

## Choose Your Password

### Introduction

Password is a secret between users and the service providers. A weak password might easily be cracked by guessing even if it is kept confidential. To enhance protection against malicious people, a strong password is recommended.

### General Principles

Arthur tells Elaine how to choose her password, which:

- contains mixed-case alphabets;
- contains numerals and even punctuation;
- can be typed quickly.

**Hint: DO** use a password that can be typed quickly, containing at least 8 mixed-case alphabetic characters, numeral characters and punctuations.

Elaine asks Arthur if he would use his dog's name as password. Arthur says never.

**Hint: DO NOT** use name of yourself, your family member or your pet as password.

Besides names, Arthur advises information that could easily be obtained by others, e.g. birthday, anniversary or phone number etc., should not be used as password.

**Hint: DO NOT** use your personal information that can easily be obtained by others as password.

Elaine agrees and adds that choosing a word from dictionaries as password is not preferred, too.

**Hint: DO NOT** choose a word from English or foreign dictionaries, spelling lists or other glossaries of terms/abbreviation lists as password.

Arthur also points out that password in keyboard sequence could be easily guessed or peeked by others when the user entered it for login.

**Hint: DO NOT** use password in keyboard sequence.

Elaine expresses that some online services may provide sample accounts and passwords for users' reference. These accounts and passwords are for demonstration only, and should not be used.

**Hint: DO NOT** use SAMPLE passwords.

### Conclusion

Choosing a strong password can protect our credentials and allow us to enjoy safe online services.

**Strong Password: Easy to Remember but Hard to Guess**