



What is a Good Password?

Think you've got a strong password?

The simple go-to passwords like *123456*, *password*, *qwerty*, and *monkey* can all be cracked instantly by a computer. Even your favourite celebrities and musicians offer little protection, with passwords such as *HarryKane* taking only 19 hours to crack and *coldplay1* being cracked in just 42 minutes! And it really doesn't help to use information that can be easily found on your social media channels – it's like leaving clues for potential criminals.

Have you been using a poor password like we've just described? If so, you might want to consider using this month to change your passwords!

A weak password can lead to the following attacks:

Brute Force attacks - using computing power to guess multiple combinations of passwords against a single account until the attacker gains access.

Password Spraying - trying a select list of commonly used passwords in conjunction with acquired usernames, forcing their way into many online accounts.

Credential Stuffing - having acquired a list of usernames and passwords, cyber criminals run automated checks against multiple online accounts until they break in, stealing information and/or money.

This month, we'll provide you with tips on how to make a strong password that will take hundreds of thousands of years to crack... no cyber criminal is going to wait around for that!

Top 3 Tips:

- Have a strong, unique password for every account. If one password is compromised, all other accounts stay safely locked.
- Never use common passwords or words that can be traced back to your digital footprint (the information you leave behind when using the internet).
- Use a password manager so you don't have to remember your passwords – allowing you to use more secure passwords.

We are here to help businesses like you, so if there are other ways we can achieve this please feedback to the team at info@londoncrc.co.uk or complete our short [survey](#).

Look out for next month's edition on Enabling Two-Step Verification, the next step in our "Getting the

Basics Right” journey. The full timetable of the programme can be found in the Community Member’s Hub [here](#).

Please raise awareness of the Cyber Resilience Centre for London to your fellow business neighbour. They will be eternally grateful to you when they can sleep at night knowing their business is safe and sound!

Best wishes,

Simon and Hannah



LOOK OUT for energy rebate scams!

There have been over 1,500 reports of scams pretending to be from Ofgem offering energy rebates within 2 weeks. Remain vigilant and take a moment to consider the request. Contact the company directly using reputable details.

Forward any suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk and/or report to [Action Fraud](#).

Further information on this scam can be found [here](#).

End of Windows 8.1 support

From 10th January, Microsoft has stopped providing support for Windows 8.1. This means that there will be no more updates to fix security flaws in the software that cyber criminals can use to attack. If you are still using Windows 8.1, consider moving to a more recent version of an Operating System. If it is unfeasible for you to move to a new Operating System due to extenuating circumstances of your businesses, you must take extra precautions when online. You can view guidance from the NCSC on managing obsolete products [here](#)



The Cyber Resilience Centre for London is delighted to have received funding from the [Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime](#) to deliver our Community Outreach programme for 2023.

This means we’re able to grow our team, helping us to cover more of London on our face-to-face visits to businesses, significantly raising awareness of cyber resilience and getting the conversation started.

We also want to use this money to support SMEs and third sector organisations further by **offering some of our services for free**, including a First Step Web Assessment, Security Awareness Training and Policy Review. There are limited offers which we will release over the year, so keep an eye out for more details.

We will also be offering **discounts on Cyber Essentials certification**, so you can make sure you have

the fundamental best practices in place to keep yourselves safe from cyber threats and prove to your customers you take the security of their data seriously.

All of this will help us to achieve the Mayor's ambition to make London the safest city in the world to do business online!

Announcements & Events

- This month, we're delighted to welcome two new faces to the team! Alberta joins us as Community Outreach Officer, ensuring we can meet our ambitious goals to bring cyber resilience to the high street. Tierney has also come on board as Marketing Manager, supporting the resources you'll see in our portal and helping us spread the word to more businesses.
- Our Community Outreach programme has officially begun! Look out for the team as we walk around the high streets with the local police, providing guidance on where you can strengthen your resilience against cybercrime based on your own digital footprint.
- Don't forget to check-back into the Community Membership portal. We will be releasing great offers on our services but they will only be available for a select number of businesses!

You can find a list of our services [here](#)



Get in Touch



We're here to support you, so please reach out if there's anything we can help with.

You can find all our info through the links below ↓

[Email](#) [Website](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [Youtube](#) [Forward to Friend](#)

[unsubscribe from all emails](#) [update subscription preferences](#)