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Password Quick Tips

A Reminder of the Basics:

(You should already know these**)**

- ✓ Create strong passwords of at 12 or more characters - more is better
- ✓ Use a mix of UPPER CASE, lower case, numb3rs & sp3c!@(characters
- ✓ Use unique passwords for each application or service
- ✓ Change the passwords frequently - shoot for quarterly, but at least every 6 months

Get Cr3@t!ve:

- ✓ Think about music, reciting poems, lines from movies or whatever may be interesting to you to create a rhythm, then type the rhythm as a password pneumonic.
- ✓ Use the "shift" key and numbers somewhere in the rhythm for emphasis. This also allows you to play or recite a pneumonic "by the rules".
- ✓ Use a *pass phrase.* For example: "The three dogs and cat in the house are Oscar, Pete, Suzie and Fluffy!" will represent the password T3dacithaOPSaF! - Strong password, easy to remember!
- ✓ Truly random characters are best.
- ✓ Never use keyboard patterns, even with mixed characters. (e. g., 1234, qawsed)

Mind your password manners:

Got a smartphone, tablet or laptop? You are now a "power user" whether you realize it or not. *So, here are a few things to remember to avoid doing when creating or changing passwords:*

- Don't use your "user name" as your password.
- Don't use simple patterns or personal information (including family, friends & pets).
- Don't share passwords with friends, family or co-workers
- Don't share passwords across applications or services
- Don't write passwords down on paper or sticky notes

Remember this:

1. *Your behavior and discipline about passwords is the first line of defense for online security that may affect you, your family, your friends and employer.*
2. *After logging in, don't email, blog, tweet or collaborate online with sensitive information as you can assume it never gets fully deleted, but may circulate forever.*
3. *Keep your personal device security updated*
4. *When in doubt, don't…..*

Got questions? We have answers.

Contact Bill Morgan for independent B2B assistance with today's most comprehensive mobile, online and cloud security audits & assessments.

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