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**The Good Password**

**Abstract**

As our use of web based applications grows, so too does our need for user authentication. This continually expanding list of passwords that each user must remember has created an environment in which passwords are chosen for according to how easy they are to remember rather than how secure they might be. Even those of us who strive for strong passwords often create passwords that are hard for humans but easy for computers to guess. Sites which require “strong” passwords, namely with a list of requirements during password creation, require passwords that are strong against human brute force attack but may not be strong against a computer based brute force attack. This paper will explore good password creation policies and requirements, specifically pertaining to the tradeoff between human memory and security against computer attack.