

In today's digital world, protecting your passwords and online accounts are essential. Read below for some tips to keep your passwords safe and secure.

Concerning Statistics

In the past year, 2 in 5 people:

- Received a notice that their personal information had been compromised.
- Had an account hacked.
- Had a password stolen.

35% of users have weak passwords; the other 65% can be hacked.

Using the same password on multiple accounts can create a domino effect! Hackers can take out multiple accounts just by hacking a single password!

73% of online accounts are guarded by duplicated passwords.

Here is a list of the most popular and easy to hack passwords.

2014	2015
123456	123456
password	password
12345	12345678
12345678	qwerty
qwerty	12345
123456789	123456789
1234	football
baseball	1234
dragon	1234567
football	baseball

Tips For Creating Secure Passwords

Use a minimum of 8 to 14 characters

Include upper and lower case letters

Include numbers and symbols

Stay away from dictionary words or combinations of dictionary words

With the plethora of websites for which you probably have accounts, there is simply no easy way to remember every password!

Try using a password manager!

List of [Best Password Managers of 2019](#)

Two-Step Verification

If available, use two-step verification. This means using 2 methods to validate your identity.

- One way is to use a password and a text message sent to your phone.
- Another way is to use a password and a security question.

Avoid Using These Common Security Questions

What is your favorite book?

What is your favorite author?

What is your mother's maiden name?

What is the name of your pet?

Where did you go to high school/college?

Where is your favorite place to vacation?

Researchers found that using questions like these, people with NO KNOWLEDGE of the person whose account they were hacking, were able to correctly guess the correct answer 15% of the time!

Best Practices for Security Questions

One idea is to fib a little and create memorable answers!

Examples:

- What's the name of your pet?
BarkDroolCuddle
- What is your mother's maiden name?
CleanYourRoomNow

Using the same security question on multiple accounts can create a domino effect!

Combining an easy password with a hacked security question This allows hackers to take out multiple accounts.

References

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