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Pump Up Your Passwords - Part 2

Continuation...

Time to generate all permutations or the ordered combination of a 4-character password.

Character Set	Digits Only (0...9)	All Characters
	1 second	25 seconds

Now, let's see what impact password length has on password strength. In 2010, a top password recovery service in the US reported that their state-of-the-art computing systems can try about 20 million passwords a second. This means that only hackers with state-of-the-art resources should be able to obtain this same level, while the average hacker is going to probably take twice as long as these numbers.

Time to Crack

Password Length	6 characters	7 characters	8 characters	9 characters
	11 hours	6 weeks	5 months	10 years

As you can see, with a password as many as nine characters you can make it very hard for a hacker to crack your password.

Choose Wisely



It does not mean that a 9-character password is strong and you can just select any word of this length and use it as your password. This can only be strong provided you apply a technique or a series of combination to make it complex. Hackers use sophisticated software that even uses a database of words found in the dictionary to easily guess a password and even mine your personal data for keywords they can use to reduce the 10 year crack time to mere hours.

For example, you use the word "mountain" as your password. Since the word is in the dictionary, a hacker using the dictionary as a set of passwords will crack your data rather quickly.

The trick is to create a password that is memorable and yet long enough while using a wide array of characters.



To be continued...

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Information Security: It's a Shared Responsibility
References: [Pump Up Your Password](#)

Enterprise Information Security Manual

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