

Creating a secure password

The structure of passwords is a vital step to increase data security. Using short, simple and obvious passwords to access your online data (or using the same password everywhere) puts you at significantly greater risk of a security breach or identity theft.

To increase your protection tekkiehelp advises that you take these basic steps when creating a password:

1. Length

- Choose a password at least 8 characters in length

2. Complexity

- Use a mix of characters containing lower case, upper case, numbers and special characters
- Try to use unique characters, not repeated
- Make passwords different to usernames
- Avoid using the same password for many sites
- Change your passwords every six months or so

3. Don't make it obvious

- Avoid using names of family members, friends or pets
- Don't use your personal details such as name, date of birth, social security number or contact numbers
- Avoid using sequences i.e. consecutive alphabet, numbers or keys on key board
- Non-dictionary words are better, or even a random mix of real words e.g. "elephanthappysnow"
- Don't write down your passwords