90% of passwords can be hacked in seconds: Is your password **vulnerable?***

Protect your information online with a better password

Most of us shop, pay our bills and track our financial information online. Unfortunately, the passwords we use on our favorite websites may make it easier for thieves to hack into our accounts and gain access to our personal information and account numbers. Although we may think that our 8-letter passwords are secure, they can be cracked within two hours, especially if they consist of only lowercase letters. Protect your information with a safer password; here's how to create one:

How to create a safer password

- **Use 12 characters.** The more characters a password has, the longer it will take for hackers to crack it.

  > It would take **17,134 years** for a hacker to crack a 12-character password.
  >
  > Source: CNN

- **Utilize a combination of numbers, capital letters and symbols.** The more you mix it up, the more difficult it is to hack.

  > *Example:* P*$sw&rd3^52

- **Make it a full, memorable sentence.** Sometimes a silly sentence makes for a safer, and more memorable, password. And forget good grammar and spelling—the more improper the better.

  > *Example:* Da bicyclewears blurplepants

- **Create the longest and most complex password that a website will allow.** Some websites put a limit on how long your password can be. Find out what the limit is and create a password that is a full sentence, a favorite phrase or a mixture of words, numbers and symbols.