

# Medical Office Systems, LLC

## February 2016 Issue #2 Worst Passwords Ever

**What's your favorite password?** Don't tell me, or anyone else. However, if your favorite password is in the list below, you'd be well advised to change it. The data comes from <https://www.teamsid.com/worst-passwords-2015/> also known as the "SplashData top 25 worst passwords" blog. The SplashData folks research and compile stolen passwords that have been made public by hackers. These password lists are a result of hacking activity and data breaches over the course of the year 2015, and ranked vs. the list from 2014. As you can see the top two bad passwords are "123456" and "password".

Top Ten: 2105 vs 2014	11-20, 2015 vs. 2014	21-25, 2015 vs. 2014
1. 123456 (Unchanged)	11. welcome (New)	21. princess (New)
2. password (Unchanged)	12. 1234567890 (New)	22. qwertyuiop (New)
3. 12345678 (Up 1)	13. abc123 (Up 1)	23. solo (New)
4. qwerty (Up 1)	14. 111111 (Up 1)	24. passwOrd (New)
5. 12345 (Down 2)	15. 1qaz2wsx (New)	25. starwars (New)
6. 123456789 (Unchanged)	16. dragon (Down 7)	
7. football (Up 3)	17. master (Up 2)	
8. 1234 (Down 1)	18. monkey (Down 6)	
9. 1234567 (Up 2)	19. letmein (Down 6)	
10. baseball (Down 2)	20. login (New)	

**So what's a good password?** Short Answer: anything that is not guessable by humans or robots. That means:

- 8 or more digits in length
- A mix of numbers, letters, upper/lowercase, and symbols
- Think of "passphrase" instead of "password"

It also should be something you know and can recall with relative minimum effort, but that's the hard part: the human brain is just not conditioned to remembering long random strings like a password (passphrase). I certainly can't remember random stuff. Make it something that you know, but is not something that would be public knowledge about you. There was a perhaps apocryphal, but nevertheless illustrative story once circulating the internet: a woman posted a photo online of herself leaning against her prized possession: a 1996 Corvette. As the story goes, "1996Corvette" was her password. So don't do anything obvious like that.

I suggest take three things you can easily remember and "glue" them together with symbols. Let's say my favorite color is blue, my old cellphone number (long gone) ended in "4738", and my favorite movie is "Gone With The Wind", abbreviated "GWTW". Next, I mix in a symbol like the "\*" asterisk to connect them. So now you have **blue\*4738\*GWTW**. This satisfies the recommendation of upper/lower, numbers, letters, and symbols. Some might quibble about the word blue, but since the password is a total of 14 digits long, I think total length makes up for a dictionary word. No, "blue\*4738\*GWTW" is **not** my real password, but you get the idea...!

-John Becker