**GSCE Booster; Network security**

**Handout 3 – Passwords**

1. Try out the passwords below on the site <https://www.security.org/how-secure-is-my-password/>
2. List how long it takes to crack them.
3. Explain what about the passwords makes them easy or hard to crack.

You may also want to try out some you create yourself.

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| Password text | Time to crack | What would be a better version and why? |
| password | Instant | Common password, better to avoid or adapt eg P@ssw0rd! |
| 123456 | Instant | Common password and predictable pattern. Better to add letters and symbols too  1&2t3%4n5)6m |
| password123 | 1 month | Common password – numbers make it slightly stronger but not enough. Add symbols to improve #password123! |
| G1antTurtle | 41 years | Good use of capitals and longish password better with symbols too G1@ntTurtle |
| G1antT&rtle | 4 hundred years | Good use of capitals, special character and longish password – even better with an unrelated word added G1antT&rtlekey |
| Pocketjuicetractor | 6 trillion years | Three random words. Add a symbol and a number to improve (not really needed though)  9Pocketjuicetractor@ |
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Write **four** rules for creating strong passwords.

1. Don’t use common words or combinations of keystrokes
2. Include capital letters,
3. Include numbers
4. Include special characters
5. Use long passwords
6. Do not include personal data, such as your name, in your password

Write **two** rules for using strong passwords

1. Don’t write your password down
2. Don’t use the same password everywhere
3. Do use a password manager
4. Don’t tell anyone your password