

A PERFECT FIT

Customizing Security Recommendations

Option “2. Security checkup” and option “3. Security system values” are found on PATHFINDER’s Security Menu. These options are a quick and easy method for you to review the security on your iSeries (AS/400, Power System, System i). It takes less than five minutes to submit the job that will collect the security information and produce reports that highlight potential security exposures. Most installations find that the security checkup report highlights some security exposures they did not know existed.

The security checkup and system value reports do more than simply report the current status for your system. These reports compare your system settings to recommended criteria and associate a score with potential security exposures. When you run the reports you may discover that some of the recommendations are not appropriate for your environment. The recommended values tend to error on the strict side. This is especially the case when it comes to the system values that designate rules for passwords. If all of the password system values were set as recommended, a user would have a difficult time selecting a password.

PATHFINDER allows you to customize the ratings and the recommended values for both the system value and security checkup reports. Customizing the system value and security checkup for your installation is not difficult. Both the system values and security check ratings can be modified by changing the message descriptions in the message file H\$SECURITY in the HAWKEYE library.

I will illustrate the procedure for customizing of security recommendations with a sample case. Following is the step-by-step procedure that I used:

1. First, I ran the PATHFINDER security system value report by entering the command HAWKEYE/ HAWKSEC. I ran the system value report by selecting option 3 from the Security Menu.
2. I used the recommended settings from the package and printed the report.
3. After reviewing the report, I elected to customize the settings for some of the recommended values to match my system environment. In particular, I wanted to change the recommended values for the password system value QPWDLMTCHR. I found the password recommendations too strict. For example, the recommendation for the system QPWDLMTCHR restricts the characters \$, #, @, A, E, I, O, and U. I elected not to enforce this rule on my iSeries (AS/400, Power Systems, System i). I wanted to change the PATHFINDER security reports to match my system criteria.

4. I customized the settings by changing the message file H\$SECURITY in the HAWKEYE library. To display and modify the messages, I used the following CL command:
`WRKMSG MSGF (HAWKEYE/H$SECURITY)`
5. As I began to page through the messages, I noted that the CHKxxxx messages were used by the security checkup report and the VALxxxx messages for the system value report. I continued to page down until I came to message VAL0340. The message text includes the name of the system value, so I was able to determine that this was the message which defines the recommended setting for the QPWDLMTCHR system value.
6. Using option 2 from the WRKMSG screen, I changed the message text from the prompt screen. I changed the recommended setting to *NONE. Other messages could be modified in a similar way to customize other settings. Changing the message severity will modify the score associated with the system value.
7. Then, I ran the system value report again. This time I specified the source of the ratings as *USER so PATHFINDER used my customized ratings from the message file H\$SECURITY.

You can use this technique to customize the message file for your system. Changing the message file allows you to easily detect deviations from company policy. This technique is especially useful when you manage several iSeries (AS/400, Power Systems, System i).

For further information, please contact our Technical Services department. We can be reached by email at info.hawkinfo.com or call us Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. (MST) and Friday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., VOICE (970) 498-9000 or FAX (970) 498-9096.