

Tips & Advice

Issue XII

Make a New Year's Resolution to use Unique, Complex Passwords!

The Disney+ video streaming service went live on Nov. 12, 2019, and thousands of users have complained of account takeovers within as little as a few hours of subscribing. Although all causes of the breach have not yet been identified or disclosed, weak passwords are suspected as a major culprit. Compromised accounts due to weak passwords isn't a new issue, but only the latest example of why unique, strong passwords are a critical for your online security.

Many people make New Year's Resolutions to change something for the better. In 2020, we'd like to encourage you to make a resolution to update your passwords used on the web and in your phone apps. Here are some tips for building a better password:

- **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** – but not your password! Always use a unique password for each account. Don't use the same password more than once.
- **Keep it Complex** – Choose a "complex" password, which contains a mix of upper-case letters, lower-case letters, numbers, and special characters. Longer passwords are harder to guess, so consider creating a password that is longer than the minimum length required.
- **Simple isn't Strong** – Passwords like "Password1" and "abc123" aren't strong enough and are some of the most commonly used (and guessed) passwords. Use random characters in a random sequence for a stronger password. Avoid words found in a dictionary whenever you can.
- **Separate Work and Personal** – It's already been said not to reuse passwords, but it's especially important to use completely unique passwords for personal accounts and work accounts. If you're using the same password on a personal accounts and work accounts, you are potentially compromising both accounts.
- **Update Passwords Frequently** – Frequently changing passwords is an important strategy for maintaining account security. The longer a password is in use the higher the chance that someone else may discover it.

For more information, please visit this site:

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2015/07/advanced-password-tips-and-tricks>



Member F.D.I.C.

Sources: <https://www.ubergizmo.com/2019/11/disney-plus-hacked-under-a-week/>

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