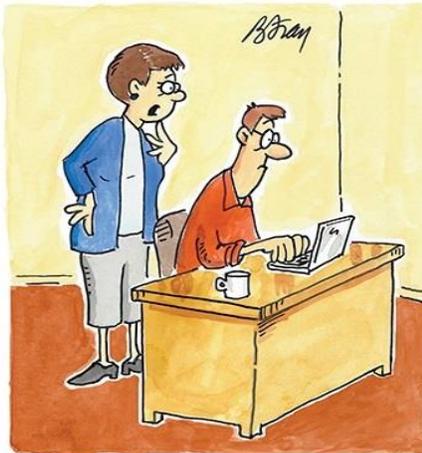


Passwords

People roll their eyes when they hear the well-worn password advisories. We've been told to change our passwords, to use stronger ones and keep them secure since the beginning of the internet. It's like being told to look both ways before crossing the street.But if password protection and its moth-eaten warnings are so commonplace then why are we so bad at doing it? Year over year, international reports on data breaches continue to show that organizations' people are their weakest link in data security....and passwords play a big role.

Did You Know?

In its [2017 annual breach report](#), Verizon found that 62% of breaches in education, healthcare, finance, accommodation, manufacturing and information were a result of hacking and that 82% of hacking breaches were the result of stolen and/or weak passwords.



"I know our password should be at least 8 characters, but P-A-S-S-W-O-R-D seems a little weak!"

Before you change your password...

Here's a sobering thought: passwords today are easier to crack than 2 years ago. Why? Because hackers have better and faster password crackers that use algorithms based on patterns we use to create "strong" passwords such as adding characters and numbers in front of or after words and exchanging '@' for 'a', '3' for 'E' and '1' for 'i'....yes, hackers know we do this.

Everything we were taught about creating strong passwords is now being walked back by security experts because the information is outdated. Experts now suggest using long, easy to remember phrases because they are harder to crack than shorter combinations of characters. Consider using a nonsense phrase made up of a *person*, an *action*, and an *object*, e.g., *Grumpy Cat bans kangaroos?*

Challenge

Test your ability to create strong passwords using this [online password checker](#).

Resources



1. Video on password management. See it [here](#)
2. Elementary lesson plan on passwords. Click [here](#) to view.
3. Poster on strong passwords. Download it [here](#).
4. Learn methods for password creation in [this article](#).
5. Learn about password managers [here](#).
6. Learn about two-factor authentication and how to enable it on your social networking sites [here](#).
7. See the most commonly cracked passwords in the following breaches:

[LinkedIn](#)

[Adobe](#)