Passwords [1]

Key Actions

- Use a different password for each online account.
- To remember all your passwords, Duke offers the premium version of LastPass [2] password manager service free to all faculty, staff and students. LastPass allows you to generate a random, lengthy password to protect each of your accounts.
- Don’t share your NetID password with anyone, including your parents or other family members. Students can set up a guest account for their parents which will let you share some or all of your Duke information with them.

Duke rules and recommendations

According to Duke requirements, passwords must:

- Be unique – not equal to existing Duke password or passwords used for any personal accounts
- Contain at least 12 characters
- Pass a generic complexity check

Tips for creating a stronger password

Duke’s IT Security Office recommends a password of 16 or more characters, composed of words or pass-phrases. Your NetID password should be unique to Duke, not something you use elsewhere, or have used previously. You should not use your Duke password for non Duke accounts.

Longer passwords are better because the increased length means it takes hackers and their password-cracking tools longer to guess or brute-force the password. We recommend stringing together 4 or more words that are not related to each other or to you. For example, you might start with:

\textit{flower wall brown cat}

Now add some capitalization, symbols and numbers to make the password more unguessable:

\textit{Fl0wer-wall-br0wn-cat}

This password is 21 characters, but easy to remember and type. The length makes it difficult for
a hacker to guess or crack. To test your password strength, try this calculator [3].

**Source URL:** https://security.duke.edu/passwords

**Links**
[1] https://security.duke.edu/passwords
[2] https://security.duke.edu/lastpass