

Good Passwords

Why?

Anyone trying to crack your password does it using educated guesses about what you have chosen. If you have chosen a good password then the cracker must attempt a brute-force search i.e. try out every possible combination of letters, numbers, and punctuation. This makes password cracking difficult.

A brute-force search of this sort, even if conducted on a machine that could try one million passwords per second (most machines can try less than one hundred per second), then it would require the cracker years and years to complete the search.

Safeguarding:

- *First and foremost, NEVER give your password to anyone, nor share your password with anyone, including your best friend or a colleague, senior or junior.*
- *Make your password something you can remember.*
- *Make your password difficult for others to guess.*
- **Finally, NEVER write your password down anywhere.**

Don't use:

- Your real name, first or last or nickname, or login name in any form i.e. as-is, capitalized, reversed etc.
- Your spouse's or child's name.
- Your social security number, license plate number, telephone numbers, the brand name of your automobile etc.
- Your house number, the name of the street you live on, etc. or any number or name that can be related to you.
- Words contained in dictionaries whether English or foreign language , spelling lists, or other lists of words.
- A password of all digits, or all the same letter.
- A password shorter than six characters.

Use

- A password with nonalphabetic characters, e.g., digits or punctuation.
- A password with mixed-case alphabetic characters.
- A password that is easy to remember, so that you don't have to write it down.
- A password that you can type quickly, without having to look at the keyboard.

Methods to Choose

- Choose a line or two from a song, and use the first letter of each word and then add some important date to it. For example, "Those were the days my friends" and the birthday of your close friend becomes "twtdmf0205"
- Choose two short words and concatenate them together, add a punctuation in between and then end with a date e.g. "dear;file0205".
- Choose a small sentence and punctuate the words with a date e.g. "i02love05rabbits."
- Use capital O in capital as well as small letter and digit 0 frequently, as character O and digit 0 generally confuse the snooper.