

Record of Important Things

Simply, people can no longer remember passwords good enough to reliably defend against dictionary attacks, and are much more secure if they choose a password too complicated to remember and then write it down. We're all good at securing small pieces of paper. I recommend that people write their passwords down on a small piece of paper, and keep it with their other valuable small pieces of paper: in their wallet.

Bruce Schneier CTO, Resilient

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Login or E-mail addres	s
Passwords used	Date
Notes	

Web site		
Login or E-mail address		
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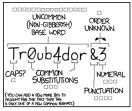
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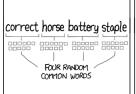
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Secure passphrases with Diceware











HARD



THROUGH 20 YEARS OF EFFORT, WE'VE SUCCESSFULLY TRAINED EVERYONE TO USE PASSWORDS THAT ARE HARD FOR HUMANS

TO REMEMBER, BUT EASY FOR COMPUTERS TO GUESS.

Comic by https://xkcd.com/ @@@

What is a Diceware passphrase?

A passphrase is a bunch of words and characters that you type in to your computer to let it know for sure that *the person typing is you*. Passphrases differ from passwords only in length.

Diceware is a method for picking passphrases which uses dice to select words at random from a special list. Each word in the list is preceded by a four digit number. All the digits are between one and six, allowing you to use the outcomes of four dice rolls to select a word from the list.

Directions

- 1 Decide how many words you want in your passphrase. A five-word passphrase provides a level of security much higher than the passwords most people use. For NSA-proof security, use seven words.
- 2 Roll all four dice at once and write the results down, reading from left to right, on a scrap paper. Make as many of these four-digit groups as you want words in your passphrase.
- 3 Flip to the word list and look up the corresponding word next to each four-digit number.
- $4\,$ The words that you have found are your new passphrase!
- 5 Come up with a way to remember your phrase. It might be a story, mental picture, or sentence that can remind you of the phrase you generated.

Example

Suppose you want a five-word passphrase. You will need 5×4 or 20 dice rolls. Let's say they come out as:

1, 6, 6, 6, 5, 1, 5, 6, 5, 3, 5, 6, 3, 2, 2, 3, 5, 6, 2, 6.

Write the results on a scrap of paper in groups of four:

5 1 5 6

1666

5 3 5 6

3 2 2 3 5626

You then look up each group of five rolls in the Diceware word list by finding the number in the list and writing down the word next to the number:

1666 cognitive 5156 poetic

5356 ribbon 3223 garlic

5626 smelliness

Your passphrase would then be:

cognitive poetic ribbon garlic smelliness

This passphrase is one of the 3,656,158,440,062,976 (about 2⁵¹) alternatives that could have been chosen by this method.

1112 1113 1114 1115 1116 1121 1122 1123 1124	aardvark abandoned abbreviate abdomen abidorrence abiding abnormal abrasion absorbing abundant abyss academy accountant
1126 1131 1132 1133 1134 1135 1136 1141 1142 1143	acetone achiness acid acoustics acquire acrobat actress acuteness
1144 1145 1146 1151 1152 1153 1154	aerosol aesthetic affidavit afloat afraid aftershave again agency
1156 1161 1162 1163 1164 1165 1166 1211 1212 1213	aggressor aghast agitate agnostic agonizing agreeing aidless aimlessly
1212 1213 1214 1215 1216 1221 1222 1223 1224 1225 1226	ajar alarmclock albatross alchemy alfalfa algae aliens alkaline almanac
1232 1233 1234 1235	alongside alphabet already also altitude aluminum always amazingly ambulance
1241 1242 1243 1244 1245 1246 1251 1252 1253 1254	amendment amiable ammunition amnesty amoeba amplifier amuser
1254 1255 1256 1261 1262 1263 1264 1265 1266	anagram anchor android anesthesia angelfish animal anklet announcer anonymous answer
1311 1312 1313 1314 1315 1316 1321 1322	antelope anxiety anyplace aorta apartment apnea apostrophe apple
1323	apricot

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1541 buddhist
             2154 cuticle
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411 dwelling	2624 evacuation	3241 gesture 3242 getaway 3242 getaway 3243 geyser 3244 ghoulishly 3245 giberish 3251 giftshop 3252 gigabyte 3252 gigabyte 3252 gigabyte 3253 gimmick 3254 gizmo 3256 gizmo 3262 gleeful 3262 gleeful 3263 glove 3263 glove 3264 glove 3265 glucose 3266 glucose 3267 gloverin 3212 googus 3212 goorish 3213 googles 3213 googles 3213 googus 3221 gooey 3222 gorgous 3232 gooling 3232 gooring 3232 gooring 3232 gooring 3232 gooring 3233 grill 3233 grill 3233 grill 3233 grill 3233 grill 3234 gundrog 3235 gournet 3236 governor 3237 gooling 3237 gooring 3238 gournet 3239 governor 3239 gooring 3230 governor 3231 groundhog 3232 gournet 3233 grill 3233 grill 3234 gundrog 3235 habitat 3236 habitat 3256 habitat 3267 gymadog 3267 gymadog 3268 habitat 3268 habitat 3269 habitat 327 hedgehog 328 helmet 329 helmet 329 helmet 329 helmet 329 helmet 329 helmet 321 hudenes 321 hudenes 322 helmet 323 hudenes 324 hullabaloo	3454 hygienist
412 dwindling	2625 evergreen	3242 getaway	3455 hypnotist
1414 dyslovia	2621 evidence	2244 ghoulishly	2461 icopoek
A15 engerness	2632 evam	3244 gilounsiny	3462 icing
A16 earlobe	2633 excernt	3246 giddiness	3463 iconic
A21 essel	2634 everciser	3251 giftshop	3464 identical
422 eavesdrop	2635 exfoliate	3252 gigabyte	3465 idiocy
423 ebook	2636 exhale	3253 gimmick	3466 idly
424 eccentric	2641 exist	3254 giraffe	3511 igloo
425 echoless	2642 exorcist	3255 giveaway	3512 ignition
426 eclipse	2643 explode	3256 gizmo	3513 iguana
431 ecosystem	2644 exquisite	3261 glasses	3514 illuminate
432 ecstasy	2645 exterior	3262 gleeful	3515 imaging
433 edged	2646 exuberant	3263 glisten	3516 imbecile
434 editor	2651 fabric	3264 glove	3521 imitator
435 educator	2652 factory	3265 glucose	3522 immigran
436 eelworm	2653 faded	3266 glycerin	3523 imprint
441 eerie	2654 failsafe	3311 gnarly	3524 iodine
442 effects	2655 falcon	3312 gnomish	3525 ionospher
443 eggnog	2656 family	3313 goatskin	3526 ipad
444 egomaniac	2661 fanfare	3314 goggles	3531 ipnone
445 ejection	2662 fasten	3315 goldnsn	3532 iridescent
451 olbow	2664 forovito	2221 goog	2524 iron
452 elderly	2665 feasibly	3322 gorgeous	3535 irrigetion
453 elephant	2666 february	3323 gosling	3536 island
454 elfishly	3111 federal	3324 gothic	3541 isotope
455 eliminator	3112 feedback	3325 gourmet	3542 issueless
456 elk	3113 feigned	3326 governor	3543 italicize
461 elliptical	3114 feline	3331 grape	3544 itemizer
462 elongated	3115 femur	3332 greyhound	3545 itinerary
463 elsewhere	3116 fence	3333 grill	3546 itunes
464 elusive	3121 ferret	3334 groundhog	3551 ivory
465 elves	3122 festival	3335 grumbling	3552 jabbering
466 emancipate	3123 fettuccine	3336 guacamole	3553 jackrabbi
511 embroidery	3124 feudalist	3341 guerrilla	3554 jaguar
512 emcee	3125 feverish	3342 guitar	3555 jailhouse
513 emerald	3126 fiberglass	3343 gullible	3556 jalapeno
514 emission	3131 fictitious	3344 gumdrop	3561 jamboree
515 emoticon	3132 fiddle	3345 gurgling	3562 janitor
516 emperor	3133 figurine	3346 gusto	3563 jarring
521 emulate	3134 fillet	3351 gutiess	3564 jasmine
522 enactment	2126 Genelly	2252 gymnast	2566 jaunuice
524 ondorphin	2141 6x+uvo	2254 gynecology	2611 jaywallor
525 operav	2142 flachlight	2255 habitat	2612 ingg
526 enforcer	3142 Hashinght	3356 hacking	3613 jazz
531 engine	3144 flight	3361 haggard	3614 jeep
532 enhance	3145 florist	3362 haiku	3615 jelly
533 enigmatic	3146 flypaper	3363 halogen	3616 jeopardize
534 enjoyably	3151 foamless	3364 hamburger	3621 jersev
535 enlarged	3152 focus	3365 handgun	3622 jetski
536 enormous	3153 foggy	3366 happiness	3623 jezebel
541 enquirer	3154 folksong	3411 hardhat	3624 jiffy
542 enrollment	3155 fondue	3412 hastily	3625 jigsaw
543 ensemble	3156 footpath	3413 hatchling	3626 jingling
544 entryway	3161 fossil	3414 haughty	3631 jobholder
545 enunciate	3162 fountain	3415 hazelnut	3632 jockstrap
546 envoy	3103 IOX	3410 neadband	3033 Jogging
ooi enzyme	3164 fragment	3421 hedgehog	3634 John
oo2 epidemic	3166 feider	3422 nerty	3030 Joinable
554 overable	2211 frosting	2424 holmot	2641 journal
555 ergonomic	3211 Hosting	3425 hemoglobin	3642 journal
556 erratic	3212 fruingpar	3426 henceforth	3643 jovatial
561 eruption	3214 gadget	3431 herbs	3644 jubilant
562 escalator	3215 gainfully	3432 hesitation	3645 judiciary
563 eskimo	3216 gallstone	3433 hexagon	3646 juggle
564 esophagus	3221 gamekeeper	3434 hubcap	3651 juice
565 espresso	3222 gangway	3435 huddling	3652 jujitsu
566 essay	3223 garlic	3436 huff	3653 jukebox
611 estrogen	3224 gaslight	3441 hugeness	3654 jumpiness
612 etching	3225 gathering	3442 hullabaloo	3655 junkvard
613 eternal	3226 gauntlet	3443 human	3656 juror
614 ethics	3231 gearbox	3444 hunter	3661 justifying
615 etiquette	3232 gecko	3445 hurricane	3662 juvenile
616 eucalyptus	3233 gem	3446 hushing	3663 kabob
621 eulogy	3234 generator	3451 hyacinth	3664 kamikaze
622 euphemism	3235 geographer	3452 hybrid	3665 kangaroo

4111	kayak
4111 4112 4113	keepsake kennel
4114 4115 4116 4121 4122	
4115	ketchup khaki
4121	kickstand
	kinono
4124	kingdom kiosk
4124 4125 4126 4131 4132	kissing
4131	kite kleenex
4133	knapsack kneecap
4135	knickers
4135 4136 4141	koala krypton
4142 4143 4144 4145 4146	laboratory
4144	ladder lakefront
4145	lantern
4151	laptop laryngitis
4151 4152 4153	laryngitis lasagna latch
4154	laundry
4155	lavender laxative
4161	lazybones lecturer
4153 4154 4155 4156 4161 4162 4163 4164 4165	leftover
4164	leggings leisure
4166	lemon length
4211	length leopard
4213	leprechaun lettuce
4214	leukemia
4165 4166 4211 4212 4213 4214 4215 4216 4221	levers lewdness
4222 4223	liability library
4224	licorice
4225 4226	lifeboat lightbulb likewise
4231	likewise
4232 4233	lilac limousine
4234	lint lioness
4234 4235 4236	
4241 4242	liquid listless
4243	litter
4244 4245 4246	liverwurst lizard
4246	llama
4251 4252	luau lubricant
4253 4254	lucidity ludicrous
4955	luggage
4256 4261 4262	lukewarm lullaby
4262	lumberjack
4263 4264	lunchbox luridness
4265 4266	luscious luxurious
4311	lyrics
4312 4313 4314	macaroni maestro
4314	magazine
4315 4316	mahogany maimed
4321 4322 4323	majority makeover
4323	malformed

4324	mammal	4541	c
4325	mango	4542	ò
4326	mango mapmaker	$\frac{4542}{4543}$	c
		4544	c
4332	massager matchstick		c
4333	matchstick	4546	0
4335	maverick maximum	$\frac{4551}{4552}$	c
4336	mayonnaise	4553	c
4341	moaning mobilize	4554	c
4342	mobilize moccasin		c
4344	modify	$\frac{4556}{4561}$	0
4344 4345	moisture		Č
4346	moisture molecule	4563	0
4351	momentum	4564	C
4352	monastery moonshine		0
4354	mortuary	4611	c
4355	mosquito motorcycle	4612 4613	Č
4356	motorcycle	4613	c
4361	mousetrap	4614	c
4362	movie mower	$\frac{4615}{4616}$	0
4364	mozzarella	4621	c
4365	muckiness	4621 4622 4623	Č
4366	muckiness mudflow	4623	c
4411	mugshot mule	$\frac{4624}{4625}$	¢
4412	muie mummy		0
4414	mundane	4631	Č
4415	mundane muppet	$\frac{4631}{4632}$	0
	mural	4633	c
4421	mustard mutation	$\frac{4634}{4635}$	0
4422	mutation		0
4424	myriad myspace	4641	c
4425	myth	4642	0
$\frac{4426}{4431}$	nail	4643	c
		4644	C
4432	nanosecond		0
4434	napkin narrator	4651	ċ
	nastiness natives		c
		4653	
4441	nautically	$\frac{4654}{4655}$	I
4443	navigate nearest	4656	I
4444	nebula	4661	Ī
4445	nectar	4662	I
	nefarious	4663	I
4451	negotiator neither	$\frac{4664}{4665}$	I
4453	nemesis	4666	Ī
	neoliberal	$\frac{4666}{5111}$ $\frac{5112}{5112}$	Ī
4455	neoliberal nephew	5112	I
	nervously	5113	I
4461	nest netting	$\frac{5114}{5115}$	I
4463	neuron	5116	Ī
4464	nevermore	5121	Ī
4465	nextdoor	$\frac{5121}{5122}$	I
	nicotine	5123 5124	I
4511	niece nimbleness	5124	I
4513	nintendo	5126	I
4514	nintendo nirvana	$\frac{5126}{5131}$	Ì
4515	nuclear	5132	I
$\frac{4516}{4521}$	nugget	5133 5134	I
4521	nuisance nullify	5135	
$\frac{4522}{4523}$	numbing	$\frac{5135}{5136}$	I
4524	nuntials	5141	Ī
4525	nursery nutcracker	5142	I
4526	nutcracker	5143	I
4531	nylon	5144	I
4533	oasis oat	5146	I
4534	obediently obituary	5151 5152	I
4535	obituary	5152	Ì

4536 object

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hliterate
                           5154 pneumonia
       obnoxious
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5156 poetic
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                           5161 pogo
5162 poison
       bvious
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       occupation
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5165 poncho
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       office
                           5211 porcupine
5212 postcard
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                           5213 poultry
5214 powerboat
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       olympics
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                           5221 princess
       omnivorous
                           5222 propeller
       oncoming
                           5223 prune
       nion
                           5224 pry
5225 pseudo
5226 psychopath
       onlooker
       onstage
                           5231 publisher
5232 pucker
       onward
       onvx
       omph
                           5233 pueblo
5234 pulley
       paquely
                           5235 pumpkin
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       ppera
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5242 purse
5243 pushup
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       pponent
       optical
       pulently
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       otherwise
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       oxidize
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       oxygen
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                           5266 rarity
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       pageant
                            5313 rearrange
       oajamas
                           5314 rebuilt
       oalm
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5316 reentry
      paun
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                           5321 refinery
       pantyhose
                           5322 register
       paprika
       parakeet
                           5323 rehydrate
       passport
                            5324 reimburse
                           5325 rejoicing
       oatio
       oauper
                           5326 rekindle
       pavement
                           5331 relic
       payphone
                           5332 remote
       oebble
                           5333 renovator
       peculiarly
                           5334 reopen
       pedometer
                           5335 reporter
                           5336 request
       pegboard
       elican
                           5341 rerun
       enguin
                           5342 reservoir
       peony
                           5343 retriever
       pepperoni
                            5344 reunion
       peroxide
                            5345 revolver
       oesticide
                           5346 rewrite
5351 rhapsody
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                           5354 rhubarb
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       oledge
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                           5364 rimmed
      plotted
                            5365 riptide
5152 plug
5153 plywood
                           5366 riskily
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5411 ritzv	5625 smartphone	6243 tryout	6461 vexingly
5412 riverboat	5626 smelliness	6244 tubeless	6462 vicinity
5413 roamer	5631 smitten	6245 tuesday	6463 videogame
5414 robe	5632 smokestack	6246 tugboat	6464 viewfinder
5415 rocket	5624 cnapshot	6252 tumblewood	6466 village
5421 ropelike	5635 enegging	6253 tupperware	6511 vinegar
5422 rotisserie	5636 sniff	6254 turtle	6512 violin
5423 roundtable	5641 snowsuit	6255 tusk	6513 viperfish
5424 royal	5642 snugness	6256 tutorial	6514 virus
5425 rubber	5643 speakers	6261 tuxedo	6515 visor
5426 rudderless	5644 sphinx	6262 tweezers	6516 vitamins
5432 ruined	5646 enlaching	6264 tyrannical	6522 viven
5433 rulebook	5651 sponge	6265 ultrasound	6523 vocalist
5434 rummage	5652 sprout	6266 umbrella	6524 vogue
5435 running	5653 spur	6311 umpire	6525 voicemail
5436 rupture	5654 spyglass	6312 unarmored	6526 volleyball
5441 rustproof	5655 squirrel	6313 unbuttoned	6531 voucher
5442 sabotage	5661 stanmbont	6215 underweer	6522 vulnorable
5444 saddlebag	5662 stingray	6316 unevenness	6534 waffle
5445 saffron	5663 stopwatch	6321 unflavored	6535 wagon
5446 sainthood	5664 strawberry	6322 ungloved	6536 wakeup
5451 saltshaker	5665 student	6323 unhinge	6541 walrus
5452 samurai	5666 stylus	6324 unicycle	6542 wanderer
5453 sandworm	6111 suave	6325 unjustly	6543 wasp
5454 sapphire	6112 subway	6326 unknown	6544 water
5456 sacov	6114 ende	6332 unmarked	6546 wheat
5461 satchel	6115 suffocate	6333 unnoticed	6551 whisper
5462 sauna	6116 sugar	6334 unopened	6552 wholesaler
5463 savage	6121 suitcase	6335 unpaved	6553 wick
5464 saxophone	6122 sulphur	6336 unquenched	6554 widow
5465 scarf	6123 superstore	6341 unroll	6555 wielder
5466 scenario	6124 surfer	6342 unscrewing	6556 wifeless
5512 scientist	6126 swap	6244 unusual	6562 wildest
5513 scooter	6131 sweatshirt	6345 unveiled	6563 windmill
5514 scrapbook	6132 swimwear	6346 unwrinkled	6564 wipeout
5515 sculpture	6133 sword	6351 unyielding	6565 wired
5516 scythe	6134 sycamore	6352 unzip	6566 wishbone
5521 secretary	6135 syllable	6353 upbeat	6611 wizardry
5522 sedative	6136 symphony	6354 upcountry	6612 wobbliness
5524 seigmology	6142 syringes	6256 upfront	6614 womb
5525 selected	6143 systemize	6361 upgrade	6615 woolworker
5526 semicolon	6144 tablespoon	6362 upholstery	6616 workbasket
5531 senator	6145 taco	6363 upkeep	6621 wound
5532 septum	6146 tadpole	6364 upload	6622 wrangle
5533 sequence	6151 taekwondo	6365 uppercut	6623 wreckage
5534 serpent	6152 tagaiong	6411 upstoirs	6625 wrongdoing
5536 settler	6154 tallness	6412 uptown	6626 verov
5541 severely	6155 tamale	6413 upwind	6631 xylophone
5542 shack	6156 tanned	6414 uranium	6632 yacht
5543 shelf	6161 tapestry	6415 urban	6633 yahoo
5544 shirt	6162 tarantula	6416 urchin	6634 yard
5545 shovel	6164 tastebud	6421 uretnane	6626td
5551 chuttle	6165 tayorn	6422 urgent	6641 viddich
5552 shvness	6166 thaw	6424 username	6642 yield
5553 siamese	6211 theater	6425 usher	6643 yoyo
5554 sibling	6212 thimble	6426 utensil	6644 yodel
5555 siesta	6213 thorn	6431 utility	6645 yogurt
5556 silicon	6214 throat	6432 utmost	6646 yuppie
5562 singles	6216 thumb	6424 uttorango	6652 gobro
5563 sisterhood	6221 tiors	6435 vacuum	6653 zeppelin
5564 sitcom	6222 tidbit	6436 vagrancy	6654 zestfully
5565 sixfold	6223 tiebreaker	6441 valuables	6655 zigzagged
5566 sizable	6224 tiger	6442 vanquished	6656 zillion
5611 skateboard	6225 timid	6443 vaporizer	6661 zipping
5613 ckies	6231 tiptoeing	6445 vaseline	6663 zodiac
5614 skulk	6232 tirade	6446 vegetable	6664 zombie
5615 skylight	6233 tissue	6451 vehicle	6665 zookeeper
5616 slapping	6234 tractor	6452 velcro	6666 zucchini
5621 sled	6235 tree	6453 vendor	
5622 slingshot	6236 tripod	6454 vertebrae	
5624 slumboring	6242 trousers	6243 tryout 6244 tubeless 6246 tubeless 6246 tubedoat 6251 tugboat 6252 tumbleweed 6253 tupperware 6254 turtle 6255 tutorial 6256 tutorial 6265 tutorial 6265 tutorial 6266 tutorial 6265 tutorial 6265 tutorial 6265 tutorial 6265 tutorial 6265 tutorial 6266 umbrella 6311 umpire 6313 umpire 6313 umpire 6313 umpire 6315 underwar 6316 unevenness 6316 unevenness 6316 unevenness 6316 unevenness 6316 unevenness 6318 unlocking 6322 unkinown 6323 unhinge 6323 unbicking 6324 unicyclo 6325 unicyclo 6335 unpoved 6331 unlocking 6335 unpoved 6331 unlocking 6335 unpoved 6341 unvilled 6344 unvilled 6346 unvirinking 6346 unvirinking 6356 unpire 6366 unvirinking 6356 upper 6366 uppire 6366 uppire 6366 uppire 6366 uppire 6411 upptatire 6411 upptatire 6412 urgent 6423 urgent 6423 urologist 6424 uranium 6414 uranium 6416 urchina 6416 urchina 6416 urchina 6418 urgent 6423 urologist 6424 urgent 6433 urologist 6434 urologist 6434 urologist 6434 urologist 6435 vacuum 6436 vagrancy 6441 valuables 6446 vegetable 6446 vegetable 6446 vegetable 6446 vesetibule 6446 vesetibule 6446 vesetibule	

Notes about Security

Shouldn't I never write my password down?

In today's world, major corporations are hacked every week, and distributed cracking networks can break complex passwords in record time. It's safest to use a strong, unique password for each account you hold, but this makes memorization impractical.

Once, people were told not to write passwords down, ever, but the consensus among security professionals has evolved. You're better at protecting this book than corporations are at securing their password databases.

Can I just pick my own words from the word list?

No. Humans are terrible at being unpredictable, and hackers are great at exploiting predictability. The primary reason that Diceware creates secure passwords is that you have no agency in the process.

Should I leave spaces between the words?

Yes. It makes your passphrase more secure, and easier to type.

How many words should I use in my passphrase?

The most important accounts, such as e-mail, e-commerce and financial sites, should use at least five words.

Encrypted drives storing sensitive personal and financial documents should use seven words.

Less important accounts, like social media, can use three words, provided each password is used only once.

My passphrase was rejected because it is too long, or because it lacks capitalization and numbers.

You may shorten words to no less than three letters without affecting the security of your passphrase, provided the shortened version remains unique within the word list. You may also replace words with their associated 4 digit number. You may *not* choose different words.

Capitalization adds a very small amount of security; if required, pick a memorable word to capitalize.

What if I lose this book?

The real purpose of this book is to provide you with the tools to generate strong, memorable passwords that are

unbreakable by the world's most powerful computers. It need not be the only place that you record them.

Are password manager apps like 1Password safe?

Yes, as long as the master password is strong & secure. For example, if Google Chrome is configured to store your password, make sure that you have a strong Google password, and don't leave your account logged in on computers or mobile devices that are not physically secure. The same is true of Safari and iCloud, Internet Explorer and Windows Live, etc.

Who invented Diceware?

Diceware was invented by Arnold G. Reinhold, a computer scientist in Cambridge, MA. It was first published to Usenet's *sci.crypt.research* on August 1st, 1995. For lots more information, see https://goo.gl/xobzeV.

This book implements a simplified version developed by the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) in 2016, which uses only four dice.

What is the danger in re-using a password?

Imagine that you used the same password for an online clothing store, and your e-mail provider. Months later, the clothing store is hacked and your password is stolen. The hackers login to your email and find correspondence from your bank. They use the bank website to reset your online banking password, and intercept the confirmation

email. Next, they use the bank website to order checks in your name, initiate transfers, etc.

This story illustrates why the security of your e-mail ranks above others in importance: for hackers, it is the gateway to all your accounts.

How can I find out if my password has been stolen?

Visit haveibeenpwned.com, and type in your e-mail address. They track the data leaks released by hackers, and can identify which e-mail addresses were hacked, and how much data was released.

If your e-mail tests positive, immediately change the password for the sites listed *and* any sites that might have used the same password.

What is two-factor authentication?

Two-factor authentication enhances your password by sending a code to your phone or another device, which you then have to type in order to be authorized. This ensures that even if someone has your password, they also need to have your phone.

It's a good idea to set up two-factor authentication on any account linked to your bank account or credit cards.

The US Government no longer recommends SMS for two-factor authentication, due to the ease with which text messages can be intercepted. Mobile apps such as Google Authenticator are more secure.

What is phishing?

Phishing is when a hacker sends you an email that appears to be from an organization you have a relationship with, but is actually a trap to get you to give up your password.

Phishing e-mails typically warn you that something is wrong with your account, and urge you to log in via a link. They can be very realistic and insidious.

Always check the URL in any e-mailed links you click, and make sure that they take you to the site you expect.

What is social engineering?

Social engineering is when a hacker contacts a company you do business with and pretends to be you. Often this means telling customer service that you have lost your password, and trying to convince the representative to change it or otherwise unlock your account.

The best protection against social engineering is to avoid using easily-guessed security questions, such as your mother's maiden name. When asked for such information, generate a Diceware password instead.

How can I stay safe online?

Above all, practice good operational security (opsec). Be suspicious and careful online.

Minimize the number of accounts you open, and always

choose the best account security available. Keep track of the accounts you open, close unused accounts, and change passwords on active accounts regularly. Prefer

to shop with businesses that have strong online safeguards, and take advantage of identity protection and online shopping protection services offered by reputable financial institutions.

What to do if I've been hacked?

The resources at www.crashoverridenetwork.com and staysafeonline.org are a good starting point. They provide tools that help determine whether you have been hacked and can help regain control over your online accounts.

Record of Important Things (9)(\$) Compiled & edited by Wade Brainerd

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XKCD comic from: https://xkcd.com/936/

Diceware by Arnold G. Reinhold from:

http://world.std.com/~reinhold/diceware.html.

Diceware word list from:

https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/07/new-wordlists-random-passphrases https://www.eff.org/files/2016/09/08/eff_short_wordlist_2_0.txt

The IATEX source code for this book is located at: https://github.com/wadetb/dicebook