...from The Solution Centre

The Solution Centre

The Human Interface Between You & Technology

This July keep the fireworks in the sky

Your computer is full of all kinds of information about you and it is stored in files hidden deep on your hard drive. As technology is advancing very rapidly, there is less room to maintain privacy on the Internet. With less online privacy, comes the increase in possible identity theft. Your passwords are the most common way to prove your identity when using websites, email accounts and your computer. The use of strong passwords is therefore essential in order to protect your security and identity. This month our focus will be entirely on the connection between online identity theft and your passwords. Having your identity stolen will cause you to have fire coming out of your mouth, so let's keep the fireworks in the sky this 4th of July.

- - Watch out, online identity theft on the rise
- - Let's start creating safe and strong passwords

We hope you'll enjoy our July newsletter. Should you have any comments or suggestions, please write to us. We would love to hear from you!

WATCH OUT, ONLINE IDENTITY THEFT IS ON THE RISE... SAFEGUARD YOUR PASSWORDS

Identity theft has always been a concern, but with more and more details of our private lives openly accessible on the Internet, it is at unprecedented levels and it is easier than ever for cybercriminals to steal your identity. There have been many reports of identity theft against individuals or companies.

The abuse of identity details, such as dates of birth, postcodes and internet logins, now accounts for two thirds of all frauds. But because there are no specific agencies that could do tracking, victims often end up pursuing the long process of resetting their passwords in their PCs, bank accounts and other areas where they have stored personal data, often daunting tasks. As such, data on how many victims there are or how much has been lost to identity theft remains elusive

LET'S START CREATING SAFE AND STRONG PASSWORDS!

A strong password is an important protection to help you have safer online transactions. Here are steps you can take to create a strong password. Some or all might help protect your online transactions:

* Length - Make your passwords long with eight or more characters.

* Complexity - Include letters, punctuation, symbols, and numbers. Use the entire keyboard, not just the letters and characters you use or see most often. The greater the variety of characters in your password, the better. However, password hacking software automatically checks for common letter-to-symbol conversions, such as changing "and" to "&" or "to" to "2."

* Variation - To keep strong passwords effective, change them often. Set an automatic reminder for yourself to change your passwords on your email, bankingand credit card websites about every three months.

* Variety - Don't use the same password for everything. Cybercriminals steal passwords on websites that have very little security, and then they use that same password and user name in more secure environments, such as banking websites.

Avoid creating passwords that use:

* Dictionary words in any language.

* Words spelled backwards, common misspellings, and abbreviations.

* Sequences or repeated characters. Examples: 12345678, 222222, abcdefg, or adjacent letters on your keyboard (qwerty).

* Personal information. Your name, birthday, driver's license, passport number or similar information.

<p style="text-align:center; color:red;">Suggestions for password generators:</p>

| Strong Password Generator | click here |
| Secure Password Generator | click here |

Password Generator   [click here](#)

<p style="color:red; text-align:center">Suggestions for password storage:</p>

* Password Tracker Deluxe   [click here (free 30 trial)](#)
* LastPass   [click here](#)

The Solution Centre is looking forward to working for you.

Ken Brown

O. 360-681-8796 | C. 360-808-2110 | [email us](#)

143 HARRIER WAY
Sequim WA 98382
360-681-8796

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