Password Etiquette

The best way to counteract hackers is to set up a good defense at the beginning, which requires creating secure passwords. It’s important to know what not to do when you create a password.
Don’t Use Personal Information

The days of using a birthday or your pet’s name as your password have been over for years. While it’s probably true that no one close to you is going to hack your account that doesn’t mean a stranger can’t just as easily guess your password. All they need to do is see your profile picture of you and your beloved dog, then start entering popular pet names. The odds are in the hacker’s favor in this way.
Don’t Use the Same Password everywhere

May be you did a good job choosing a complex password. But if you’re using it all over the Internet, on shopping account, social media profiles, banks and credit card accounts you’re just asking to be compromised. A hacker may get lucky and determine your password on an account where they can’t do much damage. But if they also have your name, or any other identifying information, they can start trying out that password on other sites you may use sites with not so great security and potentially get into an important account where they can really do some damage. Don’t get too comfortable with one password. Change it up from one site to another site.
Don’t Keep Default Passwords

Say if you are setting up a new work email, or you’re creating an account in any website. The IT manager or the site’s form may assign a temporary password to you. Remember it’s just temporary. It is not meant to remain your password because at least one other person knows it, or could probably guess it if it was “randomly” generated using your name or any simple identification. Change assigned passwords immediately upon signing into those new accounts for the first time in any device, and do not share the new passwords with anyone, even the IT department at work. If necessary, they have other means of accessing your email, but you don’t want anyone just able to sign in to your personal accounts.

Some of these tips assume manual work to guess out your password. But hackers are more sophisticated than ever. They will not satisfied with hacking just one person’s account when they could be hacking thousands. To that end, they use software to cycle through possible passwords for them, much more quickly than they did ever be able to do it manually.
Choose long passwords over short ones

The more characters, the more difficult your password will be to break. A three-letter password can be broken easily. Eleven or more letters can take up to years to crack.

Add more characters, numbers, punctuation, and symbols, and the length of time necessary to break a password increases exponentially.
Change your passwords regularly

Set up calendar reminders if you need to. If you have a lot of passwords, change them on a rotating basis so you don’t have to go through dozens or possibly hundreds every time. Make sure that you change it and come up with the new passwords.

It may seem like a huge inconvenience, but this little inconvenience now avoid a huge headache later.