5 TIPS FOR DEVELOPING STRONGER PASSWORDS

1. DON’T USE A COMMON PASSWORD.
   If your password seems too predictable, it probably is. The more simple a password is, the more likely it is to be hacked. Take the time to develop a complex password.

2. DON’T USE AN EASY-TO-GUESS PASSWORD.
   We know you love your family, pets, sports and home... and so do cybercriminals. While using passwords with the names of things you love makes them easy for you to remember, it makes it easy for others to guess. DON’T use your name, loved ones’ names, pet names, home addresses, birthdays, anniversaries, sports teams, musicians or fictional characters for your password.

3. CREATE A COMPLEX PASSWORD.
   The longer your password, the better. Be sure to use a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers and special characters.

4. GENERATE A UNIQUE PASSWORD FOR EACH ACCOUNT YOU HAVE.
   Generate a strong unique password for each account you have. Be sure to keep your passwords for personal and work accounts separate and use the strongest passwords for accounts with sensitive information. NEVER use your bank account password for another account.

5. IF YOU THINK SOMETHING IS WRONG, TAKE ACTION.
   Stay up-to-date with the latest cyber news to keep informed about any major data breaches that could impact you.
   In the event you suspect your password to an account has been compromised:
   • Change the password (and any similar passwords) immediately.
   • Check your accounts and look for any suspicious activity.
   • If your personal information is misused, visit IdentityTheft.gov to report identity theft and get a recovery plan.

Top 10 Most Common Hacked Passwords
1. 123456
2. 123456789
3. qwerty
4. password
5. 111111
6. 12345678
7. abc123
8. qwerty123
9. password!
10. 12345

Password Checklist
✓ At least eight characters in length
✓ Uppercase letters
✓ Lowercase letters
✓ Numbers
✓ Special characters

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SOURCES
https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/tips/ST04-002
https://www.stopthinkconnect.org/resources/preview/tip-sheet-passwords-and-securing-your-accounts
https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2018/03/its-national-password-day