

Puzzle 7: October 9, 2019

An eighth grade school student in Florida shoulder-surfed a teacher he didn't like typing in a password. He used that password to log into the teacher's account and changed the wallpaper. The password, like all passwords on the school network, was the last name of the teacher (user), and teachers had administrative privileges on the network.

The student was first suspended for 10 days. But a few days later, the Pasco County sheriff filed felony charges against the student. The sheriff stated that he filed the charges because the teacher's computer had "encrypted 2014 FCAT [Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test] questions", although he admitted the student "did not view or tamper with those files." He added "Even though some might say this is just a teenage prank, who knows what this teenager might have done."

Do you think the student should have been suspended? Should he have been charged with a felony?