

5.3.1.3 Ensure libpam-pwquality is installed (Automated)

Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - Server
- Level 1 - Workstation

Description:

`libpwquality` provides common functions for password quality checking and scoring them based on their apparent randomness. The library also provides a function for generating random passwords with good pronounceability.

This module can be plugged into the password stack of a given service to provide some plug-in strength-checking for passwords. The code was originally based on `pam_cracklib` module and the module is backwards compatible with its options.

Rationale:

Strong passwords reduce the risk of systems being hacked through brute force methods.

Audit:

Run the following command to verify `libpam-pwquality` is installed:

```
# dpkg-query -s libpam-pwquality | grep -P -- '^(Status|Version)\b'
```

The output should be similar to:

```
Status: install ok installed  
Version: 1.4.4-1
```

Remediation:

Run the following command to install `libpam-pwquality`:

```
# apt install libpam-pwquality
```

References:

1. <https://packages.debian.org/buster/libpam-pwquality>