

# Top 10 Tips for Password Security



## Know your guidelines

Your organization has its own policies for password security. Know them and push them to the limits! If they allow passwords of 8-20 characters, always make it 20.

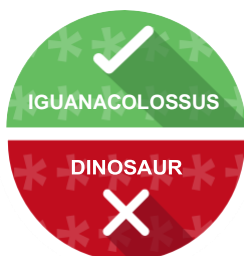


## Longer is better

New research says longer passwords are harder to guess. "Wine" is short; "1998dontdrinkwinewithbadchee\$e-2002worstweddingEVER" is long.

## Uncommon sense

Substitute uncommon words for common ones. Try to avoid words found in dictionaries, if possible.



## Think phrases, not words

A space is just another character in a string, so long phrases with spaces are effectively single unsearchable words. A phrase like "dinosaurs don't dance disco" is unique and memorable!



## Choose something only you know

Think of something that makes sense only to you. This could be a private joke, a childhood nickname or an association only you would make.



## Don't write it down

Put down the Post-Its! Choose a password you can remember without writing it down. If you absolutely have to write some down, write down a hint that would only make sense to you.

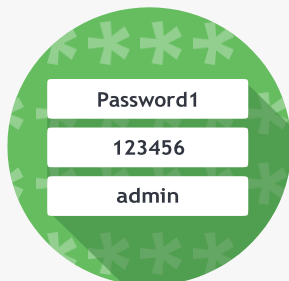
## Don't repeat

Don't reuse passwords. If you've already used a password for another account, or used it previously for the same account, invent a new password.



## Never share passwords

Passwords are like toothbrushes. Change them regularly and never share them with anyone!



## If it hasn't worked before ...

Know your common passwords. "Password1," "123456," "admin" and "qwerty" are all common passwords that hackers will always guess.



## Don't use common substitutions

It's become common practice to replace letters with similar-looking numbers and symbols. These are known substitutions and will not help make a password stronger.