

S.A.F.E.

Security Awareness For Education

Updates from IT Security

September 2017

Password vs Passphrase

What's the difference?

While passwords and passphrases essentially serve the same purpose – providing access to secure services or sensitive information

Passwords : are generally short, hard to remember and easier to crack.

Passphrases: are easier to remember and type. They are considered more secure due to the overall length of the passphrase and the fact that it shouldn't need to be written down

Check out our SharePoint site:

<https://our.unbc.ca>



UNBC Main Campus

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Keep an eye on your devices

Best Practices Tip

When creating a passcode for your device, make sure its fairly tough to break.

For example, having a passcode of 1111 will take a thief only a second to break and give them access to your phone.

Try not to have repeating digits in the code and change it often.

Passwords

What makes a strong password?

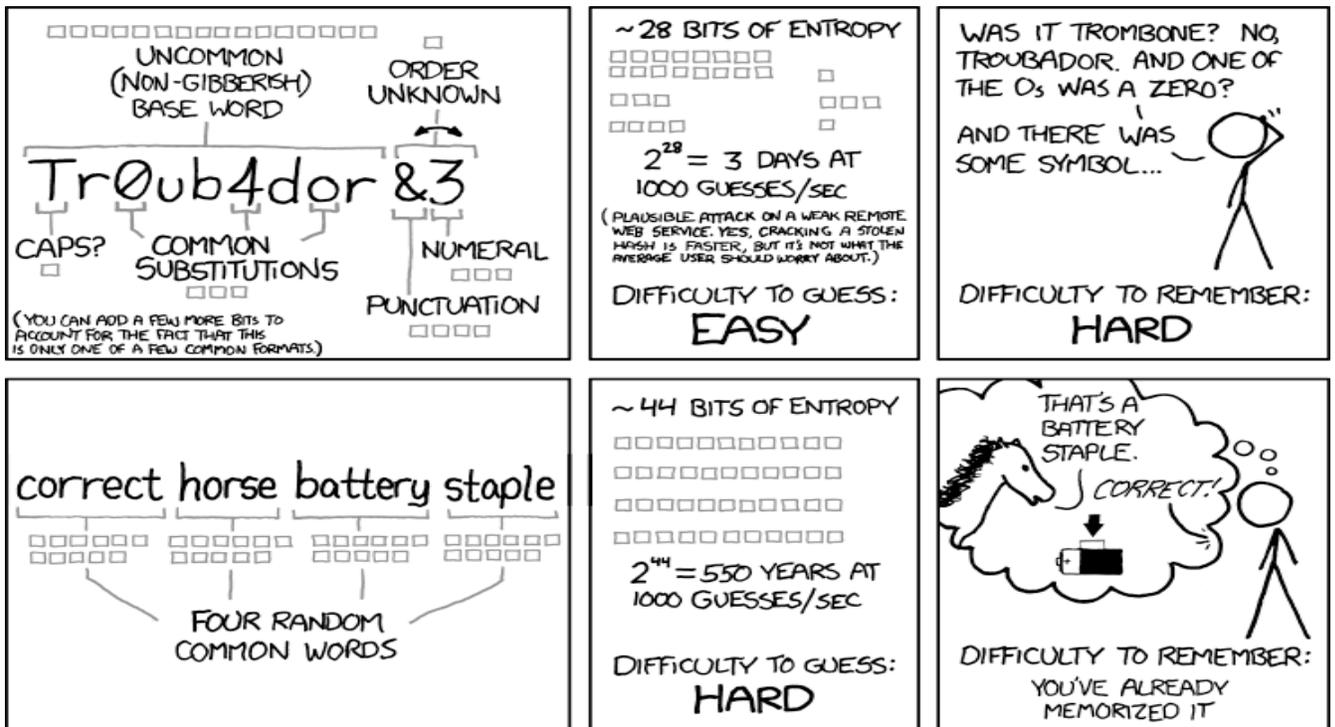
A strong password will adhere to the following rules:

1. Contains 10 or more characters.
2. Include Alpha, numeric and special characters (&,!, etc.).
3. Include a mix of upper and lower case letters.
4. Never use a sequence of number (1234).
5. Does not duplicate your user id in the password.

Have trouble remembering your password? Try using password management software, instead of a sticky note.



Bridge in the David Douglas Garden



THROUGH 20 YEARS OF EFFORT, WE'VE SUCCESSFULLY TRAINED EVERYONE TO USE PASSWORDS THAT ARE HARD FOR HUMANS TO REMEMBER, BUT EASY FOR COMPUTERS TO GUESS.

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Passphrases

Like the cartoon above shows, sometimes it really is just easier to string together a bunch of words to create a passphrase.

For example: UNBCisawesome would pass the test for password strength, and its easy to remember (Its also blocked, don't get any funny ideas)

Any words, any combination, have a little fun with your passphrases. Passages from a book, or lyrics from a song make good passphrases, especially if you add a special character or two just to make things interesting.

PHISHING

Phishing is extremely profitable for the individuals and groups that do it. UNBC is not immune to phishing attempts.

Messages from UNBC will rarely contain links, and they will not ask you for your username and password.

All legitimate UNBC sites will have the lock indicator in the browser and will come from unbc.ca



If you receive an email and you are not sure if it is a legitimate message from UNBC, contact the Service Desk or send an email to support@unbc.ca

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information

(250) 960-5321

1-866-960-5321

support@unbc.ca

'En cha huna

From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]]
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2017 6:27 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Password expires today

Dear Colleague,

Your outlook Account Password expires today. <https://c0abk637.caspio.com/dp.asp?appkey=5d3c500072543328ecdf4127a0d5> already active password Within the next 6 hours, else [Click or tap to follow link.](#) from our Data-base.
To Extend Password click on [Auto Backup Portal](#).

Failure, You may lose the connection to your mailbox including all your information's and your Account would be permanently Disabled from our Data-Base due to Our Webmail Maintenance

Thank you
Help-desk
08-25-2015

The link doesn't go to a UNBC web page

The date is off by two years

Not signed by a person