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frank**on**fraud



## How Long Will It Take To Hack Your Password?

 In [Fraud Trends](#) February 9, 2020  [Frank McKenna](#)

As an authentication method, passwords obviously suck. But we're stuck with them and have to make the most of them.

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## Most People Use Bad Passwords

2 years ago, KeeperSecurity has performed an analysis of compromised hacked data and made some startling conclusions. American's use really dumb passwords with alarming regularity.

In fact, 17% of accounts are protected with the stupidest password of all '123456". It's hard to believe that 1 in 5 accounts in the US are protected with something so simple.

The analysis conducted on information from 10 million breached accounts showed that the following passwords were most commonly found in the dataset.

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<b>#7</b>	<b>1234567</b>
<b>#8</b>	<b>password</b>
<b>#9</b>	<b>123123</b>
<b>#10</b>	<b>987654321</b>
<b>#11</b>	<b>qwertyyuiop</b>
<b>#12</b>	<b>mynooob</b>
<b>#13</b>	<b>123321</b>
<b>#14</b>	<b>666666</b>
<b>#15</b>	<b>18atcskd2w</b>
<b>#16</b>	<b>7777777</b>
<b>#17</b>	<b>1q2w3e4r</b>
<b>#18</b>	<b>654321</b>
<b>#19</b>	<b>555555</b>
<b>#20</b>	<b>3rjs1la7qe</b>
<b>#21</b>	<b>google</b>
<b>#22</b>	<b>1q2w3e4r5t</b>
<b>#23</b>	<b>123qwe</b>
<b>#24</b>	<b>zxcvbnm</b>
<b>#25</b>	<b>1q2w3e</b>

As you can tell, people tend to use bad passwords that follow predictable patterns. These predictable patterns can be exploited by hackers.

KeeperSecurity made the following conclusions about these dumb passwords:

- The list of most-frequently used passwords has changed little over the past few years.. That means that user education has limits. While it's important for users to be aware of risks, a sizable minority are never going to take the time or effort to protect themselves. IT administrators and website operators must do the job for them.
- Four of the top 10 passwords on the list – and seven of the top 15 – are six characters or shorter. This is stunning in light of the fact that, as we've

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some users attempt to use unpredictable patterns to secure passwords, but their efforts are weak at best. Dictionary-based password crackers know to look for sequential key variations. At best, it sets them back only a few seconds.

- Email providers don't appear to be working all that hard to prevent the use of their services for spam. Security expert Graham Cluley believes that the presence of seemingly random passwords such as "18atcskd2w" and "3rjs1la7qe" on the list indicates that bots use these codes over and over when they set up dummy accounts on public email services for spam and phishing attacks. Email providers could do everyone a favor by flagging this kind of repetition and reporting the guilty parties.

## How Long Will It Take To Hack Your Password?

CyberSecurity experts have analyzed password patterns and have created a matrix that can tell how long hackers would need to crack your password and the results are enlightening. There is a reason that websites require combinations of numbers and letters, upper and lowercase, and special characters.

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Length of Password (Chars)	Only Numbers	Mixed Lower and Upper case alphabets	Mixed numbers, Lower and Upper case alphabets	Mixed numbers, Lower and Upper case alphabets, symbols
3	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
4	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
5	Instantly	Instantly	3 secs	10 secs
6	Instantly	8 secs	3 mins	13 mins
7	Instantly	5 mins	3 hours	17 hours
8	Instantly	3 hours	10 days	57 days
9	4 secs	4 days	153 days	12 years
10	40 secs	169 days	1 year	928 years
11	6 mins	16 years	106 years	71k years
12	1 hour	600 years	6k years	5m years
13	11 hours	21k years	108k years	423m years
14	4 days	778k years	25m years	5bn years
15	46 days	28m years	1bn years	2tn years
16	1 year	1bn years	97bn years	193tn years
17	12 years	36bn years	6tn years	14qd years
18	126 years	1tn years	374tn years	1qt years

## Check out This Site If You Are Interested in Testing A Password

There is a great site where you can test various password combinations to see how safe they are. You can simulate passwords here – **How Secure is My Password.**



**Frank McKenna**

I am Frank McKenna, a fraud expert from San Diego. The views and opinions expressed here are entirely my own and do not reflect those of Point Predictive.

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