

Entered on 04/13/2012 at 11:16:17 MDT (GMT-0600)

QUESTION

How do I select a good password?

SOLUTION

Choosing a secure password is vital for keeping your email, computer accounts, and personal information private -- and for keeping Mines computer networks secure. Choosing a poor password can cause your account to be hacked or accessed by someone else. Lack of account security may get your computing accounts deactivated or your network ports blocked by CCIT staff. Please choose your password wisely and change it every so often, just to be sure of your security practices.

Here are some guidelines for picking good passwords:

- In general, the longer the password, the better the security; shorter passwords are far easier to crack. CCIT-managed systems, including those in CTLM and the Library, require *eight-character to 14-character passwords*.
- A password should *never* be ...
 - Any single word, spelled forward or backward.
 - A proper name or nickname.
 - Any place name or other common term, in English or any other language.
 - Any example passwords that appear in this FAQ.
- Launch cyber attacks on other computers around the world.
- Illegally store and distribute copyrighted materials.
- Store and distribute pornography, including child pornography.
- Send insulting, libelous or hate mail that appears to have come from our computer or our email account.

These activities are federal offenses that can, and have, resulted in visits from the FBI. Password security is vitally important and CCIT urges you to take it seriously.

AUTHOR

DF/SG