

# Password Strength Evaluation Report

## Objective

Understand what makes a password strong and test it against online password strength tools.

## Tools Used

- Online Password Strength Checkers <https://passwordmeter.com/>

## Procedure

1. Created a list of passwords with varying complexity, including differences in length, use of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols.
2. Tested each password using an online password strength checker.
3. Recorded the score, rating, and feedback provided by the tool.
4. Analyzed which patterns and characteristics contributed to higher strength ratings.
5. Compiled tips and best practices based on results.
6. Conducted research on common password attacks such as brute force and dictionary attacks.
7. Summarized how password complexity affects password security.

## Screenshots (Placeholders)

The screenshot displays the Password Meter website interface. At the top, the title "The Password Meter" is visible. Below it, there is a "Test Your Password" section with a password input field (masked with asterisks), a "Hide" checkbox, a "Score" of 4%, and a "Complexity" rating of "Very Weak". To the right, the "Minimum Requirements" section lists: Minimum 8 characters in length, and Contains 3/4 of the following items: Uppercase Letters, Lowercase Letters, Numbers, and Symbols. Below these sections is a detailed table showing the breakdown of the password's strength.

Test Your Password		Minimum Requirements			
Password:	*****	• Minimum 8 characters in length			
Hide:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Contains 3/4 of the following items:			
Score:	4%	- Uppercase Letters			
Complexity:	Very Weak	- Lowercase Letters			
		- Numbers			
		- Symbols			

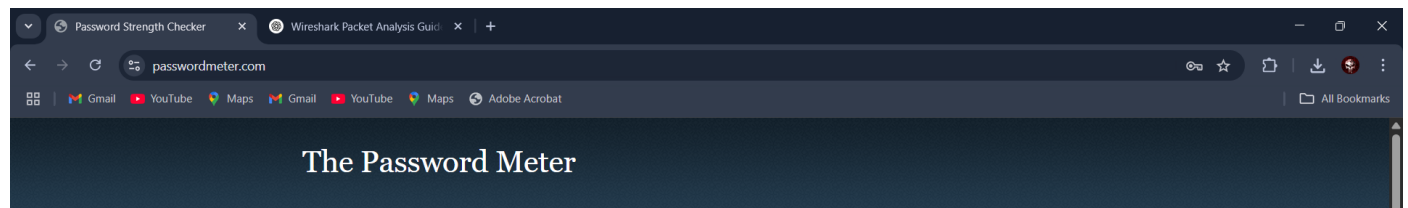
  

Additions	Type	Rate	Count	Bonus
Number of Characters	Flat	$+(n*4)$	6	+ 24
Uppercase Letters	Cond/Incr	$+(len-n)*2$	0	0
Lowercase Letters	Cond/Incr	$+(len-n)*2$	0	0
Numbers	Cond	$+(n*4)$	6	0
Symbols	Flat	$+(n*6)$	0	0
Middle Numbers or Symbols	Flat	$+(n*2)$	4	+ 8
Requirements	Flat	$+(n*2)$	1	0

Deductions				
Letters Only	Flat	-n	0	0
Numbers Only	Flat	-n	6	- 6
Repeat Characters (Case Insensitive)	Comp	-	0	0





Test Your Password		Minimum Requirements			
Password:	<input type="text" value="G#4xL9^z!T"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum 8 characters in length</li> <li>Contains 3/4 of the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uppercase Letters</li> <li>Lowercase Letters</li> <li>Numbers</li> <li>Symbols</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
Hide:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Score:	<div><div>100%</div></div>				
Complexity:	Very Strong				
Additions		Type	Rate	Count	Bonus
	Number of Characters	Flat	$+(n*4)$	<input type="text" value="10"/>	+ 40
	Uppercase Letters	Cond/Incr	$+(len-n)*2$	<input type="text" value="3"/>	+ 14
	Lowercase Letters	Cond/Incr	$+(len-n)*2$	<input type="text" value="2"/>	+ 16
	Numbers	Cond	$+(n*4)$	<input type="text" value="2"/>	+ 8
	Symbols	Flat	$+(n*6)$	<input type="text" value="3"/>	+ 18
	Middle Numbers or Symbols	Flat	$+(n*2)$	<input type="text" value="5"/>	+ 10
	Requirements	Flat	$+(n*2)$	<input type="text" value="5"/>	+ 10
Deductions					
	Letters Only	Flat	$-n$	<input type="text" value="0"/>	0
	Numbers Only	Flat	$-n$	<input type="text" value="0"/>	0
	Repeat Characters (Case Insensitive)	Comp	-	<input type="text" value="0"/>	0

## Sample Passwords and Evaluation

Below are examples of passwords tested and their respective strength scores:

Password	Strength Score/Rating	Tool Feedback
password123	Weak	Too common, lacks symbols
Pa\$\$w0rd	Moderate	Includes symbols and numbers
G#4xL9^z!T	Strong	High entropy, excellent complexity

## Best Practices for Strong Passwords

- Use a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Include numbers and special characters.

- Avoid common words and predictable patterns.
- Make the password at least 12–16 characters long.
- Do not reuse passwords across multiple accounts.
- Consider using a password manager to store complex passwords.

## **Password Attacks and Importance of Complexity**

Common password attacks include brute force attacks, where every possible combination is tried, and dictionary attacks, which use a list of common words and phrases. Password complexity significantly affects how long it would take to crack a password. More complex and longer passwords are exponentially harder to break, making them more secure against these attacks.

## **Conclusion**

This evaluation highlighted the importance of using strong, complex passwords. Using online tools helped visualize weaknesses in simpler passwords and guided best practices for creating secure credentials.