



What Makes a Good Password?

Recently SplashData released a list of the most common passwords people have used since 2011.

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
password	password	123456	123456	123456
123456	123456	password	password	password
12345678	12345678	12345678	12345	12345678
qwerty	abc123	qwerty	12345678	qwerty
abc123	qwerty	abc123	qwerty	12345
monkey	monkey	123456789	123456789	123456789
1234567	letmein	11111	1234	football
letmein	dragon	1234567	baseball	1234
trustno1	111111	iloveyou	dragon	1234567
dragon	baseball	adobe123	football	baseball

As you can see, the most popular passwords for the past five years are “password” and “123456.” So what qualities does a good password have?

Length. Good passwords are long. As a general rule, the longer a password is, the harder it is to guess. When a site says you need a password that is a minimum of six characters, it might be a good idea to make it longer.

Complexity. Try to avoid simple words. Avoid dictionary words, place names, and proper nouns. Using your name in a password is not a good idea.

Uniqueness. This is the one most of us have a problem with. If you use the same password on multiple sites and *one* of those sites is compromised, you are giving the hacker free access to all your accounts.

To find out more about creating good passwords and tips for managing a multitude of passwords, click the How-To-Geek icon:



Source: Fitzpatrick, Jason. "Your Passwords Are Terrible, and It's Time to Do Something About It." *How-To-Geek*. 22 Jan. 2016. Web. 26 Jan. 2016.

Tech Tip: The start of 2016 is a great time to change your KSC password. To do so, log in. From your desktop, hit CTRL, ALT, Delete. A blue screen with options will pop up. Choose the “Reset Password” option to create a new password.