## Guidelines for creating a good password

Passwords are very important and having a strong password will better protect your data and your network. Creating passwords may seem annoying, but they are necessary. Creating a strong password can be easy. The following guidelines have been created to assist you in creating a good password.

## Password guidelines:

It must be at least eight characters long.
It must contain at least one number and one symbol.
You cannot use a previously used password (unless you modify it).

## How to avoid "bad" passwords

Avoid passwords that would be easy for someone to guess.
Don't use:

- Phone numbers
- Names (salley)
- All uppercase or all lowercase words (money, MILLION)
- Short words (dog)
- Slang (moneygrip)
- Sequential letters or numbers (qrstuv, 123456).
- Personal information (birth dates, SS\#, favorite color, pets name)


## When to change your password

You should change your password if:

- You have written it down and have misplaced it.
- You have shared your password with anyone else.
- You suspect someone has been using your computer without your consent.


## Tips for creating a good password

When creating passwords try to include at least one number and one symbol.

| Tips for a good password | Examples |
| :--- | :--- |
| Include numbers | • Ilove1981 <br> • 4NY265 |
| Include characters such as: !, \$, \#, *, \% | - success!\$key <br> success is key |
| Mix uppercase and lowercase letters | • SucceSS <br> • iCeCold |


| Use a phrase, book title, song title, etc. | - GodIsLove <br> - Walk!tOut Walk it Out |
| :---: | :---: |
| Reverse words | - rehtnaP <br> Panther <br> - !14lIA <br> All for one! |
| Use the $1^{\text {st }}$ letters of a sentence or phrase | - WWJD? <br> What Would Jesus Do?? <br> - APS2NC! <br> All People Seem to Need Computers! <br> - TBIY2C <br> The Best Is Yet to Come |
| Substitute words with numbers or letters (are-R, you-U, to-2, be-B, eye-I, for-4, see-C, why-Y, ate-8) | - UR4me! <br> You Are for me! |

***Please do not use any of the examples shown.

