# The Essentials To Your Password Security

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#### Passwords, Passwords, Passwords,

These days we need a password for everything. Whether it's to open an online account, access our online bank, or even to log into our email. We create multiple passwords, and often store them in multiple areas. Whether that's written on a post it note, diary or stored on an excel sheet – but what happens when you lose or forget your passwords.

# **WORST** Passwords

Here are the 5 most commonly used passwords:

123456

(23.2 million) account use this password

### 123456789

(7.7 million) account use this password

**qwerty** (3.8 million) account

use this password

### password

(3.6 million) account use this password

### 111111

(3.1 million) account use this password

# What can an attacker

## do with my password?

Most people don't realise how valuable a password is to an attacker. Once an attacker has your password, they have access to your personal and business data.

#### **Password Reuse**

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By using the same password for multiple applications and sites such as Gmail, LinkedIn, Facebook and more, it compounds the potential damage of a single compromised password.

#### **User Enumeration**

Many businesses use a single enterprise username. Once a hacker figures this out, they can use that password to compromise employee accounts across all departments and levels.

#### **Password Recognition**

Often IT departments in organisations create temporary simple passwords for new employees. Often these passwords go unchanged. These easily cracked passwords allow attackers to identify password patterns and use them to compromise the entire corporation.



## Are Your Passwords Secure?

#### Here are a few ways you can strengthen your passwords:

Dos	Don'ts
<ul> <li>Increase the length of your password</li> <li>Use a combination of numbers, letters and special characters</li> <li>Use a combination of words to create stronger "Passphrases"</li> <li>Change your password regularly</li> <li>Use a Password manager to store and remember all your complex passwords for you</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Don't make your password too personal like         <ul> <li>Your name</li> <li>Business name</li> <li>Family members</li> <li>Pets' names</li> <li>Birthdays</li> </ul> </li> <li>Don't reuse the same password for multiple accounts</li> <li>The word "Password"</li> </ul>

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\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

assword

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## How can I make my password stronger?

Using simple, predictable passwords is easy for hackers to guess your login credentials.

They have created a massive database of common words, phrases and number combinations



# How long should passwords be?

#### As long as your Arm!

The longer you make your password, the harder it is for someone to crack. Many trusted industries recommend a minimum of 8 characters, whilst others recommend at least 12 characters.

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