

Strong Passwords

Strong, secure passwords are essential on a computer. Here are two examples, each with 12 characters:

<@M{g*L2%w24 h2<{49h%M4+Q

The reason that so many people choose weak passwords is because the term “*passWORD*” is **totally misleading**.

The very last thing a password should be is a **recognisable word**.

A strong password should:

- **Not** resemble any of your previous passwords.
- **Not** be your name, your house name, your telephone number, your friend's name, your pet's name or family member's name or anything related to you that is easily guessable.
- As mentioned earlier, it must **not** be a dictionary word, common name or place name.

The chosen password length is often too short. Also, roughly 40% of all passwords only use lowercase letters. These are far more susceptible to being broken by “brute force” cryptanalytic attacks.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brute-force_attack

How to create a strong password

Rule 1 – Password Length: *Longer is stronger*. Create passwords that are **at least 8 characters** in length. **12 characters** are preferable.

Rule 2 – Password Complexity: *Complex will perplex*. At least one character should come from each of the following 4 groups.

The more **special characters**, from the fourth group, the better.

1. Lowercase letters (abc...)
2. Uppercase letters (ABC...)
3. Numbers (123...)
4. Special Characters \$ % * &) ? ! < @ ^ ; (~ ” , : - _ = + > Avoid using £ / \

Here is a random password generator:

<http://www.strongpasswordgenerator.org/>

Select the password length (12 minimum is recommended).

Then click on “Generate Password”.

Over a period of time you will accumulate a large number of different passwords and usernames.

Contrary to the advice of some experts, it is *essential to write them down*, because you will never remember them!

Put them somewhere well hidden and secure.

Never use the same password for everything.

If your current passwords are weak, then **change them!**

Please note that some online companies and other organisations do **not** allow the use of *symbols or special characters* in their passwords. Try them first and see.