



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™
INFORMATION SECURITY OFFICE

POSITION PAPER ON: GENERAL PURPOSE, GENERIC, SHARED USERNAMES AND PASSWORDS

Federal - (HIPAA Security Rule 164.312) "Unique user identification. Assign a unique name and/or number for identifying and tracking user identity."

State - (TAC 202.75) "Each user of information resources shall be assigned a unique identifier...User identification shall be authenticated before the information resources system may grant that user access."

System – (TT System: Account Management) "All user accounts must be uniquely identifiable using a centrally assigned user name from the IT division."

Local - (TTUHSC Policy 1.4.12) "Never share your password ... All TTUHSC computing systems shall require a login authentication process, whereby each user is identified and authenticated through their unique user ID."

Conclusion: We cannot and should not use generic accounts, such as a departmental shared laptop accounts, since doing so would violate the principals of unique identification and authentication as mandated by the above policy documents.