

## Creative Ideas for Secure Passwords

**A good, strong password should meet all three of these criteria:**

1. Over eight characters in length. Short passwords are easier to crack than long passwords.
2. Combines letters, numbers, and symbols, and change the letters from lower to upper case but:
  - Not sequential or repeating combinations, such as "12345678," "222222," "abcdefg," or adjacent letters on your keyboard.
  - Not common words with letters replaced by numbers or symbols, such as "M1cr0\$0ft" or "P@sswOrd". Unfortunately, hackers know these tricks, too.
3. Easy for you to remember, but difficult for others to guess, and:
  - Not your login name, your spouse's name, or your birthday.
  - Not words found in the dictionary, in any language. Hackers use sophisticated tools that can rapidly guess passwords that are based on words in the dictionary, in a variety of languages, and using words spelled backwards.
  - Not hard-to-remember. Random combinations of letters, numbers, and symbols that must be written down to be remembered, can be misplaced, or found by others and used.

**A very secure way to create a password is the following method:**

If I was going to use the following password: (horseback)

I can change this word up to add additional security.

I will make the first and last letters into numbers corresponding to the first and last letters location in the alphabet.

H is the 8th letter in the alphabet so H would be replaced with 8.

K is the 11th letter in the alphabet so K would be replaced with 11.

Your new password would be 8orsebac11

You can add a rotating future to this password so that it can be changed every month  
You take your new password (8orsebac11) and add an underscore to the password  
8orsebac11\_ then you add the corresponding calendar month to your password, for  
instance, if the month was December your password would be 8orsebac11\_12.

This method could be used and changed each month and once you have developed your password it would still be easy to remember.

Another method to add even more security is to have different password for each website or login. This would be accomplished by using our basic password 8orsebac11 then again adding the underscore to the password: 8orsebac11\_

Then we would add the first letter of the name of the website to the password.

If your password was for SAP this would be your password: 8orsebac11\_s

If your password was for your EBAY this would be your password: 8orsebac11\_e

You can add even more security by changing the letter to always be in upper case such as:

If your password was for wells Fargo.com this would be your password:  
8orsebac11\_W

If your password was for your Microsoft outlook this would be your password:  
8orsebac11\_MO

If you use your imagination and these guidelines you can come up with all kinds of very safe and very secure passwords that are very easy to remember.