



## A Stronger Password

Password protection is key to keeping your information safe. When it comes to password strength, nobody has a clue how to make a strong password that is easy to remember. Running an open network for everyone to use requires enforcement of policies on servers and protection systems to keep everyone's account safe. Yet a simple password on one single account ruins all the hard work your IT department does to protect your systems. Left to your own devices, you will choose passwords that are simple to remember and easy for a hacker to pick.

I have a way for you to create a strong password by using those simple to remember passwords.

By using the following tips, you will be able to create easy-to-remember passwords. The typical requirements for a strong password is it must be at least eight characters long; including one uppercase letter, lowercase letters, one number, and one special character.

- Substitute numbers for letters—0 instead of o, 3 instead of E, 1 instead of i, or the other way around (E instead of 3, b instead of 6, i instead of 1, etc.)
- Substitute words for numbers— one instead of 1, two instead of 2, three instead of 3, etc.
- Now combine both substituted numbers and substituted words—0ne, thre3, s1x, s3v3n.

- Capitalization in the beginning, middle or end of your password—Mark3t, marK3t or mark3T.
- This is the hard one: the use of special characters—!@#\$\$%^&\*(){}[]. I use them to separate words; Mark3t!man, #Mark3t#man#, or place them at the beginning and end of a password.
- Create a password out of words, numbers, or phrases that have meaning or are memorable.

Using these tips, you can create stronger passwords that will be nearly impossible for a hacker to guess. Examples of the converting process:

Monday, before converting; m0ndaY! after.

Zachary, before converting; z4cH4ry after.

859-5738, before converting; 8five957E8 after.

I love my wife, before converting; eyeLov3\_myw!fe after.

While some of these examples look pretty silly, you can see how they're not difficult to memorize, as long as you know the original word.

By educating yourself on how to create strong passwords, you strengthen the security of your company and its network, and you will benefit by having a safer personal online experience.

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