Special Report

PUBLIC SECURITY ANNOUNCEMENT #1

February 5, 2019

It's Time To Change Your Password – Worst Passwords of 2018

These are the Top 25 Worst Passwords from 2018 based on over 5 million leaked passwords[1]. Avoid them and protect your data by not using them. If your password is on the list, it's time to change your password.

1. 123456
2. password
3. 123456789
4. 12345678
5. 12345
6. 111111
7. 1234567
8. Sunshine
9. Qwerty
10. Iloveyou
11. Princess
12. Admin
13. Welcome
14. 666666
15. abc123
16. football
17. 123123
18. Monkey
19. 654321
20. !@#$%^&*
21. Charlie
22. aa123456
23. Donald
24. password1
25. qwerty123

[1] SplashData (2018) https://www.teamsid.com/100-worst-passwords/

Passwords remain a security issues because they are part of the identity and authentication process used to protect information. User behaviors and human nature lend themselves to poorly crafted passwords. Let's face it, entering a 20 character password every time your computer locks isn't the definition of convenience. Criminals and hacking tools understand user tendencies and exploit them. A well-known hacking tool, John the Ripper, allows hackers to employ searches of every word in the dictionary, including foreign language dictionaries plus commonly used examples like those from the list above.

Generally, good password management requires frequent changes of passwords and enforcement of quality passwords which are at least eight characters or more. Passwords with less than eight characters are often defeated by hacking tools in less than five minutes. Educating employees and users is a constant struggle but is still worth the effort. Experts recommend the following practices to both avoid and to employ:

GOOD PASSWORD PRACTICES

- Use pass-phrases or complex passwords with more than 8 characters (*complex passwords include)*
  - Randomize the use of capital and lowercase characters
  - Use special symbols such as #, &, %, $
  - Include a number in your password
- Change passwords every 6 months and anytime you suspect a potential compromise
- Educate employees & family members
- Change the default password for devices and accounts
- Consider the use of password managers

BAD PASSWORD PRACTICES

- Don't use *password* or any other form of *passw0rd* as your password or any of the worst passwords listed above
- Don't use common information that can be easily guessed (such as first/middle/last names or birthdays)
- Don't use the same password for multiple accounts (admin and user accounts need different passwords; HR and Financial records systems need different passwords, too)
- Don't write down passwords and leave them in an easy to find places (like under your keyboard)
- Don't share passwords with untrusted sites, sources or personnel