Password Fiasco

“My friend really enjoys going to plays and she had an on-line subscription with a local theater she renewed twice a year. The theater notified her that her accounts had been hacked and they were not sure of the extent of the intrusion, but they were telling all customers to change their on-line password to be safe. Unfortunately, she uses the same password for all her on-line accounts, so she was worried she was a sitting duck. She had to change ALL her passwords to get to sleep that night!”

Do you have stories like this one?
The latest census shows 70% of the homes in the U. S. have a computer with Internet access. We all have our challenges with technology. What have you learned? Tell your co-workers about your experience – it could help them.

Pass it on: Send your story to story@sp.providence.org for publication in our newsletter and receive a gift!

Do you see your password listed below?

Many of these passwords have made this list for several years, and criminals can also purchase other popular password lists.

12 Most Common Passwords in Use*

1. Password
2. 123456
3. 12345678
4. Abc123
5. Qwerty
6. Monkey
7. Letmein
8. Dragon
9. 111111
10. Baseball
11. Iloveyou
12. Trustno1

One easy way to strengthen your password is to add characters such as: @#$%^!

Your Security is your Password

Make your password hard to guess, even for someone who knows you well! Do not use words found in a dictionary or include personal details such as your birth date or the names of your pets, children or sports teams. Use at least eight characters.

Remember when it rained 20 days straight? Mix it up!

Easy to remember word = rain
Number = 20
Character = !
Strong password = rai20N!

Create a unique password that is easy for you to remember by combining a familiar word and number.

Smart Protection

- Never share your ID or password with anyone.
- Use different passwords for your work and personal life.
- Check your banking and credit card accounts often for signs of misuse.

*Source: SplashData, October 24, 2012