



Article 1.2: Protecting Your Digital Estate

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“Computer-based Passwords – the keys to your Digital Estate”

Think about computer passwords as you do keys on your key ring. Do you use the same key for your residence, your automobiles, your locker at the club and the safety deposit box at your bank?

As your Digital Estate Plan is designed and updated (see Article 1.1: Protecting Your Digital Estate), password management becomes an integral component of that plan.

It has become standard practice to use high-level, secure passwords that are hard to guess. The goal is to make it harder for bad folks to randomly guess your secret passwords.

Take it a step further: think of computer-based passwords as keys of entry to your world. Do you use the same key for your residence, your automobiles, the locker at the club and the safety deposit box at your bank?

Like the different keys on your key ring, the use of different passwords for different websites and different web-based activities will significantly enhance computer-based security.

Distinct passwords and user names for each website (or category of websites) will create a digital firewall between separate digital assets. This simple step will thwart the efforts of an identity thief and minimize damage when (not if) a password is breached.

Changing those passwords once in a while will further enhance security. Password mining software can crack the average password in a surprisingly short period of time. Changing that password forces the process to start over from the very beginning.

Those that are well-organized, have great memories and like mental challenges will use a different password and user name for each website. It really isn't that difficult if your Digital Asset List is kept

