

Computer Security Tips

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WordPress.com

Quick Poll

Which is a stronger password?

a) Troub4dor&3

b) correct-horse-battery-staple

Quick Poll

Which is a stronger password?

- a) Troub4dor&3 ~28 bits entropy
- b) correct-horse-battery-staple ~44 bits entropy

B is both harder to guess AND easier to remember - win!

Golden Rule of Passwords

Every password must be different

Two types of passwords

Passwords you know

- Must be different, so, only a few of these (Password Manager, Device(s))
- Use long pass-phrase style

Example:

griffin-festive-eschew-gourd

Passwords you generate

- Must be different, generate random password for every service/site using password manager
- As long and as complex as possible (at least 24 chars)

Example:

7}VKqWg8jejAcz#^qfXuM8GZEKlA

Password Managers

- Allow you to generate and store secure passwords
- Require a passphrase style 'master password' to unlock
- Use 2fa to access these passwords
- LastPass (free + premium) and 1Password (paid) are two most popular options

Two factor authentication (2fa)

- Enable 2fa on any account you use that supports it
- WordPress.com, Google, LinkedIn, Facebook, Github are examples
- See: twofactorauth.org
- Use authenticator apps like 'Authy' to generate one time passwords
- SMS not as secure or convenient (travelling)

Personal VPNs

- Virtual Private Networks
- Particularly important for public wifi
- Creates secure link between your device and a VPN server which accesses the Internet
- Don't use a 'free' one as it will often be stealing your privacy
- SurfEasy

Computer Security Misc

- Encrypt content computers (FileVault Mac, Bitlocker Windows)
- Set long passphrase style password for computers - auto lock
- Install/activate anti-virus, even on Mac - Avira is free
- Enable firewall
- At least 8 digit PIN on devices (don't use pattern)

- Enable find my phone or equivalent (remote wipe)
- Router up to date firmware
- Change default password
- Strong WPA2 wifi password
- Document shredder for home documents, boarding passes

Q&A

**“Let us not look back in anger or forward
in fear, but around in awareness”
— James Thurber**

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