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May 5, 2022



It's World Password Day



Today is not just a celebration of Cinco de Mayo, it happens to also be World Password Day.

World Password Day is a day to think about and fix passwords to help make you more secure when logging into different sites on the internet and any other place you use passwords.

Now, I am not saying that you should just go out and change all of your passwords. In fact, Microsoft and NIST no longer recommend that you regularly

do this. It has been found that by requiring people to change their passwords often causes them to:

- 1) Reuse the same passwords over and over
- 2) Use a small variant of a password. Examples, use password1, then change to password2, etc.
- 3) Try to make a new password that you will not remember, therefore, needing to click on forgot password or contact tech support for help to reset the password the next time you need to log in.

It is well known that 85% of breaches are due to the “human element”. This means that something that a human being does is what makes it possible for someone to break into an account. Whether they give it to someone based on an email that was received, whether they give access to their computer to the wrong people, or just use easy passwords to steal among other items.

It is important that you use unique strong passwords that are different for every site to make it harder to get hacked when a password for any single site is stolen. Don't use a password like Spring2022! and then change it to Summer2022! in 3 months.

Just come up with a good password that you can keep track of. It doesn't have to only be 8 characters long. Most sites will let you use (or require) longer passwords of, at least, 12 or 16 characters. They can even be longer than that.

To make it so that you are best protected, you should turn on MFA/2FA for every and any site that has that feature. 2FA is normally where you are prompted for a 6 digit code that is either texted to you on your phone or available in an app. This code changes every 30 seconds so that makes it more difficult for someone to get into your account even if they figure out your password.

Other means of MFA/2FA are where you are prompted with a question like your grandmothers first name. The key here is don't use your grandmothers first name for the answer because that is something that can probably be found on the internet, which makes it unsecure of an answer. Take any place that you use that question and put an answer of something totally different like Detroit or 1962 as the answer. No one would know that this is the answer that is associated with a question like that.

We even have ways to add 2FA/MFA onto your login of your computer(s). I know that if I lose my laptop, due to 2FA and an encrypted hard drive no one is likely to get access to anything on it in any way.

The best way to track all of this is using some means of secure process to store the information. Then you can always look it up. This also makes it easier for your family should something happen where you are unable to take care of your

affairs and someone else needs to log into your accounts.

If you have any questions on anything mentioned here or need help getting started, give us a call.

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