

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR PASSWORDS

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You have an alarm system for your home or your car to prevent intruders from access. You want to protect your property and your valuables from theft. However, what about protecting your passwords? Hackers are having their way and opening the gate into your personal information. From there they can steal anything, your money, your credit, your identity. It can take months or years to clean up the damage they do. There's no way to guarantee protection from hackers, but you can make it harder for them to gain access. By implementing a few of the practices below, you may slow them down or stop them all together.

1. User longer passwords. You can use phrases as long as they are not obvious. Hackers are smart. They have programs with algorithms that look for patterns. Make sure your words are random and not a phrase that can easily be identified.
2. Try to vary your passwords for each site that requires one. If you use the same password for every site, once the Hacker has your password, they have not only unlocked your door, they have the run of your house!
3. When using random numbers or symbols, enter them in the body of the password. Most users will put them at the front or end of the password, which is too predictable.
4. Use two-factor verification. This method will not only require a password but it will also send a token or pin to a designated device such as your cell phone. The hacker would have to have access to both devices in order to intervene which is not likely.
5. Don't save all your passwords in a file on your computer called Passwords. If you have a document with your passwords in it make sure your password protects your document. However, the best defense is to write them down rather than have them on your computer.
6. Install your Windows updates. Quite often there are security updates released that help make it harder for Hackers to access your system. Keeping your software up to date will help prevent Hackers from gaining access.



If you have any questions about this or any other technology issue, please contact your Account Manager or [Sue Deters](#), IT Manager, at (314) 205-2510 or via email at sdeters@connerash.com.