



Password Security

There are just a few keystrokes between you and your private information. Choosing strong passwords for your online accounts is one of the easiest, yet most important, steps you can take to secure your internet information.

Take a look at the chart below. It would take a hacker less than a second to crack a six-character password containing numbers only, lowercase letters only or upper and

lowercase letters. It would take a hacker 7 quadrillion years to crack an 18-character password made up of symbols, numbers, upper and lowercase letters.

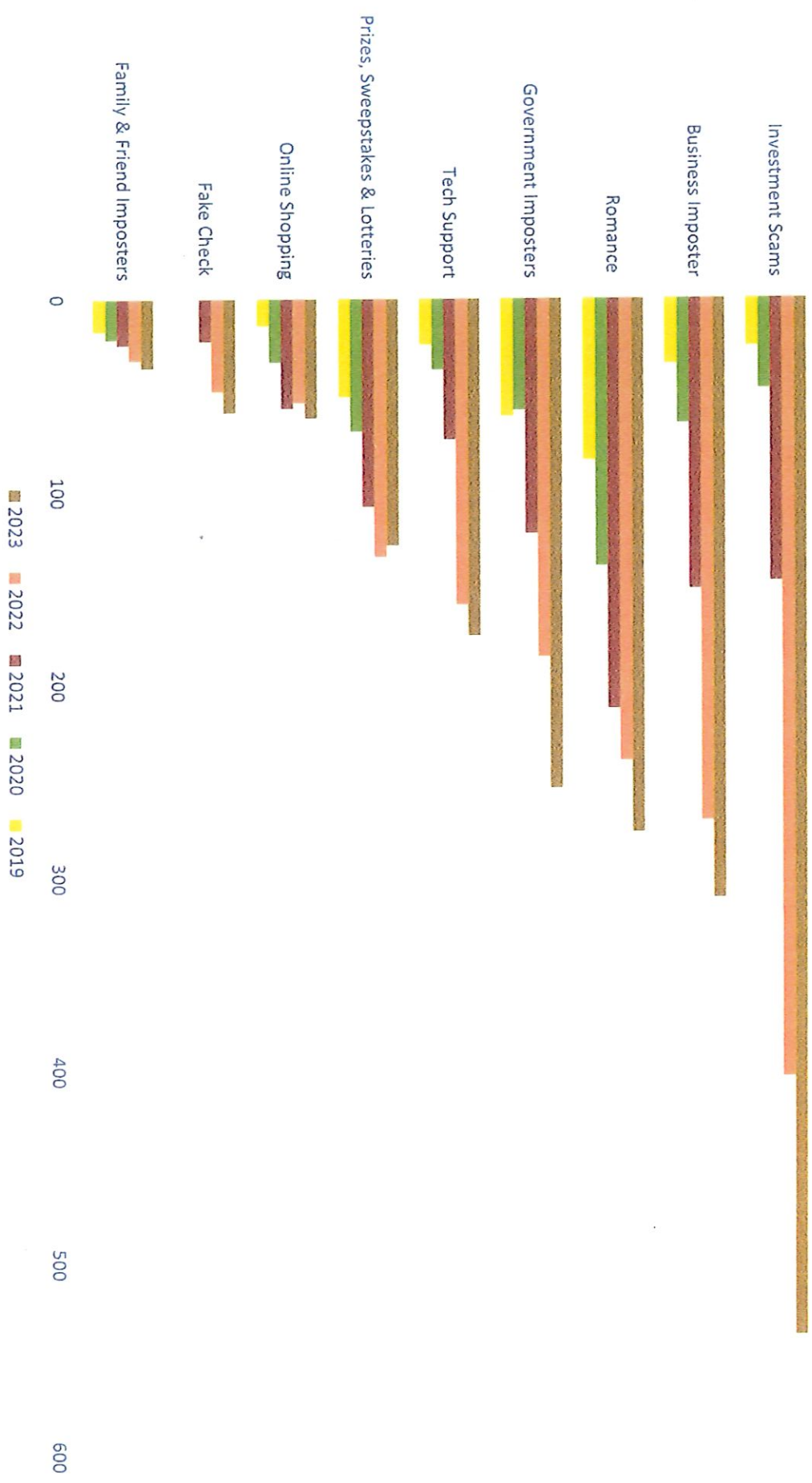
Many sites require you to choose a password of a minimum length (usually seven to ten characters) and a mixture of lower and uppercase letters, numeric digits (0-9), and special characters like "#\$%_-= " and so forth. Using more special characters, and making it as long as possible, make the password stronger and harder to guess.

How Long Would it Take a Hacker to Guess Your Password?

Number of Characters	Numbers Only	Lowercase Letters	Upper & Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper & Lowercase Letters	Symbols, Numbers, Upper & Lowercase Letters
4	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
6	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	1 second	5 seconds
8	Instantly	5 seconds	22 minutes	1 hour	8 hours
10	Instantly	58 minutes	1 month	7 months	5 years
12	25 seconds	3 weeks	300 years	2,000 years	34,000 years
14	41 minutes	51 years	800,000 years	9 million years	200 million years
16	2 days	34,000 years	2 billion years	37 billion years	1 trillion years
18	9 months	23 million years	6 trillion years	100 trillion years	7 quadrillion years

Estimates from <https://www.security.org/how-secure-is-my-password/>

FTC Top Scams 2019 - 2023





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Please Report Scams

If you spot a scam, please report it to the Federal Trade Commission.

- Go online: **ReportFraud.ftc.gov**
- Call the FTC at 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357)
or TTY 1-866-653-4261

Your report can help protect other people. By reporting fraud, you can help the FTC's investigators identify the scammers and stop them before they can get someone's hard-earned money. It really makes a difference.



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