

Cyber Security Internship – Task 6

Create a Strong Password and Evaluate Its Strength

Objective

Understand the factors that contribute to a strong password and test various passwords using online password strength checkers.

Tools Used

- Online password strength checker: passwordmeter.com (or any free online tool)
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Step-by-Step Process

1. Create Multiple Passwords with Varying Complexity

- Start by creating simple passwords (e.g., "password123").
- Gradually increase complexity by adding:
 - Uppercase letters (e.g., "Password123")
 - Numbers (e.g., "Password1234")
 - Special characters (e.g., "Password@123")
 - Increasing length (e.g., "Passw0rd@2025!")
- Include passphrases with multiple words and symbols.

2. Test Each Password Using a Password Strength Checker

- Visit passwordmeter.com or another tool.
- Enter each password and review the score and feedback.
- Note down the password, the strength score/grade, and suggestions given.

3. Record Scores and Feedback

- Document the strength, weaknesses, and areas to improve for each password.
- Compare how different elements (length, symbols, numbers, lowercase/uppercase) affect strength.

4. Identify Best Practices for Strong Passwords

- Use a mix of uppercase, lowercase, numbers, and special characters.
- Use longer passwords (12+ characters).
- Avoid common words, common substitutions, or repeated characters.
- Consider using passphrases (series of random words).

5. Research Common Password Attacks

- Understand methods like:
 - Brute Force Attack: Trying every possible combination until the correct password is found.
 - Dictionary Attack: Using lists of common words and passwords to guess.
- Reflect on how password complexity mitigates these attacks.

6. Write Tips Learned from the Evaluation

- Emphasize length and complexity are key.
- Strong passwords are less vulnerable to guessing or automated attacks.
- Using password managers helps generate and safely store complex passwords.

7. Summarize How Password Complexity Affects Security

- Explain how combination of length, character variety, and unpredictability improves security.
- Show how weak passwords fail checks quickly and are vulnerable.

Passwords and Strength Evaluation Table

Password	Strength (Score/Grade) Notes	
password123	Weak	Common word and numbers, very weak
Password123	Fair	Added uppercase, still predictable
Password@123	Good	Added special character improves strength
P@ssw0rd2025!	Strong	Mix of cases, symbols, numbers, and length
mydog\$and\$cat\$123	Very Strong	Passphrase style with symbols and numbers

Conclusion

Creating strong passwords by emphasizing length, complexity, and unpredictability significantly improves security against brute-force and dictionary attacks. Using password strength checkers aids in evaluating and improving password quality.