

Creating a Strong Password

The Anatomy of an Unbreakable Password

- The longer the password, the harder it is to crack. Consider a 12-character password or longer.
- Things to avoid: Names, places, dictionary words.
- Mix it up. Use variations on capitalization, spelling, numbers, and punctuation.

These three rules make it exponentially harder for hackers to crack your password. The strategies employed by password crackers have advanced to an incredibly efficient level, so it's imperative to be unusual with the passwords you create.

Methods for Choosing an Unbreakable Password

Bruce Schneier's Method

Take a sentence and turn it into a password. The sentence can be anything personal and memorable for you. Take the words from the sentence, then abbreviate and combine them in unique ways to form a password.

Example: WOO!TCwontWS = Woohoo! The Cubs won the World Series!

Person-Action-Object (PAO) Method

Select an image of an interesting place (Yellowstone). Select a photo of a familiar or famous person (Beyonce). Imagine some random action along with a random object (Beyonce driving a Ford at Yellowstone). Our brains remember better with visual, shared cues and with outlandish, unusual scenarios. Once you create and memorize several PAO stories, you can use the stories to generate passwords.

Example: Take the first three letters from "driving" and "Ford" to create "drifor." Do the same for three other stories, combine your made-up words together, and you'll have a secured password.

The Most Important Step For a Secure Password

- **Never reuse the same password.**

Contact Carrier Access to speak with our Security experts today!

Top 25 Most Used Passwords

1. 123456
2. password
3. 12345678
4. qwerty
5. 12345
6. 123456789
7. football
8. 1234
9. 1234567
10. baseball
11. welcome
12. 1234567890
13. abc123
14. 111111
15. 1qaz2wsx
16. dragon
17. master
18. monkey
19. letmein
20. login
21. princess
22. qwertyuiop
23. solo
24. passw0rd
25. starwars

Don't get hacked. Update your passwords today!