



Using Major League Baseball team names as passwords is a homerun for hackers

The Cincinnati Reds, America's oldest baseball team, may have one of Major League Baseball's worst pre-season odds to win the World Series, but the team sits alone in first place on Specops' breached password list.

This is according to new research, in advance of Opening Day 2021, which analyzed more than 800 million breached passwords (a subset of a larger list included with Specops Breached Password Protection of over 2 billion passwords) to determine the popularity of MLB team names and their mascots appearing on breached password lists. In total, research found that 'Cincinnati Reds' appears within breached password lists almost 150,000 times.

The Los Angeles Angels, Tampa Bay Rays, New York Mets and Minnesota Twins round out the top five MLB teams identified in the analysis. In contrast, the Arizona Diamondbacks, Toronto Blue Jays and Oakland Athletics are the least likely MLB team names to be used in passwords, research found.

Hackers are opportunistic and know to take advantage of current events, such as the start professional sports season.

The urgent need for stronger password management and authentication

There is perhaps no greater weakness to a company's cybersecurity posture than employee passwords. While increasing number of organizations are implementing password standards based on corporate security best practices or guidelines from organizations, many companies continue to allow their workers to create passwords with only minimal parameters in place.

Social engineering and AI-driven 'spray and pray' attacks are escalating the frequency and sophistication of attempted credential theft, meaning its easier than ever for an attacker to obtain passwords for nefarious reasons. To help reduce risk, all companies, regardless of size or industry, should at the very least block weak passwords. They should create compliant password policies and target password decline to enforce password length and complexity while blocking common character types at the beginning/end of passwords, as well as consecutively repeated characters.

Contact us today for more information about how PCS can help mitigate your organizations password-driven risks . In the meantime make sure not to use a password that is too easy to guess or is readily found on a breached password list.

Individuals wondering how to create better passwords should follow these five tips:

- Use at least 10 characters; the longer the password, the stronger it is.
- If you're going to use common words, insert a random character somewhere in the middle, like "Tige-rs" if you're a Detroit baseball fan.
- Use numbers and special characters, but avoid 1 and !, both of which are incredibly common.
- Capitalize at random, not just at the beginning of a word.

Use a password manager so you can create random, super-complex passwords and never have to remember them.

Businesses shouldn't put the onus solely on individuals, and should also do their part to enhance company password hygiene with these tips:

- Use automated password management tools that generate long, complex passwords and store them behind something more easily remembered.
- Force password changes regularly, but not as often as you think: Once a year will do it unless an account has been compromised, at which point the password should be changed immediately.
- Use multifactor authentication or single sign-on products and require users to use them.
- Balance user needs with security needs: If password rules are cumbersome people will find a convenient workaround that can compromise organizational security.
- Train users on what makes a good password, how to safely store them and other password safety policies and best practices.

D B R E Y Y A V S Q J X C F J T C I F S P J Z O
N T X C L W W K V E C O O K I E S H I A H W B P
F E H Z O Z R U M A U C M I T I N T R H I F G M
L H D L U A L S U R I V I T N A H Z E U S P Y E
A J R T M L T H E F T H W W V D F R W W H K M Q
N E K K Z M B B M W G N I F E I R G A P I Z W Z
B J O B F U B O I A M O G V V H J E L C N A U E
C O E K S N N M N K L O P V I R B R L G G Z E P
B P Y W G M Y L P Y R W K D N Q S O S M I Z A Z
H W N V V G O J S N E E A A I D H X W Y U U S R
G S C O A T A D C S D R O R X M Y Z Q V Q W G L
Q J H W I C O X B E I W F Q E Y N L I G X M N H
O E S G K T B A H E V F R M O N L I N E I H I R
E I B W I P P C E X O C A Z R T U B T N D U T O
J C G R U K A Y H H R E U T Q T L X P R E A T P
N Q I F C C P R R Z P Z D J Z Y Y M H C N F A J
T I Q V E F V D R C Y T C I N T E R N E T N U H
T J P L R U I R C D N B M S Y F D N T L I K Q N
N S Q R U E Y J L V L E F A R R B P G F T D S C
A F H F N C S K S Y J P D V C Z Y Z J N Y A R E
K Z I A D X K Y C C Y G X T I S E M S Q N B E I
G N I F O O P S Y S Y Q E H P Z F E Z F U Z B Z
M S S N H E R A W Y P S J K X C R M U R C K Y Z
D B B B S T O S W Y T O E A P T N O Y H G T C X

Cybersecurity
Word Search
Answer **KEY**





5 Reasons Why You Need to Start Right Now

If you missed your invitation to the party, here it is. Chances are that your competition is already using the Microsoft Office 365 suite of tools to maximize their productivity and grow their business, so why aren't you? This is a powerhouse of a platform that will change your business culture and deliver immediate results, and now it's more affordable than ever.

O365 is more than just another software product – it's an integrated experience of applications and services with a familiar face. It encompasses Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, OneNote and OneDrive – available on ALL of your devices, no matter the operating system. That's right – O365 is OS-agnostic and works on Windows-based PCs, Android devices, Mac OS and iOS. It also offers the options of these services: Exchange, SharePoint, Skype for Business and Microsoft Teams. Overwhelming, isn't it?

Microsoft has been providing solutions for some of the biggest companies in the world for decades. Now, with O365, they've raised the standard for business growth. Imagine bringing together all of your people, processes and technology and being able to manage all of that productivity seamlessly, all through cloud computing. Office 365 makes that a reality. And if you're not onboard with it yet, here are five reasons you need to be:

1. Ramp Up Your Productivity

Giving your staff the tools to produce their very best work not only raises morale but positively affects your bottom line. The 2018 "Forrester Consulting Report on the ROI of O365" concluded that the group of applications and services that make up O365 cut support time by 50%, saved mobile/field employees at least one hour per day and afforded analysts, managers and sales people the opportunity to make better and faster decisions because they had information in real-time. More productivity means better revenue and happy clients.





Where to Find Snapseed

Snapseed is a free photo-editing app available for both Android and iOS mobile devices. Snapseed is an artist's tool with advanced features and recommended for serious photographers, but its easy-to-use controls make it suitable for everyone who likes to play around with their images. For the pros, it's the app you use when you want to take a while to make an advanced image.

Snapseed is a Google acquisition acquired to beef up Google's photo capabilities. Now it's a Google app with powerful photo-editing filters you can use on your smartphone or tablet. Some see Snapseed as a response to Instagram, but it is intended to be part of a continuing effort by Google to improve its photo-editing and to share software in general. Nik Software — the company that initially made Snapseed — developed a wide range of photo filters and plug-in products, specializing in high dynamic range (HDR) filters. Google has continued to add tools to the app to increase its capabilities.

Give Snapseed a Try

The entire process is simple and self-explanatory. Snapseed is an important tool to have under your belt for those few occasions when you need something more.

Snapseed has over a million reviews on the Google Play Store with a 4.5/5 rating. On the Apple App Store, it has 6 thousand reviews with a 3.9/5 rating. The fact is, people really like it, and if you've never given it a try, you should.



Understanding the Cloud

The cloud is how our digital information is stored so it can be accessed remotely from anywhere.

Whether we know it or not, we access and use the cloud regularly. It could be a backup of our files, music, photos, or a social media or email service.

Although keeping data in the cloud should be relatively safe, there are risks if the proper security precautions are not met.

Cloud jacking occurs when a cybercriminal takes over a cloud account. They may get access by guessing a weak or compromised password, or through a social engineering attack. Once exposed, the cybercriminal has access to a wealth of information, potentially leading to a breach, blackmail, or identity theft.



TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE IN THE CLOUD

To best protect your sensitive personal and work-related information, construct your cloud accounts like a fortress. The stronger your defenses, the safer you will be.

Encrypt Your Files - Encryption will help protect files if your defenses fail. An encrypted file can only be accessed by the one with the encryption key. Encryption could be done by a cloud solution or by you.

Strong Passwords - Reinforce your fortress walls with strong and unique passwords. Enable Two-Factor Authentication for the strongest defense!

Research the Cloud Provider - To build the best fortress, you need the best tools and materials. Don't skimp with a cloud solution that doesn't have the security you need.

Sign out when not in use - Don't give a criminal an opportunity for cloud jacking by leaving your castle door open. Sign out of your account when finished, and avoid using a shared computer or letting your browser remember your cloud passwords.

DO NOT DISTURB

HOW TO ADD A STATUS MESSAGE
IN MICROSOFT TEAMS



Now that Microsoft Teams seems to have taken over many companies, people expect to know when you're available or not, especially when you're working remotely. Microsoft Teams has a visible status you can change depending on your availability as well as set a custom status message so your colleagues know what you're up to.

One way of letting your co-workers know that you're busy is by setting a status, which works when you're in meetings or set to Do Not Disturb. It doesn't work so well if your status is a bit more ambiguous, like "Away" or "Appear Offline," however.

Your status is displayed as a colored circle next to your profile. You can see this at all times in the top-right corner of Teams.

For more specific information, Microsoft Teams can display a written status message. If you're actually away from the office, then Teams will pick up your Out of Office (OOO) message from Microsoft Outlook and display that when anyone messages you in a chat.

Your OOO message will become visible in Teams if you click on your profile picture or avatar. Hover over the message to display a tooltip with the whole message if it's too long to read on-screen.

But you can also set a status message manually. Click your profile icon, then select "Set Status Message."

Enter your status message, turn on “Show When People Message Me,” set a time for the status message to end, then click “Done.”

Your message will now display whenever anyone messages or mentions you. This will be shown regardless of your Microsoft Teams status and will display (in Microsoft Teams) instead of your Outlook OOO message.

You can also see a person’s status in their profile next to a chat.

Microsoft Teams will change your status automatically under certain circumstances, such as when you’re in a meeting or video call, or if you’ve been inactive for a period of time. But you can also change it manually as well.

To do this, click on your profile in the top-right corner of the Teams application, select your current status, and change your status to whatever you want.

You can also set how long you want to remain in a particular status by clicking “Duration.”

Choose the status that you want and how long you want to remain in that status

Your status will automatically change back to “Available” when the duration is complete (or “Busy” if the end of the duration is at a time when you’re in a meeting or call).

You can also change your status from the Search box at the top of Microsoft Teams by typing in one of the following commands:

- **/available:** Sets your status to Available
- **/busy:** Sets your status to Busy
- **/dnd:** Sets your status to Do not disturb
- **/brb:** Sets your status to Be right back
- **/away:** Sets your status to Away
- **/offline:** Sets your status to Appear offline

If you like a keyboard shortcut, Ctrl+e will take you to the search box. So, to set your status to “Do not disturb” without leaving your keyboard, it’s Ctrl+e, followed by “/dnd.”

