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NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2015  
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## Is your password easy to hack?

Criminals have become so adept that if you use just a word as your password, or 2) a word and three numbers, or 3) a word, three numbers and a symbol – hackers using sophisticated software can break into your account in *less than one second*.

Major identity theft protection services report that, while online passwords are now an integral part of our lives, many consumers are rather cavalier about them. The word "password" remains among the top most commonly used terms, and about twenty percent use the same password for their bank account as they do for social networking sites like Facebook.

With the rise in identity theft, retail security breaches such as at Target and Home Depot, and nonstop phishing exploits, it has never been more important to make sure that

great care is used when creating passwords to access your accounts online. A misstep could put your life savings in jeopardy, or at least leave you with a big mess to unravel ... here are a few tips:

1. Avoid using a financial site password on more than one account.
2. Check your password strength with an analyzer like passwordmeter.com. Generate new passwords with something like passwordcake.com, and consider using a password manager like lastpass.com.
3. Mix upper and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols. Adding just one capital letter can add significant protection, as in the following examples (*all using current hacking methods*):

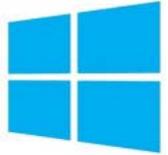
**coffee** - 3% strong, less than 1 second to hack  
**coffee345** - 38% strong, still less than 1 second to hack  
**coffee345&** - 61% strong, still less than 1 second to hack  
**Coffee345&** - 85% strong, one week to hack  
**Coffee34509&** - 100% strong, three years to hack  
**MoreCoffee34509&** - 100% strong, 1.5 million years to hack

4. Change your passwords often. Every three months is recommended, even if you have a strong password – the longer you

*Continued on Page Two*

## Windows 10

At a January 21st media event at its Redmond headquarters, Microsoft unveiled more of the new Windows 10 operating system, to be released in Fall 2015.



If you're wondering what happened to Windows 9, that number is being skipped entirely (see also our October 2014 newsletter). Microsoft explains that Windows 10 will not be an incremental change, as might

**Remember!!!** The new OACYS Bandwidth Prioritization System **eliminates** excess usage surcharges ... tell your friends and neighbors!

*Continued on Page Two*

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# Is your password easy to hack?

Continued from Page One

keep the same password, the greater the risk that it could be hacked or stolen through a virus on your computer

Other tips include: don't use the same password on social media sites ... don't use the same password on different email accounts ... don't use obvious words, names or numbers in your password ... don't repeat characters or letters in sequence on the keyboard (like 123456 or qwerty) ... make your passwords at least eight characters long.

Many financial institutions are also now using two-factor authentication, or "2FA." This is basically an extra step that asks for another code, in addition to your password, and it significantly increases your security.

However, you shouldn't type your password on any computer you don't control, such as at libraries, computer labs, coffee shops or airport lounges. Keystroke loggers that can capture what you're typing are very common in the hacker community.

We agree that these precautions can be a hassle, and it's too bad they've become necessary. However, the risks and potential downsides far outweigh the relatively small amount of time and diligence required.

## Fan Mail



*"Your service is great! I was with another local wireless ISP previously and had nothing but problems. OCS is very professional and you have superb customer service." -J/KH*

# Windows 10

Continued from Page One

have otherwise been implied.

Microsoft also announced that Windows 10 will be a free upgrade to all users of Windows 7 and 8, for one year following its release.

With Windows 8, Microsoft attempted to impose a new "one-size-fits-all approach" to desktops and laptops (both with a traditional keyboard and mouse), as well as to touchscreen tablets and smart phones.

Windows 10 "Continuum" will intelligently determine which kind of device is being used, and apply the appropriate interface. According to cnet.com, "this is the real game-changing potential ... with Windows 10, Microsoft seems to be getting it right." Says techradar.com, "Continuum is a good balance between updating the desktop look and making touch useful."

According to Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, the free Windows 10 upgrade isn't about giving Windows away. "It's more about making sure Windows 7 doesn't turn into another Windows XP, hanging around for years. We want to make sure Windows 10 is a fantastic upgrade experience for Windows 7 customers, even on the desktop with a mouse and keyboard."

**Tired of satellite or Clearwire?** You're not alone ... many of our new OCS accounts are customers switching from satellite, DSL, Clear[wire] and others. Tell your friends and receive a referral credit for up to a month's free service.

## OACYS WIRELESS INTERNET SERVICE PLANS

Wireless Plan Types	Speeds (Mbps)		Usage Guideline	Mailboxes	One-Time Fees		Monthly Service
	Download	Upload			Installation	Equipment Deposit	
<i>(Note 1)</i>							
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>							
Basic	1.5M	768K	20GB	5	100.00	Waived	49.95
Premium	3M	1.5M	40GB	10			79.95
<i>All Plans</i>							
<b>BUSINESS</b>							
Business	3.5M	3.5M	60GB	20			129.95
Professional	4.5M	4.5M	70GB	25			159.95
Corporate	6M	6M	90GB	30			199.95
Enterprise	8M	8M	120GB	40			249.95
<b>MOUNTAINS</b>							
<i>(Note 2)</i>							
Yokohl, Balch, Bear Creek							
Alpine, Pierpoint, Nelson	1.5M	768K	20GB	5			69.95

(1) Guidelines are the recommended bandwidth usage per month. There is no charge for excess usage, but prioritization may apply during periods of peak overall usage.

(2) Add \$10 monthly rural service fee to any Residential or Business plan.

## I Didn't Know That!

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