

PASSPHRASE INFORMATION

LOCAL PLANNING HANDBOOK

Passphrases provide a good way to compose strong, lengthy passwords that are easier to remember and type, and naturally complex. Characteristics of a strong passphrase include the following:

- Minimum of 14 characters. The longer the passphrase the better!
- No spaces
- Difficult to guess.
- Easy to type- so that someone cannot watch it being typed.

NOTE: There are no requirements for special characters or capital/lower case letters for a passphrase.

EXAMPLES OF GOOD PASSPHRASES

Any sequence of characters that satisfy the passphrase requirements and a passphrase that can be easily remembered is recommended. Be creative! A strong passphrase does not have to be impossible to remember. Some examples are:

- Iwillgraduatein2010.
- WritingTeacher
- Wisconsingetscold
- MinnesotalsColderThanWisconsin
- MeGustaMinneapolis
- IlikeDr.Pepper
- ThirtyThreeTrees
- PerdomoCigarsaremadeinNicaragua

NOTE: Make sure not to use any of the examples in this fact sheet as your passphrase!

EXAMPLES OF WEAK/BAD PASSPHRASES

- Your name in any form - first, middle, last, maiden, spelled backwards, nickname or initials
- Your user ID or your user ID spelled backwards
- Part of your user ID or name
- Any common name, such as Joe
- The name of a close relative, friend or pet
- Your phone number, office number or address, license plate number, social security number
- Your birthday or anniversary date
- Simple variants of names or words (even foreign words), simple patterns, famous equations or well-known values
- Names from popular culture (e.g.: Beatles, Spiderman, etc.)
- Permutations of the username
- Family or pet birth dates
- Family or pet names or acronyms built from them
- Hobbies or activities
- Work or school-related information or work/school acquaintances
- Names of places visited or worked
- Common words from dictionaries including foreign language
- Names or types of favorite objects
- All digits or all the same letter or letter sequences found on keyboards

NOTE: Avoid passphrases that may be common, such as “2040 Comprehensive Plan Update”, to keep it unique.

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