Password Tips

To create a secure password we can first consider how most of them are broken:

• Overuse

• Easy Access

• Brute Force

The latter uses a computer loaded with dictionaries in various languages & as much data about you as they can find. Then they simply try every combination they can think of!

This gives us some simple rules to creating a secure password:

• Avoid readable words (especially family & pet names)

• Avoid simple obfuscation: p@ssw0rd

• Avoid numbers appended: password1

• Mix upper/lower case, numbers & special characters: &@\*£

• Make it long: 12+ characters

Some login systems may limit a password length (most have a minimum length) & occasionally they do not allow special characters. Just because you find a password hard to remember or write does not mean a computer finds it difficult.

The Golden Rule is: MAKE IT LONG & Entropy - a complete lack of order – NO word association

Here is a simple example:

Mary had a little lamb it’s fleece was white as snow

- take every first letter: mhallifwwas - replace the line breaks with a special character: mhall\*ifwwas - Capitalise all ‘words’ that had an L in it: mhaLL\*iFwwas

Bad: ChalkCheeseWine

Hastings1066  
JohnPaulGeorgeRingo

Aim 15 characters – 4-5 words – specials/numbers

Source: books/webpage

Check for entropy subject matter/ journalistic style

For less secure: 3 words of 5