

Powerful passwords

KALYANI

Caught ya'.

KALYANI

Didn't mean to scare you. I came to meet you for lunch. Remember?

SHAUNA

Of course I remember!

SHAUNA

See? Says right there. I've got a system.

KALYANI

Uh, so I see ... eeeeeee ...

KALYANI

... eeeeeee ... Whoa! Shauna! All your passwords! Right there on your computer screen!

SHAUNA

That's the most convenient place for me to see them.

KALYANI

You and everyone else! ANYONE can see those!

SHAUNA

But--

KALYANI

Also, 1-2-3-4 is NOT a password!

SHAUNA

It's not? Hmm. I use that one a lot.

KALYANI

No, it's too easy to guess. And you should NEVER re-use passwords across different accounts! Or on your phone!

SHAUNA

So how do I make a password that's hard to guess? And if I don't write it down, how'll I remember it?

KALYANI

Glad you asked. I have a 4-step system!

KALYANI

Step 1. Instead of a word, think of a phrase that's meaningful to you and easy for you to remember.

SHAUNA

Um ... oh! "I love my cuddly cat."

KALYANI

Of course. Step 2. Use the first letter of each word in that phrase to make a nonsense word, mixing up upper and lower case.

SHAUNA

Okay. So that would be "i-L-m-C-c."

KALYANI

Easy, right? Now, step 3, sprinkle in a couple of numbers. Like the date when you adopted Mr. Meowgi.

SHAUNA

Well, that would be August three years ago so something like: "iLmCc082014."

KALYANI

*Perfect! Now, step 4 is the cherry on top that **strengthens** your password – adding a special character. Like an exclamation mark or an ampersand or a hash sign ...*

SHAUNA

Gotcha! I could use a percent sign because Mr. Meowgi makes my life 100% better. So my final password would be: "iLmCc082014%." Wow, that's long!

KALYANI

Yeah, experts say passwords should be at least a 12 character combination of numbers, letters and symbols. 8 characters just isn't enough anymore.

SHAUNA

Oh...

KALYANI

And to add an extra layer of protection, you should also have different user names for different accounts.

SHAUNA

What about password managing software? Could I use that?

KALYANI

Sure, there are some great options out there. Do your research to find one that's encrypted – meaning it's extra hard to hack into. But even so,

*don't sit on the same passwords forever. And
change them right away if you think they've been
compromised.*

SHAUNA

Got it!

KALYANI

Shall we take your car?

SHAUNA

How about we take yours?

FIN.