

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH: CREATING STRONG PASSWORDS

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the importance of having a secure password, and still make the word.

nts contain very personal information about you. You must have a not become a victim of identity theft.

sapp or Google, hackers can and do, extract a huge amount of

e accounts, you run the risk, if this password is hacked, of all your

ne name of the city that you live in, the names of your children or attempting to access your personal data.

For an average expert hacker, it is always easy to find passwords that are made up of words from the English vocabulary or other languages, using a basic technique called "brute force" or "dictionary" attacks.

What makes a password safe?

1. A password at least 8 characters long.
2. The password does not contain information that is easy to find online, such as the date of birth, the telephone number, your spouse's name, the name of a pet, or a child's name.
3. The password does not contain words found in the dictionary.
4. The password contains special characters like @ # \$% ^ &, and numbers.
5. The password uses a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters.

A trick that the experts use to create secure passwords:

Think of a phrase and use the first letters of the words in the phrase.

- For example: *"In South Africa, a barbecue is called a Braai!"*
- Take the first letters of each word and the password that is created is **ISAabicaB!**
- This will be very difficult to guess, but easy to remember.
- At this point, you can decide to make your the Google password is **ISAabicaB!-G**, and Facebook **ISAabicaB!-F** and your university account **ISAabicaB!-US** and so on.
- There is already a capital letter and a special character (**!**), so you just need to add a number to finish off a good password like **9-ISAabicaB!-US** (*9 could be the month you created the password in - for example*)

You will have already made your password a lot more difficult to hack, and it can be a lot of fun to create.

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