



## *How Strong Are Your Passwords?*

A Message from the President & CEO of Pioneer Bank, Jeff Whitrock

Today we live in a world of passwords. Strong passwords are an important protection to help you have safer online transactions. The greater the variety of characters in your passwords, the better.

According to FBI research, it may only take minutes for a computer hacker to uncover your password. How long will it take to hack your passwords? These are the startling results of the research:

- A password containing all numbers  
(example: 142332211)

*Answer: 1 to 2 minutes*

- A password containing numbers  
and common dictionary words  
(example: 1435tree)

*Answer: 22 minutes*

- A password containing letters only  
(example: bearhug)

*Answer: 5 hours, 48 minutes*

- A password containing letters  
(upper/lower case) and numbers  
(example: iLuvMydg2)

*Answer: 253 days*

- A password containing letters  
(upper/lower case), numbers and  
special keys (!@#%&\*)  
(example: iLuvMy\*dg2)

*Answer: 23 years*

### **Password Advice to Protect Your Accounts**

1. Never use your name in any form as your password.
2. Never use words from the English dictionary.
3. Never use personal information that is easy to obtain or guessed by someone who knows you.  
(example: social security number, phone or street)
4. Never use sequential numbers or letters. (example: 111,123 or abcd)
5. Always use a minimum of eight characters in your passwords, including upper and lower case letters, two numbers and one special key.
6. Treat your passwords with as much care as the information that they protect.

#### **Pioneer Bank - Auburndale**

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#### *8 Convenient Locations:*

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