

## Create a Strong Password

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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 the twin factors of easy to remember but hard to guess 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 **dicalpekal**
2. Use "l33t speak", substituting numbers for certain letters: **dicalpekal** could become **d1calp3kal**
3. Randomly throw in some capital letters: **d1calp3kal** could become **D1calp3Kal**
4. Don't forget the special character: Turn **D1calp3Kal** into **\*D1calp3Kal!**

**More at:**

» [Strong Passwords: Take It Up a Notch or Two!](#)