

Name _____ Date _____

Strong Passwords

Strong passwords help protect your computer, your files, and your school and online accounts from being tampered with.

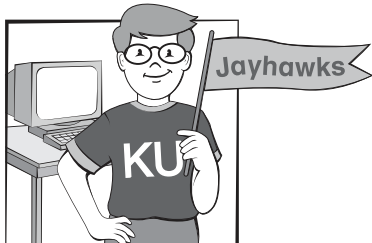
You can avoid many hassles by following these security tips.

- Only your parents should know your password.
- Never give a password to anyone else—not even your friends.
- Don't use passwords that are easy to guess—like your nickname or your pet's name.
- Never use any private identity information in your password.
- Don't use a word in the dictionary as a password.
- Create passwords with at least eight characters.
- Use combinations of letters, numbers, and symbols, which are harder to crack than just words.
- Change your password regularly—at least every six months.

Be Cyber**Smart!**[®]

Know the kinds of private identity information:

- full (first and last) name
- postal address
- e-mail address
- phone numbers
- passwords
- calling card numbers
- credit card numbers
- Social Security number
- mother's maiden name



Jesse lives in Lawrence, Kansas—the home of the University of Kansas. He is a big fan of the Kansas Jayhawks men's basketball team. Jesse chose "jayhawks" as his password. Did he make a safe choice? Why or why not?

Sondra lives in Miami, Florida. Her birthday is August 4 and she swims on a team. Her password is "soswim84." How did Sondra choose her password? Was it a safe choice? Why or why not?

Activity Using the tips above, make new passwords for Jesse and Sondra. Try making up a sentence and changing it into a series of letters, symbols, and numbers. Explain how Jesse and Sondra will remember their passwords.

Jesse _____

Sondra _____