Activities/ Resources for Outcomes

Password Scenarios

Scenario 1:

Password: brian12kate5

"I doubt anyone could guess my password! It's my kids' names and ages. Who else would know that?"

Problem:

Solution:

Scenario 2

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Password: w3St!

"My password is so simple! It's just the beginning of my street address with a few extra characters."

Problem:

Solution:

Scenario 3

Password: 123abccba321

"My password follows a simple pattern, so it's easy to remember and type on my keyboard."

Problem:

Solution:

Scenario 4:

Password: BrAveZ!2

"I use the same passwords for all my accounts. This way, I only have to remember one password!"

Problem:

Solution:

Password Scenarios and Solutions

Scenario 1:

Password: brian12kate5

"I doubt anyone could guess my password! It's my kids' names and ages. Who else would know that?"

Problem:

Solution:

Problem: This password uses too much personal information, along with common words that could be found in the dictionary.

Solution: A stronger version of this password would use symbols, uppercase letters, and a more random order. And rather than using family names, we could combine a character from a movie with a type of food. For example, Chewbacca and pizza could become chEwbAccAp!ZZa.

Scenario 2

Password: w3St!

"My password is so simple! It's just the beginning of my street address with a few extra characters."

Problem:

Solution:

Problem: At only five characters, this password is way too short. It also includes part of her address, which is publicly available information.

Solution: A stronger version of this password would be **much longer**, ideally more than 10 characters. We could also substitute a nearby street name instead of her current address. For example, Pemberly Ave could become **p3MberLY%Av**.

Scenario 3

Password: 123abccba321

"My password follows a simple pattern, so it's easy to remember and type on my keyboard."

Problem:

Solution:

Problem: While patterns like this are easy to remember, they're also some of the first things a hacker might guess when attempting to access your account.

Solution: Remember that random passwords are much stronger than simple patterns. If you're having trouble creating a new password, try using **a password generator** instead. Here's an example of a generated password: #eV\$pIg&qf

NOTE: If you use a password generator, you may also want to create a **mnemonic device** to make the password easier to remember. For example, **H=jNp2#** could be remembered as **HARRY = jessica NORTH paris 2 #**. This may still feel pretty random, but with a bit of practice it becomes relatively easy to memorize.

Scenario 4:

Password: BrAveZ!2 "I use the same passwords for all my accounts. This way, I only have to remember one password!"

Problem:

Solution:

Problem: There's nothing really wrong with this password, but remember that you should never use the same password with different accounts.

Solution: Create a unique password for each of your online accounts.

Filling in Your Footprint

Individual Brainstorm:

On the flip side of this page, fill in the outline of a footprint with some information about you that is available on the Internet (for example, name, address, friends you're connected to).

- If a particular piece of information is easily accessible to many other people online (in other words, very exposed), write it in bigger letters.
- If a piece of information is accessible to relatively few people, write it in smaller letters.

Group Discussion:

When the time is up, discuss the following questions with your group:

- 1. What are some similarities/differences between the footprints of the different people in the group?
- 2. Which of the items listed could be used to uniquely identify you? Which combinations of items could be used?
- 3. Are there any items you listed that you wish weren't available online? (In other words, that you wish weren't part of your information footprint?)
- 4. What could you do to reduce the exposure of some items in your footprint?

