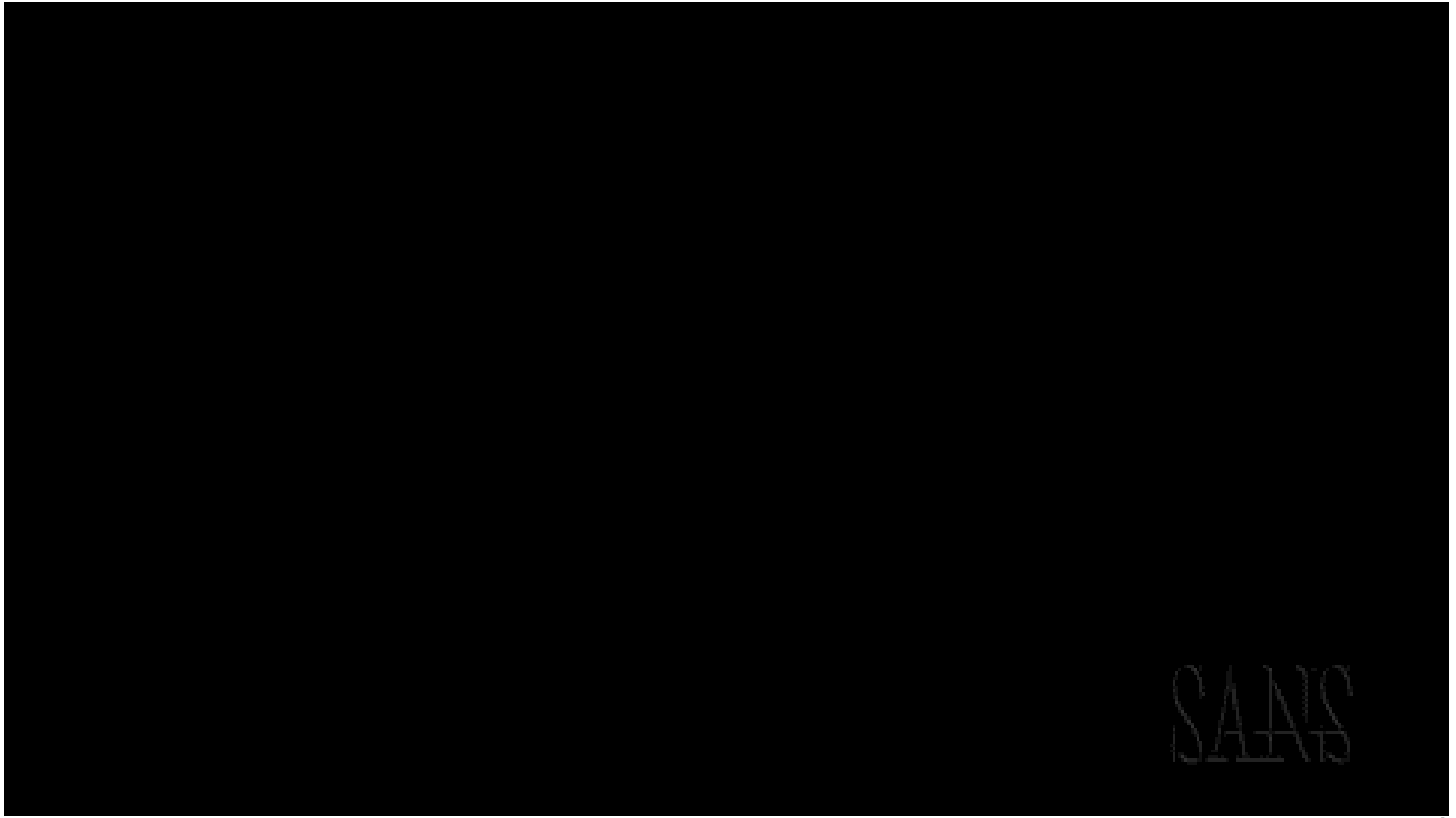
PASSWORDS

DOES IT MATTER?

- Is your email password the same as your Facebook password?
- Is that Good? Bad? Why?

PROTECT YOUR PASSWORD



STEAM CLOWN™ & Squeaky Hinge PRODUCTIONS

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

- Same password everywhere?
  - PLEASE, NO!!!
  - If one is compromised, all are compromised
  - Different systems have different pw rules
  - Violates K-State policy about eID passwords
- Rely on your memory?
  - Value is inversely proportional to your age!
  - You'll often click on "Forgot Your Password?" links!
- Write 'em down?
  - Risky, but not out of the question if you keep the note in a safe place (NOT your desk pencil drawer)
  - Bigger issue is quantity of passwords you have to remember
  - Generally considered a bad idea

Let your browser store them all?

- OK for some passwords, but not others
- Too risky for accounts with access to sensitive information
- Easy for someone to view the stored passwords, unless you…
- Use Firefox and password-protect viewing stored passwords… and don't forget THAT password!
- DON'T do it with your eID password, financial accounts, anything with access to personal identity info (like SSN)
- Never do this on a shared, lab, or public computer
- IE stores browser ("AutoComplete") passwords in Registry
  - Free tools readily available to recover them.
  - Delete in IE8 with Tools->Internet Options->General-> Browsing history->Delete, check the "Passwords" box
- Firefox had built-in tool to view them and delete them (Tools->Options->Security->Saved Passwords); be sure to use a "Master Password" to protect the stored passwords

WHY PASSWORDS ARE IMPORTANT?

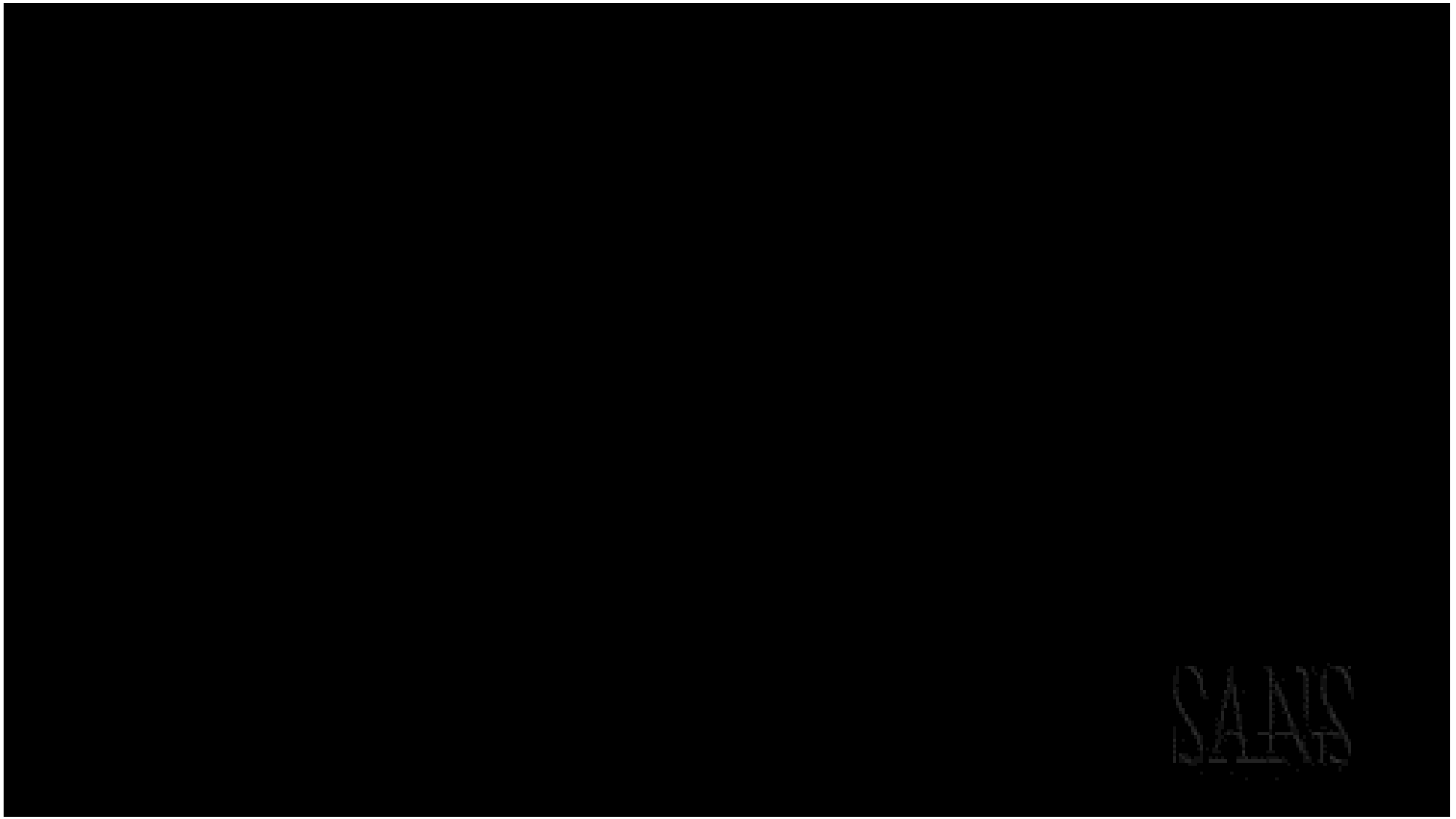
- They are the entry point to your
  - Email, Twitter, Facebook, Myspace ← Ha Ha Myspace…
  - Online Banking
  - Amazon, eBay, and other sites where you spend $$$$
- IT and other enterprise resources.
- They provide access to the VPN, e-mail servers, and the network.
- Misused or stolen passwords can give intruders access to your personal info.

INTERNAL PASSWORD THEFT IS EASY

- "Social engineering" is one of the easiest ways for intruders to compromise networks and other organizational systems.

- Others can hear you give a password to someone you trust.
- Someone looking over your shoulder can discover a password.
- Don't keep a copy of your password in a desk drawer, on a monitor, or under a keyboard.

SOCIAL ENGINEERING



PROTECT YOUR PASSWORD

- Your password is yours alone.
- Don’t share it with anyone, including supervisors, personal assistants, or IT personnel.
- Never write down your password.
  - You wouldn’t write your PIN number for your ATM card, would you?

- Do NOT:
- Say your password aloud.
- E-mail your password to a co-worker.
- Offer anyone hints about what your password might be.

Examples of Bad Passwords

- Sports teams or terms: LouvlleSlgr
- Number sequence: *12345*
- Letter string: AAAAAA
- Mixed-case sequence: ABcdEFgh
- Company name: AcmeIT
- Keyboard sequence: QwERty or ASdFgh

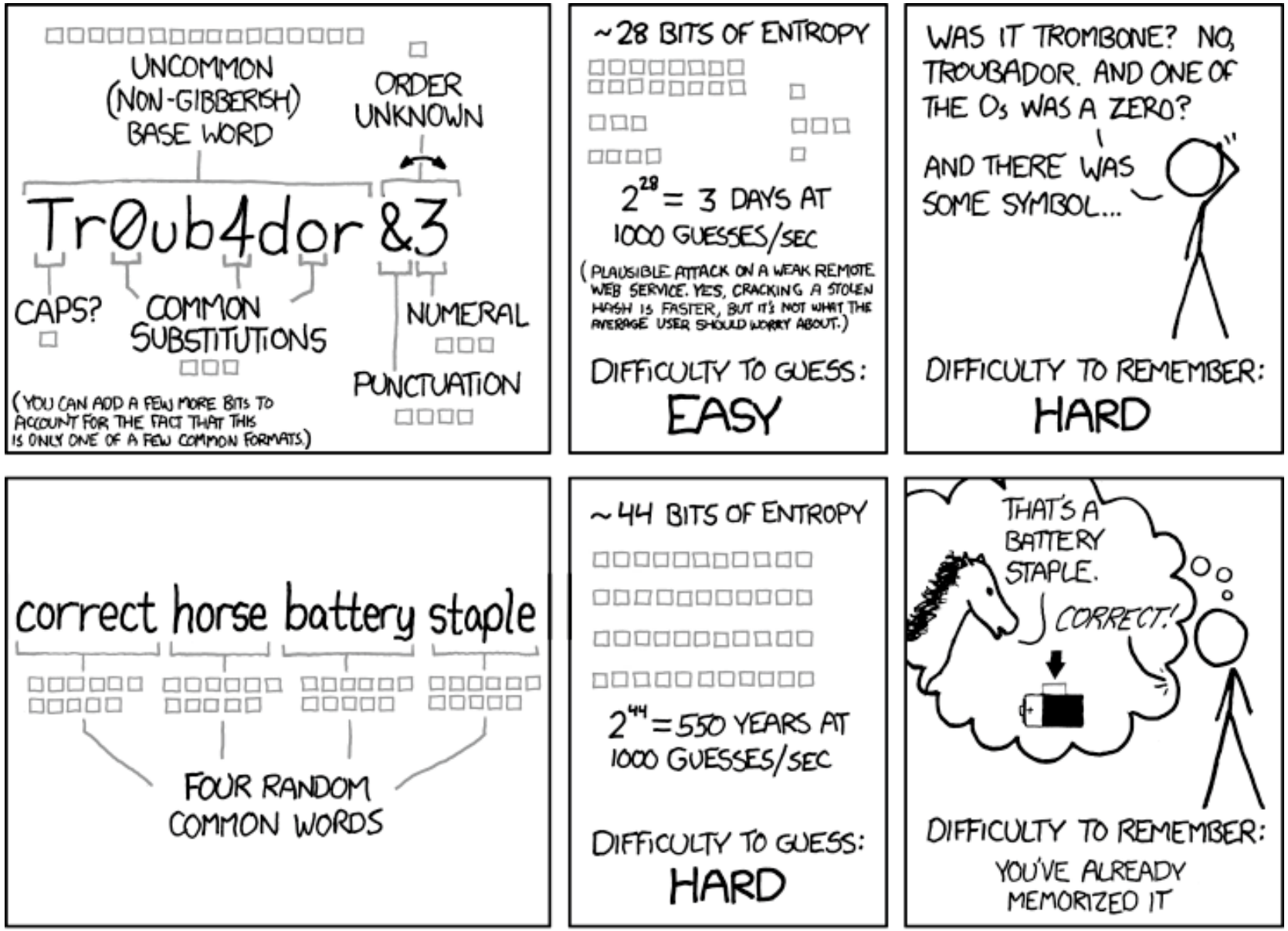
Lets look at some bad passwords

Create a Strong Password

- Are eight characters or longer
- Can’t contain any part of a user’s full name or username
- Don’t use any term that could easily be guessed by someone who is familiar with you
- Should not include any personal information, e.g., the name of a spouse or a street address
- Should not contain personal identification numbers, including those on a license plate, your telephone number, birth date, or any part of your Social Security number.
- Contain characters from three of the four classes of characters

THE FOUR CHARACTER CLASSES ARE:

- English uppercase letters (A, B, C).
- English lowercase letters (a, b, c).
- Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3).
- Special characters (!, *, $, or other punctuation symbols).



xkcd.com

[xkcd 936 explained]

Same password for similar categories of accounts?

- Have at least four categories:
  - Financial
  - eID and other important K-State accts
  - Shopping accts that store your credit card info
  - Innocuous accts w/ no sensitive information
- #1 and #2 should be long, complex, and changed regularly
- #3 not as long, less complex, changed less often
- #4 can be short, simple, never changed
- Differing password rules may pose a challenge

HERE IS WHAT I DO

- Use A Strong Password
  - Longer than 8 Characters
  - Mix CAPITAL, lower, number & characters
- Use Different Types Of Passwords For Deferent Situations
  - My Email ← Strongest
  - Banks / Credit Cards
  - School
  - Any Account that has a Credit card
  - Any Account that has my PayPal
  - Account I care about, but don’t have $$ attached (facebook, Instagram, etc)
  - Account that are just because I had to sign up…

HERE IS WHAT I DO

Phrasewithafewwords1234$%#@+3letersofCONText

Correctbatteryhorsestaple + Numbers + Characters + “+” ABCD

LAST WORDS

- A password is the key to your Online presence & resources.
- A strong password can protect your personal account.
- Take strides to make strong passwords that are not obvious to someone familiar with you.
- Remember to change your password on a regular basis.
- Ellen's Password minder protector minder…


ellen