

ARE YOUR PASSWORDS STRONG?

Color Of Change Best Practices to Protect Yourself Online

At home, a strong password can keep your financial information safe. In a workplace, a strong password is a frontline defense against cyber attacks that target sensitive HR and client data. While the problem is widespread, Black people should have peace of mind when it comes to securing our personal data. Creating a strong password is the first step. As a part of our Black Tech Agenda, Color Of Change believes that Black people must have individual control over their digital lives. We are committed to making sure Color Of Change members can take the necessary steps to create strong passwords and protect their privacy.

BELOW ARE SOME BEST PRACTICES ON CREATING STRONG PASSWORDS:

1. **Come up with an event or memory in your life that is unique and notable.** And then use the first letter of each word to create a phrase. For example, your password might describe a significant personal milestone that's meaningful and memorable.

You might try:

"I paid off my student loan debt in 2016!" becomes: "Ipomsldi2016!"

"We took our 60 year-old parents to Jamaica and to Mexico" becomes: "Wto60yop2J&M"

2. **Put together a clever passphrase,** or a sequence of four (or more) random words, with each word in the phrase having four or more letters. For example, if you're creating an email password, you might try a passphrase that looks like "write attach send spam" or, to add additional complexity, try:

"wrIte1AttAch2&sEnd3spAm".

3. **Make sure you have a separate place to store passwords**. Password managers (often seen on websites like Google) can be a timesaver. But don't put your complete trust in password managers.

4. **Make sure you're changing** or checking your passwords every 12 months. Weak or predictable passwords open the door to data breaches and can cost you money. While the passwords you create should be memorable and unique, they don't have to be completely unrecognizable.

5. **Always create passwords that use a combination** of upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols and avoid common phrases such as "123456" or "password" to stay one step ahead of hackers.

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO KEEP YOUR DATA SECURE AND YOUR DAY STRESS FREE!

For more information visit coc.is/digitaldefenseguide