400 rules
- New Profiles like PCI & more with PowerSC
- But still No simple XLM viewer made available
  - So still very hard to read
  - WebSM listed the rules but no longer available
  - Replacement pConsole does not list the rules ☹

## Warning don't casually dabble

- I applied Default settings to regular AIX install
- It is a low-ish setting, so no harm right!
  
- NFS processes shutdown – it was my NFS server!
  
- I ran undo but it does not restart NFS
  - It just relaxes the no NFS server rule
  - I quick “smitty nfs” and all is well
  
- You have been warned!



## The Devil is in the Detail & Testing

### Mandatory:

1. Read & Understand profiles rules
2. Test your profiles in a sandbox

Or your vital system get so secure it can't used  
& may you never login again!

## So how to understand the profile rules?

- Where are they
- What do they look like?
  - Naked
- Via Tools
  - XML Editor ☹
  - XML Viewer ☹
  - Nigel's secret website ☺

## Where are the XML profiles?

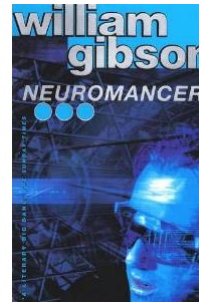
- Assuming a recent AIX version (here AIX 6 TL7)
- /etc/security/
- Root only access

```

# ls
.idlck
.ids
.kst
.profile
.rbac_ids
acl
aixpert
artex
audit
authorizations
certificates
domains
domobjs
environ
failedlogin
fpm
group
ice
ipsec_filter
ipsec_filter.vc
ipsec_tunnel_IBM
ipsec_tunnel_IBM.vc
ipsec_tunnel_manual
ipsec_tunnel_manual.vc
lastlog
ldap
limits
login.cfg
mkuser.default
mkuser.sys
passwd
portlog
priv
privcmds
privcmds.backup
privdevs
privfiles
pwdalg.cfg
pwdhist.dir
pwdhist.pag
roles
services
smitacl.group
smitacl.user
sysck.cfg
tsd
tss
user
user.roles
  
```

## ICE ???

- ICE → Intrusion Countermeasure Electronics
- I first came across this in **Neuromancer** in 1984
- Term attributed to Tom Maddox



## Where are the XML profiles? AIX 6 TL7

- /etc/security/aixpert
- Root only access
  - **bin** 52 scripts to set, unset, check = these names are in rules
  - **core** Master profiles – Do not change these
    - All the supported Languages have a directory
    - aixpertall.xml ← ALL the rules in one file
    - appliedaixpert.bak
    - appliedaixpert.xml
  - **custom** For your customised profiles (not mandatory)
  - **dictionary** No idea – a large file of English words!
  - **ldap** empty
  - **log** FAILEDRULES.log PASSESRULES.log aixpert.log
  - **tmp** applied.tmp
  - **undo** files used to undo last operation

## **`/etc/security/aixpert/core/aixpertall.xml`**

- This has ALL rules for ALL security levels
  - Low, medium, high, default and special ones
- AIX 6 TL7 has 3222 lines
- It is the Master set
- Never use this Profile
  
- You need to extract a subset
- Save your profiles in a safe place
  - `/etc/security/aixpert/custom/xxxxxxx.xml`

## **aixpert command all you need to know**

- You can extract one level using
  - `aixpert -l high -n -o my_high_settings.xml`
  - Modify you profile → next few slides
  - I recommend commenting out
- Apply your profile
  - `aixpert -f my_high_settings.xml`
- If problem undo:
  - `aixpert -u -p`
  
- Check you are Compliance later
  - `aixpert -c -p`



## **aixpert command all you need to know**

- You should have a set of profiles for different uses like:
  - Database server
  - Webserver
  - Application server
  - Backup server
  - General purpose admin server
  - System Director server
  - NFS server
- Make sure you keep the profile safe

## **Now lets look are the rule profiles**

## Rule anatomy

```

<AIXPertEntry name="hls_maxexpired" function="maxexpired">
  <AIXPertRuleType type="HLS"/>

  <AIXPertDescription> Time to change password after the expiration:
    Specifies the maximum number of weeks to 2 weeks, after
    maxage that an expired password can be changed by the user
  </AIXPertDescription>

  <AIXPertPrereqList> bos.rte.date, bos.rte.commands,
    bos.rte.security, bos.rte.shell,
    bos.rte.ILS
  </AIXPertPrereqList>

  <AIXPertCommand>/etc/security/aixpert/bin/chusrattr</AIXPertCommand>

  <AIXPertArgs>maxexpired=2 ALL hls_maxexpired</AIXPertArgs>

  <AIXPertGroup>Password policy rules</AIXPertGroup>
</AIXPertEntry>
  
```

## Rule anatomy

```

<AIXPertEntry name="hls_maxexpired" function="maxexpired">
  <AIXPertRuleType type="HLS"/>

  <AIXPertDescription> Time to change password after the expiration:
    Specifies the maximum number of weeks to 2 weeks, after
    maxage that an expired password can be changed by the user
  </AIXPertDescription>

  <AIXPertPrereqList> bos.rte.date, bos.rte.commands,
    bos.rte.security, bos.rte.shell,
    bos.rte.ILS
  </AIXPertPrereqList>

  <AIXPertCommand>/etc/security/aixpert/bin/chusrattr</AIXPertCommand>

  <AIXPertArgs>maxexpired=2 ALL hls_maxexpired</AIXPertArgs>

  <AIXPertGroup>Password policy rules</AIXPertGroup>
</AIXPertEntry>
  
```

These are further attributes, here just info  
HLS = High level security or Low or Medium

XML format Basics  
<NAME> ← Start  
Some stuff in here  
</Name> ← End

## Rule anatomy

```
<AIXPertEntry name="hls_maxexpired" function="maxexpired">
  <AIXPertRuleType type="HLS"/>
```

```
<AIXPertDescription> Time to change password after the expiration:  

Specifies the maximum number of weeks to 2 weeks, after  

maxage that an expired password can be changed by the user  

</AIXPertDescription>
```

Part of a set of "Password policy rules"  
Covering rules um .. for user passwords ☺

```
<AIXPertPrereqList> bos.rte.commands,  

bos.rte.shell,  

bos.rte.  

</AIXPertPrereqList>
```

```
<AIXPertCommand>et security/aixpert/bin/chusrattr</AIXPertCommand>
```

```
<AIXPertArgs>maxexpired=2 ALL hls_maxexpired</AIXPertArgs>
```

```
<AIXPertGroup>Password policy rules</AIXPertGroup>
</AIXPertEntry>
```

## Rule anatomy

```
<AIXPertEntry name="hls_maxexpired" function="maxexpired">
  <AIXPertRuleType type="HLS"/>
```

```
<AIXPertDescription> Time to change password after the expiration:  

Specifies the maximum number of weeks to 2 weeks, after  

maxage that an expired password can be changed by the user  

</AIXPertDescription>
```

```
<AIXPertPrereqList> bos.rte.commands,  

bos.rte.shell,  

bos.rte.  

</AIXPertPrereqList>
```

Description the most useful part of the rule  
but can be vague. Assumes you know about  
user password options in AIX

```
<AIXPertCommand>et security/aixpert/bin/chusrattr</AIXPertCommand>
```

```
<AIXPertArgs>maxexpired=2 ALL hls_maxexpired</AIXPertArgs>
```

```
<AIXPertGroup>Password policy rules</AIXPertGroup>
</AIXPertEntry>
```

## Rule anatomy

```

<AIXPertEntry name="hls_maxexpired" function="maxexpired">
  <AIXPertRuleType type="HLS"/>
  <AIXPertDescription>
    Pre-requisite software – here they are basic
    AIX and expected to be on every AIX.
    Expiration:
    Specifies the maximum number of weeks to 2 weeks, after
    maxage that an expired password can be changed by the user
  </AIXPertDescription>
  <AIXPertPrereqList>
    bos.rte.date, bos.rte.commands,
    bos.rte.security, bos.rte.shell,
    bos.rte.ILS
  </AIXPertPrereqList>
  <AIXPertCommand>/etc/security/aixpert/bin/chusrattr</AIXPertCommand>
  <AIXPertArgs>maxexpired=2 ALL hls_maxexpired</AIXPertArgs>
  <AIXPertGroup>Password policy rules</AIXPertGroup>
</AIXPertEntry>
  
```

## Rule anatomy

```

<AIXPertEntry name="hls_maxexpired" function="maxexpired">
  <AIXPertRuleType type="HLS"/>
  <AIXPertDescription>
    Time to change password after the expiration:
    Specifies the maximum number of weeks to 2 weeks, after
    maxage that an expired password can be changed by the user
  </AIXPertDescription>
  <AIXPertPrereqList>
    Actual command used to do activate this rule
    bos.rte
  </AIXPertPrereqList>
  <AIXPertCommand>/etc/security/aixpert/bin/chusrattr</AIXPertCommand>
  <AIXPertArgs>maxexpired=2 ALL hls_maxexpired</AIXPertArgs>
  <AIXPertGroup>Password policy rules</AIXPertGroup>
</AIXPertEntry>
  The options for the command
  
```

## First 13 rules out of 400 = tricky

```

<AIXPertEntry name="prereqRSSLite" function="prereqRSSLite">
  <AIXPertType type="HLS"/>
  <AIXPertDescription>Time to change password after the expiration: Specifies the maximum number of weeks to 2 weeks, after maxage
  <AIXPertPrereqList>bos.rte.date.bos.rte.commands.bos.rte.security.bos.rte.shell.bos.rte.ils.<AIXPertPrereqList>
  <AIXPertCommand>/etc/security/aixpert/bin/chusrattr<AIXPertCommand>
  <AIXPertArgs>maxexpired=2 ALL.ils_maxexpired<AIXPertArgs>
  <AIXPertGroup>Password policy rules<AIXPertGroup>
  </AIXPertEntry>
</AIXPertRule type="HLS"/>
<AIXPertEntry name="his_minage" function="minage">
  <AIXPertType type="HLS"/>
  <AIXPertDescription>Minimum number of alphabetic characters in a password: Specifies the minimum number of alphabetic characters in a password to 2
  <AIXPertPrereqList>bos.rte.date.bos.rte.commands.bos.rte.security.bos.rte.shell.bos.rte.ils.<AIXPertPrereqList>
  <AIXPertCommand>/etc/security/aixpert/bin/chusrattr<AIXPertCommand>
  <AIXPertArgs>minage=2 ALL.ils_minage<AIXPertArgs>
  <AIXPertGroup>Password policy rules<AIXPertGroup>
  </AIXPertEntry>
</AIXPertRule type="HLS"/>
<AIXPertEntry name="dis_minage" function="minage">
  <AIXPertType type="HLS"/>
  <AIXPertDescription>Minimum number of alphabetic characters in a password: Specifies the minimum number of alphabetic characters in a password to 2
  <AIXPertPrereqList>bos.rte.date.bos.rte.commands.bos.rte.security.bos.rte.shell.bos.rte.ils.<AIXPertPrereqList>
  <AIXPertCommand>/etc/security/aixpert/bin/chusrattr<AIXPertCommand>
  <AIXPertArgs>dis_minage=2 ALL.ils_dis_minage<AIXPertArgs>
  <AIXPertGroup>Password policy rules<AIXPertGroup>
  </AIXPertEntry>
</AIXPertRule type="HLS"/>
<AIXPertEntry name="his_maxage" function="maxage">
  <AIXPertType type="HLS"/>
  <AIXPertDescription>Maximum number of alphabetic characters in a password: Specifies the minimum number of alphabetic characters in a password to 2
  <AIXPertPrereqList>bos.rte.date.bos.rte.commands.bos.rte.security.bos.rte.shell.bos.rte.ils.<AIXPertPrereqList>
  <AIXPertCommand>/etc/security/aixpert/bin/chusrattr<AIXPertCommand>
  <AIXPertArgs>maxage=2 ALL.ils_maxage<AIXPertArgs>
  <AIXPertGroup>Password policy rules<AIXPertGroup>
  </AIXPertEntry>
</AIXPertRule type="HLS"/>
<AIXPertEntry name="dis_maxage" function="maxage">
  <AIXPertType type="HLS"/>
  <AIXPertDescription>Maximum number of alphabetic characters in a password: Specifies the minimum number of alphabetic characters in a password to 2
  <AIXPertPrereqList>bos.rte.date.bos.rte.commands.bos.rte.security.bos.rte.shell.bos.rte.ils.<AIXPertPrereqList>
  <AIXPertCommand>/etc/security/aixpert/bin/chusrattr<AIXPertCommand>
  <AIXPertArgs>dis_maxage=2 ALL.ils_dis_maxage<AIXPertArgs>
  <AIXPertGroup>Password policy rules<AIXPertGroup>
  </AIXPertEntry>
</AIXPertRule type="HLS"/>
<AIXPertEntry name="his_minlen" function="minlen">
  <AIXPertType type="HLS"/>
  <AIXPertDescription>Minimum number of non-alphabetic characters in a password: Specifies the minimum number of non-alphabetic characters in a password to 2
  <AIXPertPrereqList>bos.rte.date.bos.rte.commands.bos.rte.security.bos.rte.shell.bos.rte.ils.<AIXPertPrereqList>
  <AIXPertCommand>/etc/security/aixpert/bin/chusrattr<AIXPertCommand>
  <AIXPertArgs>minlen=2 ALL.ils_minlen<AIXPertArgs>
  <AIXPertGroup>Password policy rules<AIXPertGroup>
  </AIXPertEntry>
</AIXPertRule type="HLS"/>
<AIXPertEntry name="dis_minlen" function="minlen">
  <AIXPertType type="HLS"/>
  <AIXPertDescription>Minimum number of non-alphabetic characters in a password: Specifies the minimum number of non-alphabetic characters in a password to 2
  <AIXPertPrereqList>bos.rte.date.bos.rte.commands.bos.rte.security.bos.rte.shell.bos.rte.ils.<AIXPertPrereqList>
  <AIXPertCommand>/etc/security/aixpert/bin/chusrattr<AIXPertCommand>
  <AIXPertArgs>dis_minlen=2 ALL.ils_dis_minlen<AIXPertArgs>
  <AIXPertGroup>Password policy rules<AIXPertGroup>
  </AIXPertEntry>
</AIXPertRule type="HLS"/>
<AIXPertEntry name="his_minalpha" function="minalpha">
  <AIXPertType type="HLS"/>
  <AIXPertDescription>Minimum number of non-alphabetic characters in a password: Specifies the minimum number of non-alphabetic characters in a password to 2
  <AIXPertPrereqList>bos.rte.date.bos.rte.commands.bos.rte.security.bos.rte.shell.bos.rte.ils.<AIXPertPrereqList>
  <AIXPertCommand>/etc/security/aixpert/bin/chusrattr<AIXPertCommand>
  <AIXPertArgs>minalpha=2 ALL.ils_minalpha<AIXPertArgs>
  <AIXPertGroup>Password policy rules<AIXPertGroup>
  </AIXPertEntry>
</AIXPertRule type="HLS"/>
<AIXPertEntry name="dis_minalpha" function="minalpha">
  <AIXPertType type="HLS"/>
  <AIXPertDescription>Minimum number of non-alphabetic characters in a password: Specifies the minimum number of non-alphabetic characters in a password to 2
  <AIXPertPrereqList>bos.rte.date.bos.rte.commands.bos.rte.security.bos.rte.shell.bos.rte.ils.<AIXPertPrereqList>
  <AIXPertCommand>/etc/security/aixpert/bin/chusrattr<AIXPertCommand>
  <AIXPertArgs>dis_minalpha=2 ALL.ils_dis_minalpha<AIXPertArgs>
  <AIXPertGroup>Password policy rules<AIXPertGroup>
  </AIXPertEntry>
</AIXPertRule type="HLS"/>

```

## Tried XMV Copy Editor 1.2.0.7

- Open Source – <http://xml-editor.sourceforge.net>
- Browse & expand rules
- Colour coding helps
- Still rather hard to read

```

143 <AIXPertEntry name="prereqRSSLite" function="prereqRSSLite">
151 <AIXPertEntry name="his_minage" function="minage">
159 <AIXPertEntry name="dis_minage" function="minage">
167 <AIXPertEntry name="his_maxage" function="maxage">
175 <AIXPertEntry name="dis_maxage" function="maxage">
183 <AIXPertEntry name="his_minlen" function="minlen">
191 <AIXPertEntry name="dis_minlen" function="minlen">
199 <AIXPertEntry name="his_minalpha" function="minalpha">
207 <AIXPertEntry name="dis_minalpha" function="minalpha">
208 <AIXPertRule type="HLS"/>
209 <AIXPertDescription>Time to change password after the expiration: Specifies the maximum number of weeks to 2
210 weeks, after maxage that an expired password can be changed by the user.<AIXPertDescription>
211 <AIXPertPrereqList>bos.rte.date.bos.rte.commands.bos.rte.security.bos.rte.shell.bos.rte.ils.<AIXPertPrereqList>
212 <AIXPertCommand>/etc/security/aixpert/bin/chusrattr<AIXPertCommand>
213 <AIXPertArgs>maxexpired=2 ALL.ils_maxexpired<AIXPertArgs>
214 <AIXPertGroup>Password policy rules<AIXPertGroup>
215 </AIXPertEntry>
216 <AIXPertEntry name="his_minage" function="minage">
223 <AIXPertEntry name="dis_minage" function="minage">
231 <AIXPertEntry name="his_maxage" function="maxage">
239 <AIXPertEntry name="dis_maxage" function="maxage">
247 <AIXPertEntry name="his_minlen" function="minlen">
255 <AIXPertEntry name="dis_minlen" function="minlen">
263 <AIXPertEntry name="his_minalpha" function="minalpha">
271 <AIXPertEntry name="dis_minalpha" function="minalpha">
279 <AIXPertEntry name="his_minalpha" function="minalpha">
287 <AIXPertEntry name="dis_minalpha" function="minalpha">

```

<http://tinyurl.com/PowerSC>

▪ List of PowerSC "aixpert" Rules from AIX 7 TL1

Entry Name	Function	Rule Type	Description	Command	Arguments	Group
.....						
hls_maxage	maxage	High Security	Maximum age for password: Specifies the maximum number of weeks (13 weeks) that a password is valid	/etc/security/aixpert /bin/chusrattr	maxage=13 ALL hls_maxage	Password policy rules
mls_maxage	maxage	Medium Security	Maximum age for password: Specifies the maximum number of weeks (13 weeks) that a password is valid	/etc/security/aixpert /bin/chusrattr	maxage=13 ALL mls_maxage	Password policy rules
lls_maxage	maxage	Low Security	Maximum age for password: Specifies the maximum number of weeks (13 weeks) that a password is valid	/etc/security/aixpert /bin/chusrattr	maxage=52 ALL lls_maxage	Password policy rules
dls_maxage	maxage	Default	Maximum age for password: Removes any minimum number of weeks requirements, that a password is valid	/etc/security/aixpert /bin/chusrattr	maxage=0 ALL dls_maxage	Password policy rules
hls_maxexpired	maxexpired	High Security	Time to change password after the expiration: Specifies the maximum number of weeks to 2 weeks, after maxage that an expired password can be changed by the user	/etc/security/aixpert /bin/chusrattr	maxexpired=2 ALL hls_maxexpired	Password policy rules
mls_maxexpired	maxexpired	Medium Security	Time to change password after the expiration: Specifies the maximum number of weeks to 4 weeks, after maxage that an expired password can be changed by the user	/etc/security/aixpert /bin/chusrattr	maxexpired=4 ALL mls_maxexpired	Password policy rules
lls_maxexpired	maxexpired	Low Security	Time to change password after the expiration: Specifies the maximum number of weeks to 8 weeks, after maxage that an expired password can be changed by the user	/etc/security/aixpert /bin/chusrattr	maxexpired=8 ALL lls_maxexpired	Password policy rules
dls_maxexpired	maxexpired	Default	Time to change password after the expiration: Removes any minimum number of weeks requirements, after maxage that an expired password can be changed by the user	/etc/security/aixpert /bin/chusrattr	maxexpired=-1 ALL dls_maxexpired	Password policy rules

Supplied basic profiles - differences are small

- AIX 6 TL6 basic set
- AIX 6 TL 7 added
  - Port Scan undo IPsec shun host & shun port
- AIX 7 TL1 adds
  - CDE & LFT pre-req checks
  - Proactive kill of telnetd

## Let me tell you a story

- The Power EMEA ATS move building

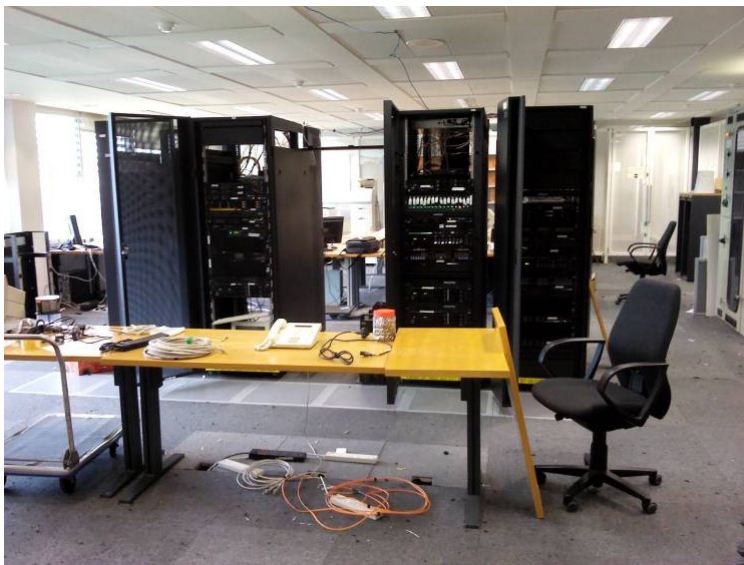
## New Computer room Bedfont Lakes Building 3 The floor needed strengthening and air conditioning



**Building 2**  
**Old massive computer room when empty**  
**Some machines went to other IBM sites**



**ATS Consolidate down to 3 racks plus HPC rack**



Expert Systems  
© 2012 IBM  
32  
Hardening



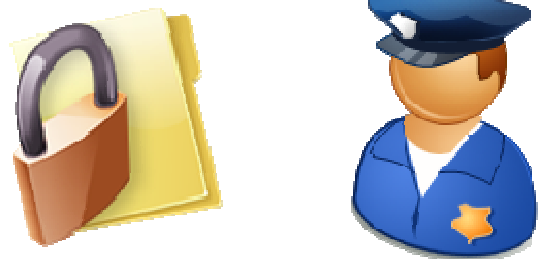
All moved but now behind the IBM firewall and have to obey the IBM network security rules



The Team – note: all four have IBM badges



So now visible to the IBM “Thought Police”  
[We are joking they do a good job]  
- Now behind a Bedfont lakes Firewall  
- Had to obey the IBM network security standards  
- The “dreaded” IBM Network Security ITCS104  
[Actually not as bad as we thought]  
ITSC 104 - Only using this as an example of an internal security standard = we give no details away here



### IBM Network Security ITCS104



- Machine Class:
  - 1=core ← core to IBM business
  - 2=workstation + laptop
  - 3=dept server
  - 4=demo, education, test ← us, phew!
- Lot of dull bland wordy general statements  
→ Unimplementable
- Then sub-docs for AIX and Apache

## IBM Network Security ITCS104



### AIX sections

1. Lot on unique user id's (no shared id's)
2. Very strict passwords, aging and retry rules
3. /etc/motd
4. Lots on file permissions for admin directories
5. Full pathnames for inittab, root crontab, inetd.conf, rc\*
6. Auditing especially if using Tivoli Compliance
7. Health checks - on going checks
8. Network
  - Lots are banned or switched off
  - Can have telnet, ftp under certain rules!
  - Lots of inetd.conf switched off

## ITCS104 for AIX



### How does clean install of AIX measure up?

- Default AIX 6 & 7 already has
  - Directories & permissions 100% correct
  - Limited SUID programs 100% correct
  - inittab, root crontab, inetd.conf, rc\* 100% correct
  - Just a risk you have "fiddled"
  - Edited /etc/motd – Done
  - Check file permissions with: lppchk 100% correct
- But
  - telnet and ftp – hackers delight
  - Port scanning – hackers delight



## I decide a policy

- Decide to never let “them catch me out”
- Decided to go for: aixpert -high
  - On AIX 6 TL7 this includes Port Scan Shun/blocking
    - A well known hacking method
    - Also used internally by the Thought Police ☺
  - So start reading the rule as a desk check



## Making AIX Secure with aixpert

aixpert → high  
✓ No telnet or ftp

Exceptions we needed

- ✗TCB - Trusted Computing Base = Not installed
- ✗TCB Update – ditto
- ✗DNS - This machine is my Domain Name Server
- ✗Sendmail - Occasional use
- ✗NFS - OK, if no IBM Confidential content
- ✗X11 - We use VNCserver
- ✗ISS IBM Server Sensor - IBM virus checker ++

## Commenting out a rule <!-- -->

```

- <AIXPertEntry name="hls_filepermgr" function="filepermgr">
  <AIXPertRuleType type="HLS" />
  <AIXPertDescription>File Permissions Manager: Runs fpm comamnd with high option to remove setuid,
  setgid from privileged commands</AIXPertDescription>
  <AIXPertPrereqList>prereqnon tcb,bos.rte.date,bos.rte.commands,bos.rte.security,bos.rte.shell,bos.rte.I
  LS</AIXPertPrereqList>
  <AIXPertCommand>/etc/security/aixpert/bin/filepermgr</AIXPertCommand>
  <AIXPertArgs>h hls_filepermgr</AIXPertArgs>
  <AIXPertGroup>Disable SUID of commands</AIXPertGroup>
</AIXPertEntry>

<!-- Remove NFS switch off <AIXPertEntry name="hls_disablenfs" function="disablenfs"> <AIXPertRuleType
type="HLS"/> <AIXPertDescription>Stop NFS daemon: Removes NFS mounts, stops NFS daemons and
removes NFS from startup</AIXPertDescription>
  <AIXPertPrereqList>bos.rte,bos.net.nfs.client</AIXPertPrereqList>
  <AIXPertCommand>/etc/security/aixpert/bin/nfsconfig</AIXPertCommand> <AIXPertArgs>d
  hls_disablenfs</AIXPertArgs> <AIXPertGroup>Disable remote services</AIXPertGroup> </AIXPertEntry>
-->

- <AIXPertEntry name="hls_disrmtcmds" function="disrmtcmds">
  <AIXPertRuleType type="HLS" />
  <AIXPertDescription>Disable unsecure commands: Disables unsecure commands rlogin, rsh, rcp and
  tftp</AIXPertDescription>
  <AIXPertPrereqList>bos.rte.commands,bos.rte.shell,bos.rte.security,bos.rte.ILS,bos.rte.odm,bos.rte.ins
  tall,bos.rte.control</AIXPertPrereqList>
  <AIXPertCommand>/etc/security/aixpert/bin/disrmtcmds</AIXPertCommand>
  <AIXPertArgs>d hls_disrmtcmds</AIXPertArgs>
  <AIXPertGroup>Disable remote services</AIXPertGroup>
</AIXPertEntry>

```

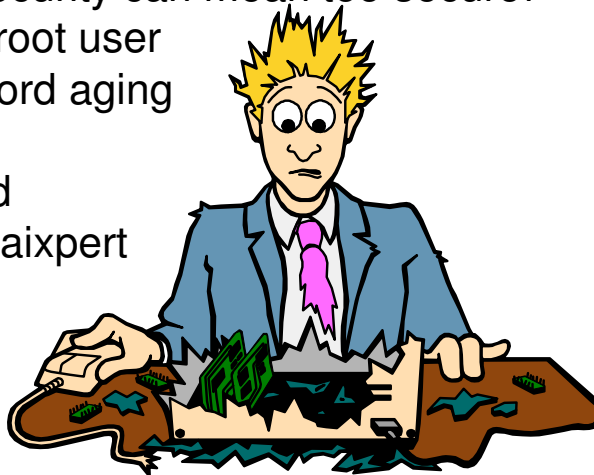


# Change your Passwords

An total root user lockout turns Security Hardening into a DISASTER

# WARNING !!!

- High Level Security can mean too secure!
- Can lock the root user due to password aging
- So set your root password **before** using aixpert



## Tuning aixpert for my needs



- Create high file for editing
  - aixpert -l high -n -o itso104\_high.xml
- Edit out sections that we don't want
- Set
  - aixpert -p -f itso104\_high.xml
  - Check error messages
  - Undo
    - aixpert -u -p
- Check & write to audit logs
  - aixpert -c -p
- Recommended directory
  - /etc/security/aixpert/custom/itso104\_high.xml

## Security and Entropy

1. If this is a fresh AIX install all checks=pass
  - AIX default install + aixpert high is EASY and Secure
2. If AIX has been around a year or two
  - You may introduce changes / experiments / errors
  - May have lowered security = favouring short-term usability
  - Could take effort to fix
3. If the system has been upgraded for a decade
  - AIX 4.3.3 → AIX 5.1 → AIX 5.2 → AIX 5.3 → AIX 6
  - Then you may all sorts of security holes = Good Luck!

Don't forget it runs powerful AIX cmds like: file permission manger→fpm

## Possible reasons for failure

1. Can't apply as we need that service / feature
  - We forgot to comment out a rule !
2. We have something set that is not secure
  - Fix the system
3. Rules are being fussy
  - Fix the system
4. You have already been hacked!
  - Checks for file permissions, SUID, wrong file owner, odd user accounts, unexpected services running, extra things in /etc/inittab, missing passwords

Don't forget it runs powerful AIX cmds like: file permission manger→fpm

## Worked example:

```
# aixpert -p -f itso104_high.xml
Processing prereqbinaudit :cached
Processing prereqcde :cached
Processing prereqgated :cached
Processing prereqipsec :cached
Processing prereqlft :cached
Processing prereqlh :cached
Processing prereqnosyn :cached
Processing prereqlr :cached
Processing prereqrrl :cached
Processing prereqsed :cached
Processing prereqnontcb :cached
Processing prereqRSSFull :cached
Processing prereqRSSLite :cached
Processing hls_minage .....done.
Processing hls_maxage .....done.
Processing hls_maxexpired .....done.
Processing hls_minlen .....done.
Processing hls_minalpha .....done.
Processing hls_minother .....done.
Processing hls_maxrepeats .....done.
Processing hls_mindiff .....done.
Processing hls_histexpire .....done.
```

```
... 100+ of lines removed here
Processing hls_rfc1323 .....done.
Processing hls_tcp_mssdflt .....done.
Processing hls_sb_max .....done.
Processing hls_tcp_tcpsecure .....done.
Processing hls_sockthresh .....done.
Processing hls_ipsecshunhost .....done.
Processing hls_ipsecshunports .....done.
Processing hls_umask .....done.
Processing hls_core .....done.
Processing hls_limitsysacc .....done.
Processing hls_crontabperm .....done.
Processing hls_loginherald .....warning.
do_action(): Warning: Prereq failed for
prereqlh
Processing hls_rmdotfrmpathroot .....done.
Processing hls_rmdotfrmpathroot .....done.
Processing hls_chetcftusers .....done.
Processing hls_removeguest .....done.
Processing hls_sedconfig .....done.
Processing hls_rootpwdintchk .....done.
Processing hls_tcptr .....done.
Processedrules=121 Passedrules=120
Failedrules=1 Level=AllRules
Input file=itso104_high.xml
```

## Prereqlh → Login Herald

```
# view itso104_high.xml
```

```
<AIXPertEntry name="prereqlh" function="prereqlh">
  <AIXPertRuleType type="Prereq"/>
  <AIXPertDescription>
    Prereq rule for loginherald: Checks the herald value is set or not
  </AIXPertDescription>
  <AIXPertPrereqList></AIXPertPrereqList>
  <AIXPertCommand>/etc/security/aixpert/bin/prereqlh</AIXPertCommand>
  <AIXPertArgs></AIXPertArgs>
  <AIXPertGroup></AIXPertGroup>
</AIXPertEntry>
```

```
# Next to /etc/security/aixpert/bin/prereqlh
```



## prereqlh script

```
# view /etc/security/aixpert/bin/prereqlh
...
# Description: This script checks the herald value in the default stanza
# of /etc/security/login.cfg file, if it's not been set and
# the current locale is English it returns Success
# else it returns Failure.
# This script should be run with superuser privileges.
```

The gut are  
`herald=`lssec -f /etc/security/login.cfg -s default -a herald|awk -F '=' '{print $2}'``

I manually ran the command to find what is checks  
 Need to look at /etc/security/login.cfg

## vi /etc/security/login.cfg

```
....
default:
    sak_enabled = false
    logintimes =
    logindisable = 10
    logininterval = 300
    loginreenable = 360
    logindelay = 10
    herald = "Unauthorized use of this system is prohibited.\n\rlogin:"
```

Commented out the herald line

Changed to:

```
* herald = "Unauthorized use of this system is prohibited.\n\rlogin:"
```

## Try Again:

### Undo the previous profile

```
# aixpert -p -u
```

....

### Reapply to check the check is OK

```
# aixpert -p -f itso104_high.xml
Processing prereqbinaudit :cached
Processing prereqcdc :cached
Processing prereqgated :cached
Processing prereqipsec :cached
Processing prereqlft :cached
Processing prereqlh :cached
Processing prereqnosyn :cached
Processing prereqrl :cached
Processing prereqrri :cached
Processing prereqsd :cached
Processing prereqnontcb :cached
Processing prereqRSSSFull :cached
Processing prereqRSSSLite :cached
Processing hls_minage .....done.
Processing hls_maxage .....done.
Processing hls_maxexpired .....done.
Processing hls_minlen .....done.
Processing hls_minalpha .....done.
Processing hls_minother .....done.
```



```
... 100+ of lines removed here
Processing hls_rfc1323 .....done.
Processing hls_tcp_mssdflt .....done.
Processing hls_sb_max .....done.
Processing hls_tcp_tcpsecure .....done.
Processing hls_sockthresh .....done.
Processing hls_ipsecshunhost .....done.
Processing hls_ipsecshunports .....done.
Processing hls_umask .....done.
Processing hls_core .....done.
Processing hls_limitsysacc .....done.
Processing hls_crontabperm .....done.
Processing hls_loginherald .....warning.
Processing hls_rmdotfrmpathroot .....done.
Processing hls_rmdotfrmpathroot .....done.
Processing hls_chetcftusers .....done.
Processing hls_removeguest .....done.
Processing hls_sedconfig .....done.
Processing hls_rootpwdintchk .....done.
Processing hls_tcptr .....done.
Processedrules=121 Passedrules=121
Failedrules=0 Level=AllRules
Input file=itso104_high.xml
```

## Much later Check we are still secure

```
# aixpert -c -p
Processing hls_minage_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_maxage_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_maxexpired_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_minlen_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_minalpha_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_minother_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_maxrepeats_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_mindiff_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_histexpire_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_histsize_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_pwdwarntime_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_usrck_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_pwdck_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_grpck_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_loginretries_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_logindelay_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_logindisable_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_logininterval_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_loginreenable_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_logintimeout_DE5EE7F0 :done.
```



```
... 100+ of lines removed here
Processing hls_rfc1323_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_tcp_mssdflt_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_sb_max_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_tcp_tcpsecure_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_sockthresh_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_ipsecshunhost_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_ipsecshunports_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_umask_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_core_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_limitsysacc_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_crontabperm_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_loginherald_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_rmdotfrmpathroot_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_rmdotfrmpathroot_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_chetcftusers_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_removeguest_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_sedconfig_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_rootpwdintchk_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processing hls_tcptr_DE5EE7F0 :done.
Processedrules=121 Passedrules=121
Failedrules=0 Level=AllRules
Input file=/etc/security/aixpert/core/appliedaixpert.xml
```

## Check writes to /etc/security/aixpert/check\_report.txt

\*\*\*\* blue.aixncc.uk.ibm.com : Aug 21 11:20:59 \*\*\*\*

comntrows.sh: Daemon/Script/String:lpd: should have status disabled, however its entry is not found in file /etc/inittab  
comntrows.sh: Daemon/Script/String:dt: should have status disabled, however its entry is not found in file /etc/inittab  
cominetdconf.sh: Service dtspc should have status d, however its entry is missing from /etc/inetd.conf  
cominetdconf.sh: Service ttdbserver should have status d, however its entry is missing from /etc/inetd.conf  
cominetdconf.sh: Service cmsd should have status d, however its entry is missing from /etc/inetd.conf

I prefer a missing /etc/inittab entries than a commented out ones ☺

## Check writes to /etc/security/aixpert/log/\*

\*\*\*\* blue.aixncc.uk.ibm.com : Aug 21 11:20:59 \*\*\*\*

comntrows.sh: Daemon/Script/String:lpd: should have status disabled, however its entry is not found in file /etc/inittab  
comntrows.sh: Daemon/Script/String:dt: should have status disabled, however its entry is not found in file /etc/inittab  
cominetdconf.sh: Service dtspc should have status d, however its entry is missing from /etc/inetd.conf  
cominetdconf.sh: Service ttdbserver should have status d, however its entry is missing from /etc/inetd.conf  
cominetdconf.sh: Service cmsd should have status d, however its entry is missing from /etc/inetd.conf

I prefer missing /etc/inittab entries than a commented out ones ☺

# aixpert & PowerSC



## “aixpert” and PowerSC Standard Edition

- PowerSC Security Hardening & Compliance
  - Relies on the AIX “aixpert” command & XML profiles
  - Includes extra profiles too
  - You then create a mixture of tuned profiles for you specific needs & server workloads
  - These profiles are loaded in to the IBM Systems Director (ISD) plus Profile Manager plug-in
- ISD then used to
  - rolled out profiles across 1000’s of AIX Virtual Machines
  - check compliance with the profile & report



## PowerSC Express

- Security Hardening & Compliance
- Includes all these files
- Difficult to find out the contents
- New aixpert security checker commands
- New XML profiles

```
# lsipp -f powerscExp.ice.cmds
powerscExp.ice.cmds 1.1.0.0
/etc/security/aixpert/ICEEXP0102.SYS2
/etc/security/aixpert/README.ICEexpress
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/SSHfordataxchg
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/aha
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/autologoff
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/chcronfiles
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/chdodftpusers
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/chetchostfiles
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/chowndodfiles
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/chssh config
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/chsyslog
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/chusrattdod
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/ckextcompliance
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/comntrowsdod
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/configrepomgmt
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/disableacct
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/dodaudit
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/efskSonLDAP
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/erroreporting
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/fpmddfiles
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/logindodherald
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/managerITsecurity
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/managerphyaccess
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/managerptrsvr
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/mvhostsfiles
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/pciaudit
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/prereqTE
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/prereqahafs
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/prereqcefs
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/prereqda
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/protsectech
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/rmdotfrmpathvar
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/securitymonitor
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/update_tcb
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/updateshells
/etc/security/aixpert/custom/DoD.xml
/etc/security/aixpert/custom/DoD_to_AIXDefault.xml
/etc/security/aixpert/custom/PCI.xml
/etc/security/aixpert/custom/PCI_to_AIXDefault.xml
/etc/security/aixpert/custom/SOX-COBIT.xml
/etc/security/aixpert/undo/data/aix_default
/etc/security/aixpert/undo/data/dod_high
/etc/security/aixpert/undo/data/sox-cobit.inp
```

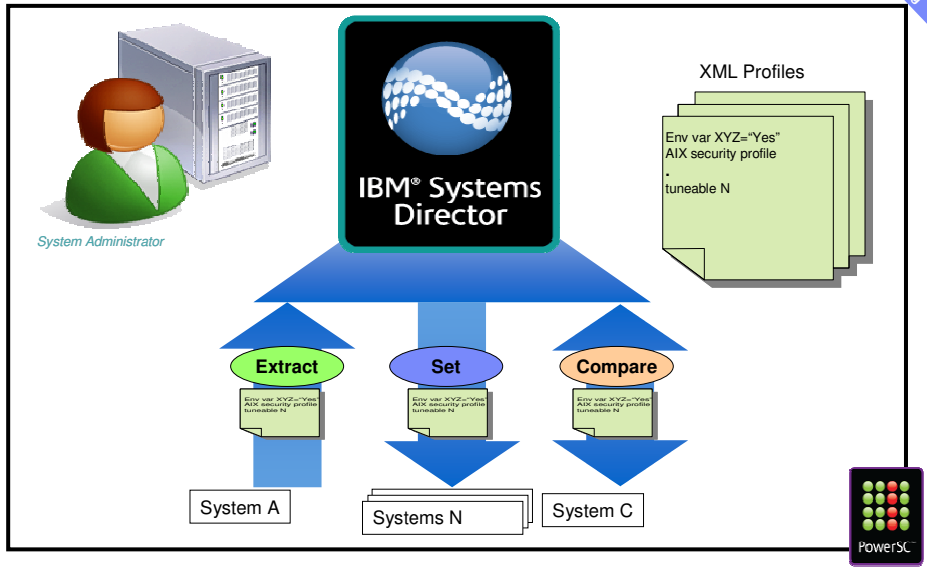


## Install PowerSC Express - powerscExp.ice

- Extra XML Profiles
  - USA Department of Defence - DoD
  - Payment Card Industry security standard -PCI
  - SOX-Cobit Banking standard
- All get put in /etc/security/aixpert/custom
  - 42 rules DoD.xml
  - 41 rules DoD\_to\_AIXDefault.xml
  - 90 rules PCI.xml
  - 83 rules PCI\_to\_AIXDefault.xml
  - 24 rules SOX-COBIT.xml
- In total 280 rules



## aixpert Profiles & System Director + PowerSC Profile Manager plug-in to roll out across the estate



## smitty = problematic

- smitty aixpert
- Only allows supplied profiles
- **WARNING: don't play in here:**  
You may "accidentally" apply security which kills telnet, blocks remote root & times out your passwords
- Does selecting High Level immediately apply it?

```
Aix Security Expert
Move cursor to desired item and press Enter.
High Level Security
Medium Level Security
Low level Security
Default Security
SOX-COBIT Best Practices Security
SOX-COBIT Best Practices Security Audit
Undo Security
Check Security
```

## What about the VIOS?

- “aixpert” equivalent command is “viosecure”
- `aixpert -f /etc/security/aixpert/custom/myprofile.xml` becomes
- `viosecure -file /etc/security/aixpert/custom/myprofile.xml`

## aixpert Conclusions

1. At last a simple way to apply lots of settings in seconds
2. IBM does the rule setting
  - Not 100's of customers duplicating the effort
3. One profile to rule them all !
4. Drastic reduction in complexity

## Additional Backup material

## Security Levels

### High Security

- Direct internet running web server with important data
- Banned are Telnet, FTP, rlogin
- Tune to allow specific port the server needs

### Medium Security

- Corporate network Firewall protected
- Telnet, FTP are in use
- Wants port scanning and user account protection

### Low Security

- Been running for a long time on isolated secure network
- Need to keep all services available

### Default

- As comes with AIX standard install

### SOX-COBIT

- The setting recommended for Banking compliance



## Underlying aixpert Files

- **/etc/security/aixpert/core/aixpertall.xml**  
XML file of all possible settings
- **/etc/security/aixpert/core/appliedaixpert.xml**  
XML file of applied security
- **/etc/security/aixpert/log/aixpert.log**  
Trace log of applied settings  
Does not use syslog, aixpert writes directly to this file
- **/etc/security/aixpert/core/undo.xml**  
XML file of settings, which can be undone

## Further example

- Morten Vagmo IBM Norway
- Looks at the new PCI profile

## Example 2: Applying PCI.xml with a failure

```
# aixpert -f /etc/security/aixpert/custom/PCI.xml
do_action(): rule(pci_grpck) : failed.
Processedrules=85 Passedrules=84 Failedrules=1
Level=AllRules
```

- Input file=/etc/security/aixpert/custom/PCI.xml
- The failure of pci\_grpck rule must be resolved. The possible causes for failure include the following
- reason:
  - The rule does not apply to the environment and must be removed.
  - There is an issue on the system that must be fixed.

## Investigating a failed rule

- View the /etc/security/aixpert/custom/PCI.xml file and locate the failing rule. In this example the rule is pci\_grpck. Run the **fgrep** command, search the **pci\_grpck failing rule**, and see the associated XML rule.

```
#fgrep -p pci_grpck /etc/security/aixpert/custom/PCI.xml
```

```
<AIXPertEntry name="pci_grpck" function="grpck"
<AIXPertRuleType type="DLS"/
<AIXPertDescription>Implements portions of PCI Section 8.2,
Check group definitions: Verifies the correctness of group definitions and fixes the errors
</AIXPertDescription
<AIXPertPrereqList>bos.rte.security,bos.rte.date,bos.rte.ILS</AIXPertPrereqList
<AIXPertCommand
/etc/security/aixpert/bin/execcmds</AIXPertCommand
<AIXPertArgs
"/usr/sbin/grpck -y ALL; /usr/sbin/grpck -n ALL"</AIXPertArgs
<AIXPertGroup
User Group System and Password Definitions</AIXPertGroup
</AIXPertEntry
```

- From the pci\_grpck rule, the /usr/sbin/grpck command can be seen.

## Creating custom security configuration profile:

- If a rule is not applicable to the specific environment of the system, most compliance organizations permit documented exceptions.
- To remove a rule and create a custom security policy and configuration file, complete the following steps:
  - 1. Copy  
/etc/security/aixpert/custom/[PCI.xml|DoD.xml|SOX-COBIT.xml] to /etc/security/aixpert/custom/<my\_security\_policy.xml>
  - 2. Edit the <my\_security\_policy.xml> file and remove the rule that is not applicable from the opening XML line "<AIXPertEntry name=..." to the ending XML line "</AIXPertEntry".
  - You can insert additional configuration rules for security. Insert the additional rules to the xml
  - AIXPertSecurityHardening schema. You cannot change the PowerSC profiles directly, but you can customize the profiles.

## Section of PCI.xml

```

<AIXPertArgs>/etc/security/login.cfg loginreenable=30 default
pci_loginreenable</AIXPertArgs>
<AIXPertGroup>Login policy recommendations</AIXPertGroup>
</AIXPertEntry>
- <AIXPertEntry name="pci_rootlogin" function="rootlogin">
  <AIXPertRuleType type="PLS" />
  <AIXPertDescription>Implements PCI Section 12.3.9, Remote root login:
  Disables remote root login.Activation on need basis by system admin followed
  by deactivation</AIXPertDescription>
  <AIXPertPrereqList>bos.rte.security,bos.rte.date,bos.rte.commands,bos.rte.ILS,
  bos.rte.shell</AIXPertPrereqList>
  <AIXPertCommand>/etc/security/aixpert/bin/chuserstanza</AIXPertCommand>
  <AIXPertArgs>/etc/security/user rlogin=false root pci_rootlogin</AIXPertArgs>
  <AIXPertGroup>Login policy recommendations</AIXPertGroup>
  </AIXPertEntry>
- <AIXPertEntry name="pci_rootlogin" function="rootlogin">
  <AIXPertRuleType type="PLS" />
  <AIXPertDescription>Local login: Enables root to login
  locally</AIXPertDescription>
  <AIXPertPrereqList>bos.rte.date,bos.rte.commands,bos.rte.security,bos.rte.shell,
  bos.rte.ILS</AIXPertPrereqList>

```

## Payment card industry DSS compliance

The Payment card industry data security standard (PCI DSS) categorizes IT security into 12 sections that are called 12 commandments.

The 12 commandments of the IT security that are defined by PCI DSS include the following items:

- 1. Install and maintain a firewall configuration to protect the data of the cardholder.
- 2. Avoid the use of vendor-supplied defaults for system passwords & other security parameters.
- 3. Protect the stored data of the cardholder.
- 4. Encrypt the data of the cardholder, when transmitting the data across open public networks.
- 5. Use antivirus software or programs and regularly update the applications.
- 6. Develop and maintain secure systems and applications.
- 7. Restrict access to the data of the cardholder depending on the business requirement.
- 8. Assign a unique ID to each person who has access to the computer.
- 9. Restrict physical access to the data of the cardholder.
- 10. Track and monitor all access to network resources and the cardholder data.
- 11. Regularly test the security systems and processes.
- 12. Maintain a policy that includes information security for employees and contractors.

PowerSC Express Edition reduces the configuration management that is required to meet the guidelines defined by PCI-DSS. However, the entire process cannot be automated.