



## Creating a Good Password

[About Barret](#)

[Research Sources](#)

[Library Services](#)

[Technology Services](#)

[Need Help?](#)

[Ask Us!](#)

[Search](#)

Anyone who knows your network password has the ability to read and alter any piece of computer-based information to which you have access, assume your identity while communicating via e-mail or chat, and launch attacks upon other systems both on and off campus.

Creating and maintaining a good password is one of your best defenses against such abuse.

A good password is:

- a combination of letters and numbers that cannot be found in a dictionary
- at least 8 characters long
- easy to type and remember

### Good Password Practices:

- Change your password regularly. This practice limits the amount of time that someone can use to guess your password and the amount of time that your password can be used if it is uncovered.
- Embed at least one number or symbol within the password rather than adding it to the beginning or end of an otherwise alphabetic string.
- Do not share your password with anyone! Not with your spouse, parents, siblings, significant other, secretary, boss, or co-worker.
- Do not write your password on a Post-it and stick it on your monitor or any other easily accessible location or store it electronically in an unencrypted file.
- Do not save your password as part of an automatic login script if anyone else has access to your computer.
- Do not make your password a dictionary word or common name with numbers and symbols merely substituting for similar looking alphabetic characters (e.g., P@ssw0rd).
- Do not leave any password blank or unchanged from its initial or default value.
- Do not use the name of a family member, nickname, pet name, personal information (e.g., social security number, birth date) or word associated with your interests as your password.
- Do not use any word in any dictionary or any common given name (e.g., John or Mary) as your password.
- Do not construct your password by taking any word in any dictionary or any common given name and substituting numeric characters or symbols for similar looking alphabetic characters (e.g. "p@ssw0rd", "Chr15t0pher").
- Do not build your password by following or preceding any of the above with by a number or symbol (e.g., "theater5", "1Elizabeth").

### SEE ALSO:

[Changing Your Rhodes Network Password](#)

[Securing Your Computer](#)

There is no totally secure password. Do not leave a computer that is logged in to your account unattended. Log out completely when you are finished working.

If you forget your password contact the Help Desk at extension 843-3890 or [helpdesk@rhodes.edu](mailto:helpdesk@rhodes.edu) or use the **Ask Us** form.