

John the Ripper

1. Single crack mode.

- It uses the login names together with other fields from the passwd file , also with a large set of mangling rules applied. This is the fastest cracking mode and is applicable to very simple passwords.

2. Dictionary Attack

- In this mode you need to supply a dictionary file that contains one word per line and a password file. You can enable word mangling rules which are used to modify or "mangle" words producing other likely passwords.

3. "Incremental" mode.

- This is the most powerful cracking mode because it will try all possible character combinations as passwords. If you supply a random password with length of more than 12-14 chars will never terminate and you'll have to interrupt it manually.