

Passwords (see the list of most common 'hackable' passwords at the end)

Passwords are used to authenticate you so that your personal & financial data is protected from fraud, data theft or identity theft. Passwords help prevent unauthorised access.

However, with more and more of digitisation in our personal and business life it is often easy to take short cuts when trying to manage that growing list of passwords. I did a quick count – **I have 39 different personal passwords** that I use at least a few times a year to almost daily and at least another 20 more. Add them up yourself – email accounts, social media, online banking, credit cards, share trading, E-Gov (Federal & NSW), ticket / entertainment sites, Uber, food ordering, telco, newspapers, memberships / sporting clubs etc.



*Source: The Office (US Version)

Doing the maths about 18 months made me stop and think. Many of my passwords were basic, many were the same or very similar, some I hadn't changed in years. Given I had key personal details, credit card No's and information about my children across different sites I suddenly went cold. Access to only a couple could open access to others or allow enough personal information to someone else to be a 'virtual' me – a Pandora's box.

Luckily there are ways to increase security and minimise the risk of attack. Below are some tips – mostly business based but true for individuals as well.

Password Complexity

Simple passwords are one of the biggest problems. Although easy to remember they are also easy to crack. Remember – your dog's name is probably on your social media.....its not a secret.

An example on how long it would take to crack some passwords with [brute force](#) attack:

Password	How long to crack*	Comment
Welcome83	8 minutes	Commonly used password
Chamaeleon	2 months	A dictionary word
Ch@m@eleon	2 months	a = @
Ch@m@3l3on77	31 years!!	a =@, e = 3 with numeral 77 in the end

*Estimated timings are as of February 2018

TIP: Go to this website <https://password.kaspersky.com> to verify how secure passwords actually are. **Use this tester for educational purposes only. DO NOT ENTER YOUR ACTUAL PASSWORD**

TIP: No password should ever be used on more than one site – there are a number of password managers that we recommend so you can keep passwords secure and varied.

TIP: Good complexity for a password:

- 8 characters minimum
- A combination of High and low case
- At least one number
- At least one symbol

Password Expiry:

Password changes should be active for all users, with passwords set to expire at least quarterly (monthly is best practice), with adequate password complexity.

Password Phrases

Password Phrases are a good way to remember complex passwords, using an easy to remember phrase of at least eight words from a favourite book, song, movie or poem (the more obscure the better)

Example: **Mary had a little lamb, its fleece was white as snow**

You use the first letter from each word so it becomes: **Mhallifwwas**

For more examples visit: <http://www.hughcalc.org/pwgen.cgi>

TIP: Password and password phrases shouldn't be written down around the user's desk.

Most Common Passwords*

123456	777777	777777	jesus1
123456789	target123	11111	linkedin
qwerty	qwerty123	daniel	jordan
password	tinkle	123654	babygirl1
111111	qwerty1	passer2009	blink182
12345678	1g2w3e4r	999999	789456
abc123	qwerty	11111111	qwer1234
1234567	zag12wsx	asdfgh	qwerty
password1	qwerty123	love	j38ifUbn
12345	987654321	888888	333333
1234567890	222222	abcd1234	michelle
123123	zxcvbnm	football1	thomas
000000	555555	love123	nicole
iloveyou	f***you	jordan23	131313
1234	112233	shadow	0
1q2w3e4r5t	asdfghjkl	superman	liverpool
qwertyuiop	123123123	monkey1	q1w2e3r4
123	1q2w3e	12qwaszx	lovely
monkey	qazwsx	jessica	gfhjkm
123456a	computer	a12345	987654
dragon	princess	123456789a	asdasd
654321	12345a	asdf	Status
123321	ashley	baseball	hello1
666666	159753	samsung	123456789
1qaz2wsx	michael	asd123	angel1
myspace1	football	azerty	andrew
homelesspa	1234qwer	charlie	iloveyou2
121212	sunshine	master	joshua
123qwe	iloveyou1	FQRG7CS493	anthony
a123456	f**kyou1	88888888	justin
123abc	789456123	soccer	
qwe123	aaaaaa	michael1	
1q2w3e4r	princess1	killer	

Superman - the first superhero in the list.

blink182 the first band

Michaels, Ashley's, Andrews, Jessica's, Charlie's etc, need to take a good hard look at their security (or perhaps their partners).....mmm just saw the last entry on the list.....that's my name!!!

myspace1 - really....

Homelesspa.... the Grey nomad segment?



*Source: <https://haveibeenpwned.com/Passwords>

If you are concerned about your businesses security, please feel free to contact Chill IT.