

HOW FAST CAN I CRACK YOUR PASSWORD?

By Brian Zarzycki, MP Integrated Solutions

One of the most frustrating things to an end user is an IT department or computer consultant explaining or even forcing secure user password. At the same time, the frustrating aspect for IT departments and computer consultants is the security breaches caused by the lack of secure user password.

Would you leave your cash on a public picnic table unguarded or unattended? Would you willingly give someone your bank account information? Do you have the same password to login to everything: bank accounts, online bill pay, office login, etc.?

Over the years, several large companies have been exposed to their shortcomings in security measures, but the hackers did not have to do much work to crack the passwords for most members. With the recent hack of LinkedIn and 6.4 Million passwords leaked, users have learned the need for stronger passwords.

Here are the Top 10 passwords found from the LinkedIn breach:

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| 1. link | 6. 12345 |
| 2. 1234 | 7. angel |
| 3. god | 8. the |
| 4. work | 9. ilove |
| 5. job | 10. sex |

If you do not want to go through what some people have experienced with hacked passwords, here are some simple steps to protect you. These steps can help you from having hackers access your Facebook, email or even bank account.

1. Create a Hard Encrypted password with:
 - A. 7 - 15 characters (15 characters being the most secure)
 - B. A capital letter
 - C. A number
 - D. A symbol
2. Never use family names, favorite movie, or things people would know about you.
3. Never use the same exact password for each website that you log into. If your password is hacked it will allow that person into all your other accounts.
4. Never click on an email attachment that states you need to login to your account in order to validate a purchase or order.

When deciding your next password think about 2 words that would not normally be used together but something that you can remember. Think about substituting vowels in the words for numbers. Add a couple of exclamation marks, such as !P8rpl3r00tb33r!
!Purplerootbeer!