

## Quiz Yourself

A strong password can be all that stands between you and identity theft. Is your NetID password strong enough?

The following passwords meet the minimum requirements for NetID passwords, but all but one are still too weak.

Choose the strongest password from this list:

- A. aunt.sue.1
- B. reepicheep.0
- C. r33pich33p!
- D. Ac@8myham\*
- E. A123.456
- F. 6.62e-34

Check your answer below!

## University Information Security Office



## COMPUTER SECURITY PRIMER

## PROTECTING YOUR NETID

### About the UIISO

The UIISO is committed to providing information, resources and tools in information technology security for the Georgetown University community. The office operates within University Information Services. Contact us via e-mail at [security@georgetown.edu](mailto:security@georgetown.edu) or via phone at (202) 687-3031. Visit us on the Web at <http://security.georgetown.edu>.

**Answers:** A. No: Avoid proper names; B. No: Avoid fictional characters; C. No: Avoid simple substitutions; D. Yes: This is the best choice; E. No: Avoid simple patterns; F. No: Avoid famous equations

### Inside this Guide:

- Why your NetID is important
- 10 tips to secure your NetID password
- Develop a strong password
- Take our password quiz



## Why is my NetID Password Important?

Your University NetID is a unique identifier used to access information services and systems at Georgetown University.

Many frequently-used systems at Georgetown (e.g., Active Directory, Blackboard, GUMail, Access+, GUCalendar) require a University NetID and password.

Anyone who knows your NetID password can access (and sometimes change) personal information about you, including:

- Salary Information
- Class Registration
- Health Benefits
- Bank Routing Numbers
- Grades
- and more!

For more information about your NetID, visit NetID Services at <http://uis.georgetown.edu/netid>.

### Top 10 NetID Password Tips

1. **Never tell your password to anyone!**
2. Never write down your password.
3. Make your password hard to guess—do not use the name of your pet (or your kid).
4. Avoid using words found in a dictionary.
5. Never write down your password.
6. The more random your password, the better.
7. Be sure that you don't use personal identifiers in your password (like your name or NetID).
8. Never write down your password.
9. Take responsibility for your NetID password, you are accountable for its misuse or compromise of your password.
10. **...and never tell your password to anyone!**

## What's a Strong Password?

A strong password is one that's hard to crack. A strong password must meet all of the following requirements:

- Your password must be at least eight characters long.
- It must have at least one number.
- It must have at least one letter.
- It must have at least one symbol (!,@,#,\$,^).
- Avoid simple variants of names or words (even foreign words), simple patterns, famous equations, or well-known values.

### Coming up with a Strong Password

Coming up with a password that's both strong and easy to remember can take some creativity.

- Try thinking of a phrase (i.e. part of a book, poem, or song), and use it to form a password you'll remember.

*For example:* "All of Gaul is divided into three main parts." would be "AoG/i3mp."

- Insert symbols (punctuation) after every third character.
- Use an upper case letter after every number.
- Press the Shift key after every other character.
- Be creative! Come up with your own system—the possibilities are endless.

### Having problems remembering your password?

Write down your "system" in a way that only you can understand it. But never write down the password itself!