# Check your Password Strength

I want to share my findings that I did regarding passwords. The old way was to come up with a password that we thought was tricky enough that no one knew it.

I started with my dog's name. I changed some of the characters to make it harder to guess. A was @; I was 1; and I added an explanation mark at the end for good measure.

**B@nd1t!**

*It can be cracked in 6 minutes.*

Next I tried mixing it up by taking the first letter of a sentence and making my password. I used "My dogs name is bandit benasky!". Once again I exchanged numbers and characters to come up with:

**Mdn1bb!**

*One again it could be cracked in 6 minutes*

So finally I enter a full sentence. "My dogs name is bandit!". I also changed the letters to characters and numbers and came up with:

**My d0g$ n@m3 1$ b@nd1t!**

This time – it could be cracked in *3 octillion years*!

Even if you don't use special characters, just using the complete sentence helps:

**My dogs name is bandit!**

Would take *2 hundred septillion years*.

So the moral of the story is this. Change the way you create passwords for everything you do. Just think of a sentence and you can make it even more secure by using character substitutions.

Some substations are:

$, S or 5 for s; 1, I or ! for I; @ or A for a; 7 or T for t; 3 or E for e; 9, G or 6 for g; 0 or O for o; 8 or B for b.

If you want to check your work – go to:

https://www.security.org/how-secure-is-my-password/

I recommend that you to NOT actually use a password that you want to use but something similar to give you an idea on what works and what doesn't'.

The other suggestion is to use an online password generator, but those get very complicated. You can also use a password manager to keep track of passwords and allow it to generate a password as well.

*Oh, and finally. I never really use any of the passwords I listed here. They are just examples.*