# CWE Detail – CWE-258

## Description

Using an empty string as a password is insecure.

## Extended Description

N/A

## Threat-Mapped Scoring

Score: 3.0

Priority: P2 - Serious (High)

## Observed Examples (CVEs)

**•** CVE-2022-26117: Network access control (NAC) product has a configuration file with an empty password

## Modes of Introduction

**•** Architecture and Design: N/A

**•** Implementation: REALIZATION: This weakness is caused during implementation of an architectural security tactic.

**•** Operation: N/A

## Common Consequences

**•** Impact: Gain Privileges or Assume Identity — Notes:

## Potential Mitigations

**•** System Configuration: Passwords should be at least eight characters long -- the longer the better. Avoid passwords that are in any way similar to other passwords you have. Avoid using words that may be found in a dictionary, names book, on a map, etc. Consider incorporating numbers and/or punctuation into your password. If you do use common words, consider replacing letters in that word with numbers and punctuation. However, do not use "similar-looking" punctuation. For example, it is not a good idea to change cat to c@t, ca+, (@+, or anything similar. Finally, it is never appropriate to use an empty string as a password. (Effectiveness: N/A)

## Applicable Platforms

**•** None (Class: Not Language-Specific, Prevalence: Undetermined)

## Demonstrative Examples

**•** This Java example shows a properties file with an empty password string.