Create a Strong Password
Stephanie Obodda - 2019-09-13 - 0 Comments - in Security

A strong password is one of the most important precautions you can take in protecting you and your information. Weak passwords are easily cracked, which could give a hacker access to your accounts, whether email, Banner, Workday, bank or other. A hack attack could result in someone stealing your identity, compromising your computer and enlisting it in a botnet that sends spam with your name, or committing a data breach of Brown's information, leaving you to deal with all the legal and financial repercussions.

The best way to make a password strong is to have one that is easy to remember but hard to guess. One way to do that is with a "passphrase", a longer and therefore stronger password made up of a string of words that mean something to you but would appear random to others (for example, *gutsyfootprinthoundintuition* might have been a password for Arthur Conan Doyle).

Another example of how to balance comes from a lover of musicals, who used the first line of the song "My Favorite Things", i.e., *Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens* to create: *RnDpzoRz&(Nk10*

Here's one more example of another way to create a strong password:

1. Start with a word or short phrase and spell it backwards. For example: Turn Lake Placid into *dicalpekai*
2. Use "l33t speak", substituting numbers for certain letters: *dicalpekai could become dicalp3kal*
3. Randomly throw in some capital letters: *dicalp3kal could become D1calp3Kal*
4. Don't forget the special character: Turn *D1calp3Kal could become*D1calp3Kal!*

*More at:*
» Strong Passwords: Take It Up a Notch or Two! [brown.edu/go/passwords](brown.edu/go/passwords)

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