

What exactly is password management? In this set of reviews we are looking at ways to manage access to passwords themselves, says **Peter Stephenson**.

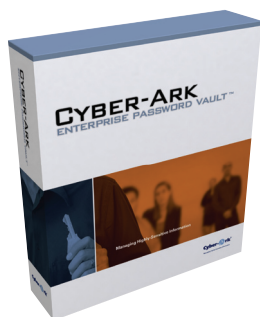
Password management is a term that has come to mean a lot of things. This is a case where marketing has gotten in the way of clear definitions. We may think of password management as a sub-context of ID management, access management and policy management. In this set of reviews,

we are looking at ways to manage access to passwords themselves.

For our purposes, we viewed these products as variants on what I refer to as “password carvers.” These can be one-to-many or many-to-one tools. We saw both. One-to-many tools allow the user to access a collection of systems or applica-

tions with a single password. We see some simple examples of that with another type of access control we’ve looked at in the past. These products allow you to build a table of passwords for various websites and, using a USB dongle with some biometrics, you can log into all of the sites automatically.

Enterprise Password Vault



Vendor Cyber-Ark Software
Price starts at \$21,000
Contact www.cyber-ark.com

The Cyber-Ark Enterprise Password Vault, or EPV, is a high-end password management powerhouse. This product helps administrators manage privileged account passwords across several major platforms using an advanced FIPS 140-2 validated cryptography module. This Vault also keeps critical password information secure using AES 256-bit encryption, along with solid auditing and tracking.

Installation and deployment of this system is almost plug-and-play. Once

we did some initial configuration on the appliances, we were up and running. The web-based management interface is simple and intuitive to use, and a clear and organized dashboard provides a quick overview of managed systems by type, along with password usage statistics.

Flexibility and granularity is the best way to describe the performance of this system. The EPV can manage almost any system or service account. Some of these include operating systems, such as UNIX, Linux, AS/400, MVS and Windows; databases, such as Sybase, Oracle, MS Access and MS SQL; firewalls, such as Cisco, Checkpoint and Juniper; and network devices, routers and key systems, such as LDAP and Active Directory. This high amount of flexibility assures solid and secure management of all critical accounts across the entire environment.

Documentation provided with the EPV includes an installation and upgrade guide, an implementation guide and an application identity management guide. All these were very well organized and included many screen shots and configuration examples.

Cyber-Ark provides no-cost basic support for the Enterprise Password Vault via access to the online knowledge base and customer portal for a minimum of two years from date of purchase. Customers can also have access to phone and email-based support as part of a support agreement.

With a price starting at \$21,000, this product may seem quite pricey. However, we find it to be a solid value for the money.

The EPV gives a high amount of granularity and flexibility across an entire enterprise of systems and accounts.

SC MAGAZINE RATING	
Features	★★★★★
Ease of use	★★★★★
Performance	★★★★★
Documentation	★★★★★
Support	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
OVERALL RATING	★★★★★
Strengths Solid feature set with a wide range of systems supported.	
Weaknesses None that we found.	
Verdict This is a complete password management appliance at a very reasonable price. Superior functionality gets it our Best Buy.	



This is a complete appliance at a very reasonable price. It is our Best Buy.

Peter Stephenson



Leader in Privileged Identity Management

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