

PASSWORD EPIDEMIC

A recent study of over 32 million passwords stolen from a security breach of RockYou.com found that people are still using very unsecure passwords.

Here are the ten most used and the amount of people using them:

1. 123456 - 290,731 users
2. 12345 - 79,078 users
3. 123456789 - 76,790 users
4. Password - 61,958 users
5. Iloveyou - 51,622 users
6. Princess - 35,231 users
7. Rockyou - 22,588 users
8. 1234567 - 21,726 users
9. 12345678 - 20,553 users
10. abc123 - 17,542 users

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PASSWORD POLICIES

For You to Consider



MICROSOFT recommend the following:

Always use strong passwords.

- A weak password is no password at all; contains your user name, real name, or company name; and/or contains a complete dictionary word. For example, Password is a weak password.

- A strong password is at least seven characters long; does not contain your user name, real name, or company name; does not contain a complete dictionary word; and/or is significantly different from previous passwords. Passwords that increment (Password1, Password2, Password3 ...) are not strong.

- A great rule of thumb is to create passwords that contain characters from each of the following four groups:

Uppercase letters

EXAMPLES: A, B, C ...

Lowercase letters

EXAMPLES: a, b, c ...

Numerals

EXAMPLES: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Symbols found on the keyboard (all keyboard characters not defined as letters or numerals)

EXAMPLES: ` ~ ! @ # \$ % ^ & * () _ + - = { } | \ : " ; ' < > ? , . /

If passwords must be written down on a piece of paper, store the paper in a secure place and destroy it when it is no longer needed.

Never share passwords with anyone.

Change passwords immediately if they may have been compromised.

Be careful about where passwords are saved on computers. Some dialog boxes, such as those for remote access and other telephone connections, present an option to save or remember a password. Selecting this option poses a potential security threat.