

## How to create a strong password

A strong password is a critical and important protection against all online threats. Here are ways to create a strong password.

- Your password must be at least eight or more characters.
- Include symbols, letters, punctuation, and numbers. The greater the variety, the stronger your password. Password hacking software automatically checks for common letter-to-symbol conversions, such as changing “to” to “2” or “u” to “you”.
- Change strong passwords often. Credit Card Companies, Banking, and E-Mail passwords should be changed at least every three months.
- Don’t use the same password for everything.

Here are some suggestions and steps to create a strong password and remember it easily.

1. Start with a sentence.  
Example: one of my favorite shows is the voice on monday night.
2. Remove the spaces between your words in your sentence.  
Example: oomfsitvomn
3. Use shorthand or misspell a word. Be creative.  
Example: 1omfsit^oWk (change “one” to “1”, change “v” to “^”, change “m” to up-side-down “w” and capitalize, change “n” which stood for night to “k”).
4. Add numbers to add length to your password.  
Example: 1omfsit^oWk0212

Avoid common password pitfalls that use:

- Dictionary words in any language.
- Words spelled backwards, common misspellings, and abbreviations.
- Repeated characters or sequence. (Example: 123456778 or abcdefghij)
- Don’t use personal information such as your name, driver’s license, birthday, pet’s name, or similar information.