

# 7 Essential Password Tips

*Don't make life easy for hackers!*

**How good are your passwords? Would they prevent hackers from getting into your accounts and stealing your information?**

These are questions that should be asked by all businesses. EU and UK law requires all organisations to securely store any data they hold about their staff and customers. If it falls into the wrong hands, then big fines can follow.

To help you and your team choose passwords that won't make your business easy prey for hackers, TMB has put together this handy selection of tips.

## 1. Don't Use Single, Real Words

Whether it's a person's name, the title of a film or a random word taken from a dictionary, passwords like this won't keep hackers at bay for more than a few minutes.

## 2. Use A Mixture Of Character Types

Mixing in capital letters, numbers and special characters like punctuation is a simple way to make passwords stronger.

## 3. Use A Phrase

Long phrases are easier for people to remember and harder to guess. Something like 'davidlikestogosurfingonsunday' should stick in your mind, but a password-hacking program would struggle to crack it.



## 4. Don't Reuse Passwords

Even it's a good one, you're leaving yourself at risk. If someone managed to get hold of that password, they'd have access not just to one account but all of them.

## 5. Don't Write Passwords Down

This is basically giving other people an open invitation to your accounts. Avoid doing this if you can.

## 6. Try A Password Manager

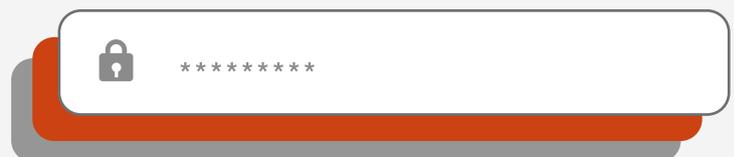
Having difficulty remembering your passwords? Then try a password manager. These applications store all your passwords in one location. Dashlane and LastPass are just two examples you could try.

## 7. Add Biometric Solutions

These are things like fingerprint scanners, facial recognition and iris scanners. They aren't 100% foolproof, but they're a relatively safe and convenient way to protect yourself.

### Security & Data Protection Laws

On 25th May 2018, all businesses with customers or staff in the EU will have to be compliant with [General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)](#). These rules determine not only what information companies can keep and for how long, they also include requirements about protecting that data. In other words, businesses have a legal obligation to keep any personal data they hold safe. Failure to adhere to the regulations can lead to massive fines – up to 4% of annual turnover.



▲ *How long would your passwords keep a hacker at bay?*

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