

## Passwords Are Important

Why are passwords so important? Everything today seems to require a username and a password. Every username and every password wants you to make it different than the last one. Why?

Think of passwords as “keys”; every key is unique and every key has a purpose.....to keep people OUT! Virtual keys (passwords) do the same thing: they are the first layer in keeping people from accessing your e-mail, your bank account, your utility bills, and more. Sadly they can only work well if they are somewhat complicated and combined with numbers and special characters (!@#%&\*(\_+?><).

By incorporating letters, number and special character into a longer password, you can make it a bit more challenging for tools that are used to “crack the code” or hack into accounts.

A good practice to follow with passwords is not to use the same password for every website or e-mail account you have or create. If someone gets access to one of your accounts and they all have the same password, you have potentially given them access to all your accounts. This could potentially be very dangerous on credit cards and bank accounts that share the same username and password.

**Splashdata** did an analysis of over a million stolen passwords posted on line by hackers in 2012 and posted the 25 most common passwords.

### Please do not use any of these.

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. password  | 14. sunshine  |
| 2. 123456    | 15. master    |
| 3. 12345678  | 16. 123123    |
| 4. abc123    | 17. welcome   |
| 5. qwerty    | 18. shadow    |
| 6. monkey    | 19. ashley    |
| 7. letmein   | 20. football  |
| 8. dragon    | 21. jesus     |
| 9. 111111    | 22. michael   |
| 10. Baseball | 23. ninja     |
| 11. lloveyou | 24. mustang   |
| 12. trustno1 | 25. password1 |
| 13. 1234567  |               |