

Passwords Proxies and Protection

Passwords

Used to authenticate or authorize access to services or products.

Online accounts, Internet, Bank, Retail, Transportation.

Secret string of upper and lower case letters, numbers, and punctuation characters.

Using a larger collection of different characters makes a more secure password.

Do not use a succession of identical characters or a sequence of characters

Many new accounts use password strength meters to provide feedback to users.

Many online accounts require a specific number of characters from each group.

Cracking passwords

Password dictionaries contain large number of commonly used passwords.

List of dictionary words encrypted to match passwords found in password file.

Using stronger passwords increases the amount of time it takes to crack a password.

Generating random passwords

Online password generators

<https://www.grc.com/passwords.htm>

<https://secure.pctools.com/guides/password/>

Download password generators

<http://www.iobit.com/passwordgenerator.html>

<http://sourceforge.net/projects/pwgen/> source code only

Password safe or password manager

Keeps password safely encrypted and accessed securely.

<http://passwordsafe.sourceforge.net/>

Passwords securely pasted into fields without having to type them.

System intrusion by gaining access through “social engineering”

Casual conversations with others about personal history.

Subjects about maiden names and schools attended.

Receiving a Gmail invite with any form field already filled.

Proxies

A proxy is an application or system that intercepts your information.

Examples are anti-virus software, firewalls, and proxy applications.

Proxies may be run as an application, or an appliance in the path of the Internet connection

Privoxy is an http proxy application.

It matches URLs against a list of known malicious sites.

Blue Coat PacketShaper is an appliance providing Internet connections.

It examines packets on the network for unwanted content.

Proxies provide

Security through encryption

Anonymity, when you may not want to be monitored

Freedom from unwanted advertising.

Censorship, when your Internet connection is blocked for some reason.

Organizations use a proxy for filtering objectional traffic in or out.

Information on proxy types can be found on

Wikipedia on proxy servers http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proxy_server

Information on proxy software <http://proxy.org/>

Protection

The best protection were the rules your mother gave you as a child.

Do not talk to strangers.
Mind your own business.
Stay out of the wrong part of town.

Always use a good anti-virus and keep it updated.

Compare anti-virus software

<http://antivirus.about.com/od/windowsantivirus/Antivirus-Reviews-Windows.htm>

If you have access to an organization that may be a target of intrusion.

Use a very strong password or a one time password.

Only access files from inside the organization's network.

Keep appraised of the latest threats or updates, join us on Saturdays for Shop Talk.