

For Active
People
Ages 60+



Cyberspace News

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The WORST Passwords To Use

According to a recent report by the security firm Imperva, most computer users *still* choose passwords that are very easy for malicious hackers to guess. People still use their children's names, and ridiculous choices such as "Password" and "guess" are among the worst.

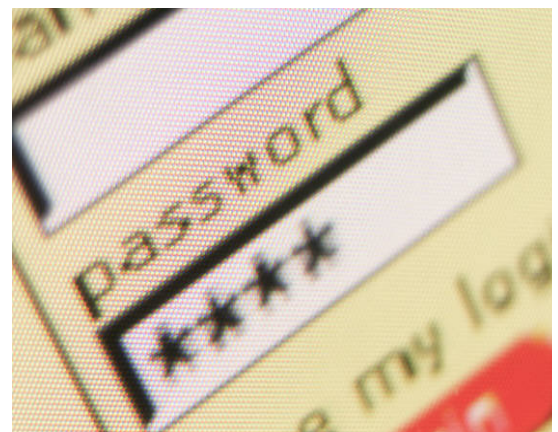
Almost one in three users choose passwords comprised of six or fewer characters, more than half use passwords based on only letters and numbers (no symbols such as "#" or "%"), and almost 50 percent use variations on their name or names of family members, birth dates, popular slang terms, or simple strings of consecutive characters from the average computer keyboard.

Imperva has made several recommendations:

- (1) Make passwords at least eight characters long
- (2) Use both uppercase and lowercase letters
- (3) Include numbers

- (4) Where permitted, include symbols (for example %, ~ and #). The passwords should be simple enough for you to remember, but abstruse enough to anyone but you, that guessing them would be nearly impossible. For example: No#7gD*hakrs! (Say it out loud without the numbers and symbols, and you'll hear what it stands for.)

Source: Bill Shapiro. Based on an article by Brandon Dimmel on the website: www.infopackets.com



In the past, this space contained an invitation to our readers to submit your own computer tips and the addresses of your favorite Web sites.

However, this is the last issue of Cyberspace News, so do not submit any further items.

Just For You

Cyberspace News is now archived on the WACC website. There you can see prior issues of CN, full issues of the newsletter between September 2007 and October 2009 as well as selected articles from other issues. In some articles, additional important material is included (for instance, information obtained after publication).

Just go to www.wacci.net and click the "Archives" button along the left side.

Troubleshooting A Monitor Problem

Here's another wonderful article by Bill Shapiro.

When my wife switched on her 6-year-old computer and started Windows, peculiar patterns began appearing on the screen. Restarting the machine (always the best first step when a problem appears) did not help.

An alternate monitor displayed the same phenomenon, so I knew that the problem was most likely in the graphics card, a set of electronics that sends imagery signals to the monitor. The card sits on the computer's main electronics board, in a slot whose electrical contacts mate with those on the card.

Before deciding to replace the graphics card, I unplugged the

computer, discharged its capacitors by holding the "ON" button down for ten seconds, and then opened the case. I located the graphics card (it's the one connected to the monitor cable), and although it seemed to be firmly in place I pushed it to seat more tightly in the slot, theorizing that it could have been slightly displaced by vibration over six years of computer operation.

When we restarted the machine, the strange patterns were gone. The card had in fact been slightly out of place.

Lesson: Try the simple things first.

Thanks Bill! So much knowledge in one humble man!

A Hanukkah Groaner

It was Hanukkah and the tiny village was in fear of not having any latkes because they had run out of flour. Rudi, the rabbi, was called upon to help solve the problem.

He said, "Don't worry. You can substitute matzo meal for the flour. The latkes will be just as delicious!"

Sheila looks to her husband and says, "Morty...do you think it'll work?"

Morty says, "Of course! Everybody knows..."

Rudolph, the Rab, knows grain, dear!"

Source: www.humormatters.com



Track Santa On Christmas Eve

If the grandkids are over on Christmas Eve and they are either into Santa or on the fence about him, you should know that it's possible, and FUN, to track The Jolly One as he makes his trek around the world.

My absolute favorite site is www.noradsanta.org. This is the website for The North American Aerospace Defense Command, a bi-national (American and Canadian) military organization charged with "the missions of aerospace control and maritime warning for North America." In other words, they're in charge of the space above North America. So when Santa flies into this area, he's in NORAD territory.

NORAD has had it's Santa Tracker since 1955 when a Sears' promotion encouraged kids to call for updates on Santa's trip. The number was misprinted and the kids wound up calling NORAD. Astonishingly, the military group just rolled with the calls and gave kids updates on where Santa was.

What I love about NORAD is that you can call them via a toll-free number and you'll get an actual person who will ask your zip code before updating you on where Santa is currently located. You can also track him on the web and the graphics on this site are amazing. You can see Santa swooping over the Eiffel Tower and taking a scenic jaunt over the Great Wall of

China. The updates are punctuated with lots of reminders to go to bed or Santa won't come (VERY useful for wee folk who refuse to go to bed) on Christmas Eve.

AT&T is also getting into the holiday spirit as it allows its customers to text Santa a message. Just text Santa to 1224 any day through December 24th and send him the kid's wish list. Santa will respond. Since I haven't tried this one, I hope Santa is responding vaguely and not making promises which cannot be kept.

Www.santaclaus.net is another site that promises Santa-tracking along with games, stories, the weather for the North Pole, and children can even find out where they are on the Naughty and Nice Lists.

These sites offer modern ways to keep old traditions alive and they're great ways to bond with your grandkids.

Log on for Merry fun!



Free And Fun



Come to our Computer Fun Meetings, which are free and open to everyone, whether you're a WACC member or not.

Meetings are held the second and fourth Mondays of each month from 11:30AM to 1PM.

So True

"Elephants and grandchildren never forget."
...Andy Rooney

"My grandfather was a wonderful role model. Through him I got to know the gentle side of men."
...Sarah Long

"One of the most powerful hand-clasps is that of a new grandbaby around the finger of a grandfather."
...Joy Hargrove

Source:
www.dailycelebrations.com

Sharing Failures

If you're a person who does crafts (like I do), no doubt you've had some projects that didn't wind up the way you wanted. Now there's a website that shares these not-so-stellar results and allows us to commiserate with others who love arts and crafts.

Log onto (note the absence of the www in this web address): <http://craftfail.com>

There you'll see what others have tried, and often failed, to make. We all know what it's like to toil over something only to have it not please us. This site shows us that we're not alone in our endeavors. And who knows? Maybe you'll get some inspiration from the failures of others. Perhaps you can even figure out the right way to make something that was crafted wrong!

Farewell Cyberspace News!

As 2010 comes to an end, so does my time spent working with the Wayne Adult Community Center. I started writing Cyberspace News in January of 2000 when I was pregnant with my first child. That child is now ten years old, his sister will be entering kindergarten this year, and although I've had a blast writing this publication, it's time for me to move on.

I am grateful to those who stuck with me over the years especially:

- ♥ My guardian angel, the late Vince Barilla
- ♥ The very much alive (and brilliant) Bill Shapiro
- ♥ The also very much alive (and extremely kind) George Morris

Similarly, I am grateful to you, dear reader, for sticking with me for one issue or many. And let me not forget to thank my miraculous family who gave me the time and space to foray into cyberspace.

To those who have enjoyed my writing over these years, fear not! You can catch me via my blog, Mom's Crayon, on any of these websites:

- * www.jerseymomsblog.com
- * (note the absence of the www in this web address) <http://momscrayon.blogspot.com>

- * (note the absence of the www in this web address) <http://momrenewal.com>
- * www.livingstonnavigator.com

Please keep exploring your computers and the incredible technology that is more marvelous every day. Technology can open worlds of discovery for seniors. Don't be afraid of it! Embrace it and learn how to use it to make your life better.

I wish you well in cyberspace and please, please remember these parting words:

BACK UP YOUR FILES!

**Warmest Regards
and Happy Holidays!**

Linda Klonsky

