



How to Protect your Passwords

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Passwords are the first line of defense on any account platform, yet not everyone uses them correctly. In fact, 58 percent of baby boomers still don't use secure passwords, according to Norton's Cybersecurity Insights Report.

Follow these tips to best secure your accounts.

Don't use common phrases

Surprisingly, the password "123456" is still used by 23 million account holders. Weak passwords often include personal and guessable information about the user like childhood pet names or specific dates. The simpler the password, the easier to hack. Generating passwords that use a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols helps protect you from data breaches.

Use different passwords for different accounts

Overall, 53 percent of people admitted using the same password for different accounts, according to a report by identity company SecureAuth. But the actual number may be even higher. Using the same passwords for multiple sites across different platforms increases vulnerability. If one platform is hacked or if you are hacked, more information is compromised.

Implement two-factor authentication (2FA)

It's not as difficult as it sounds. Advancements in technology, like dual factor authentication, generate another line of defense in data protection. Using a 2FA system typically includes a code being sent to an employee's phone or email as a real-time approval to proceed with the log in. Major companies like Amazon and Apple implement 2FA into their consumers' accounts. It often only adds a few minutes to the process but deters thieves.

Keep your Passwords Private

While some companies make employees change their passwords every couple of months, this can actually increase the chances of confusion and can make accounts vulnerable. In these cases, employees often write down their passwords on sticky notes, enhancing the likelihood of the password being leaked to other employees, non-employees on conference video calls, or anyone who walks into the offices. If you need to write down your passwords, keep them in a secure journal. And keep the journal locked up, knowing that if someone were to find it, they'd have access to all of your personal accounts.

The best passwords balance the users' ability to remember their accounts and also deter those trying to gain access. Spending a little extra effort on password safety will better secure and guard your agency's accounts.

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