

Cry for Help

Computer Tips & Tricks for the novice to the advanced.

Computer & On-Line Passwords

How is remembering your passwords going? Some places insist that you use six digits, others say it must contain numbers and letters. Then others insist on upper and lower case letters.

No longer will your pet's name work, and with the different sets of rules, there is no longer a single password that handles all situations. The front of a diary works for some, or hidden amongst the contacts in your address book, but none of these are secure against loss or misuse.

It's time to create a secure, encrypted, file on your computer. Such a file would contain all logins and passwords. Then, once created – you can make a copy. Carry the file on your phone or a memory stick, or leave a copy with a trusted friend. The file is safe against loss, because of the extra copy and safe against misuse because only you know the one, bullet proof password that unlocks all the other passwords. To make such a password, it must include upper and lower case letters, numbers and punctuation. Basically, using any key on your keyboard, and be 20 characters long. Using industry standard encryption software, such a password is unbreakable.

Ps. This would also be a good password for your wireless modem.

PPs. Before writing down any password, make sure that recording it isn't prohibited in the terms and conditions.

Jonathan Harris
JNH Software Pty Ltd
5259 2304

