

Cyber Hygiene: Password Safety

Passwords are the first line of defense for cybersecurity. Just like changing the locks on a new house, you want to lock your accounts with secure passwords.

Level 1: The Deadbolt

Minimum house security is locking a deadbolt. Follow these tips for minimum password security.



Avoid using common words

Common words can be cracked in milliseconds. Numbers, dates and names that are easily found on the internet are not safe. Hackers expect simple swaps. Example: Password = P@ssw0rd



10 character minimum

Password cracking tools tend to break down after 10 characters. When it comes to passwords, longer is better.



Unique passwords for every site

If one account is hacked, all of your other accounts with the same password are compromised. Have unique passwords for all accounts.

Level 2: Top of the line security system

If you want to feel safe at home, you get a great security system. If you want to feel safe online, you bump up your password security.



Use a password manager

Use an encrypted password manager to store all of your unique, complex passwords so you don't have to remember them. Click [here](#) for suggestions.



Upgrade to Passphrases

- Use a common phrase that is easy to remember.
* Iloveskateboarding
- Add spaces and characters as allowed/required by the site
* I l0ve sk@teboarding!
- Add random words to make it even more secure
* I l0ve TaxAct sk@teboarding!
- Easily hits length and complexity requirements, but are also easy to remember



Use multi-factor authentication

Enable security questions, confirmation codes or text verification whenever possible. This protects your account from being hijacked by hackers.



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SECURITY

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