

# Password Protected

*Don't ever use this password, and 5 more tech security tips*



## Don't ever use this password: 123456

**123456** tops the list of worst, weakest security passwords in an analysis<sup>1</sup> of more than 15 billion passwords.

The most basic cybercriminal could crack this one in mere moments, researchers concluded.

Rounding out the five best of the worst passwords are **123456789**, **qwerty**, and (of course) **password**.



## Avoid using years as well, especially 2010.

Across all 15 billion+ passwords analyzed, nearly 10 million versions include **2010**—the year Apple launched the first iPad®.

Coincidence? Probably not.

The second-most popular—more likely coincidentally—is **1987**.



## Using your name is another no-no ... unless your name is Darcy.

Obviously, using your name in a password is about as breach-proof as 123456—at least generally speaking.

One name, though, is least used across all 15 billion passwords analyzed: **Darcy (and Darcie, and Darcey)**.

But hey; hate the password, not the name.



## Want a more secure and sporty password? Think hockey.

Professional basketball teams are the most-often used in sports-related passwords, specifically the **Phoenix Suns** and **Miami Heat**, followed by professional baseball.

Not one professional hockey team made the top 10, so **Pittsburgh Penguins** fans seem password protected.



## 'Summer Friday' is a vibe, not a strong password.

**Summer** is the most popular season featured in online passwords, analysts found, with **Friday** the most popular day of the week.

A stronger and more secure option is likely **February**, the least-commonly used by a landslide among all calendar-related words/phrases.



## Ice, Ice Baby: Classic song; terrible password.

Although food-related passwords are largely uncommon—accounting for about 2% of all 15 billion passwords analyzed—the most-commonly used password/phrase by foodies is **ice**.

Least common is the ever-polarizing **mayonnaise**.