

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.”

-William Arthur

## Holiday Hours

We will be closed a few days to celebrate the Holidays with our families and friends.

### Thanksgiving

November 24th & 25th

### Christmas

December 23rd & 26th

### New Years

January 2nd

We would like to say thank you to all of our customers and friends. We sincerely appreciate your business!

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## THE MUST HAVES IN APPS



If you have a smart phone you probably already have the basic Apps such as Facebook and Google Maps, but what Apps would make your Smartphone easier to use, more secure and of course, more fun?

The first thing to take note of when choosing an app is to check the minimum requirements for each app to make sure that it can run on your phone. Also, remember that downloading apps counts against your monthly data-usage limit.

Let's start with the easier. If you have a lot of friends, and they use different instant messaging then [Imo Chat](#) is for you. This allows you to sign in to the most popular instant messengers all at the same time. Want to up your productivity? Then try [Gmote](#). This app lets you move the cursor on your PC or Mac by using the phone's touchscreen. It's a great way to open and close windows on your desktop or laptop when it's across the room. You know all those retail rewards cards on your keychain or in your wallet? Use your phone camera to scan in the cards and access your cards from the [CardStar](#) app. If you are like me, writing things down is key. [Evernote](#) lets you sync notes with your computer and your mobile device. Access your notes from anywhere you have access to a web browser.

Password security is always an issue. With [SuperPassword](#) or [1Password](#), you can store all

the passwords you need on your phone under a high level of encryption. If your phone is lost or stolen the chance of someone finding this important information is slim. And if you have lost your phone you'll wish you had [Find My iPhone](#). This free app for all iPhone/iPod and iPad users shows the devices' approximate location on a map.

We all know that apps need to be fun! We have [Netflix](#) and [Hulu Plus](#) for the movie buff and [Pandora](#) for discovering new music based off your favorite artist or song. Does it drive you crazy when you can't remember who the artist to a song is? [Shazam](#) will "listen" to the song for a minute and let you know who sings it. [UrbanSpoon](#) will help you know where to eat if you are visiting an unfamiliar city. UrbanSpoon will also reserve a table for you and get you directions. Try [Epicurious](#) for help planning what's for dinner. Browse and save recipes, create shopping lists or search by what is in your fridge to find a recipe you can make tonight

You can find these apps and so many more my searching in the app marketplace for your phone. You'll probably have to set up an account and it may cost a few dollars, but you will find a plethora of handy and fun tools for your phone.

Source: PCWorld



# BEING SMART ABOUT PASSWORDS

Do you use passwords with names and common dictionary words? The recent survey from ZoneAlarm shows 79% of consumers use risky passwords, including using personal information and common words. 16% of consumers create passwords using a person's first name.

## The top 20 commonly used passwords:

|           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| 123456    | Nicole   |
| 12345     | Daniel   |
| 123456789 | babygirl |
| Password  | monkey   |
| iloveyou  | Jessica  |
| Princess  | Lovely   |
| Rockyou   | michael  |
| 1234567   | Ashley   |
| 12345678  | 654321   |
| abc123    | Qwerty   |

To keep the cyper crimminals from figuring out your password in no time avoid:

- Any dictionary word in any language
- Common misspellings, abbreviations and words spelled backwards.
- Keyboard patterns or sequential characters like 123456 or abc
- Any personal information like your name, nickname, spouse's name, birthday, SS number, phone number or driver's license
- User name, account name, computer name or email address

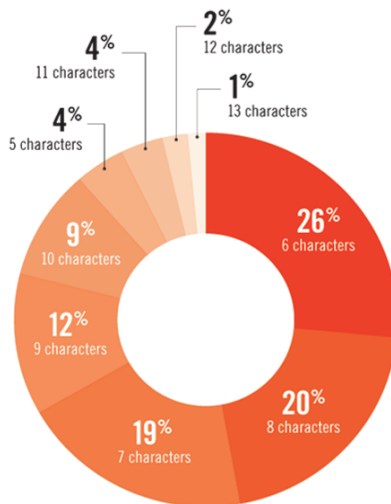
So, what does a good, strong password look like? NASA guidelines recommend all passwords be at least eight characters. The more characters the better and use a mix of four different types of characters. Use a combination of

### UPPER CASE LETTERS

lower case letters

1234567890 (numbers)

!@#\$%^&\* (special characters)



## HOW LONG ARE YOUR PASSWORDS?

The most common password length is 6 characters.

How can you create a strong password that you can remember easily?

Think of something meaningful to you and make up a sentence or two of about 10 words total. Use the first letter of every word to make an acronym. Make the first or last letters in your acronym uppercase. Put a number or two that is meaningful to you in the middle. Add a special character or punctuation at the beginning or end. Something like, "Three blind mice see how they run" is 3BMshtr\$

How often should you change your passwords?

Regulations like HIPPA and SOX require password resets at 90 to 120 days.

One last thing, don't use the same password for everything. The problem with using the same password for everything is that if it is compromised, the rest of your identity is at risk. You don't want in inadvertently give away the keys to the kingdom.

Source: Zonealarm.com

## EYE ON IT Industry Trends

### Amazon Kindle Fire

Everyone seems to want an iPad these days. As I am doing a little bit of looking, I don't think Amazon's Kindle Fire should be overlooked as an option for who are looking into a tablet.

Starting with price, Apple's iPad starts at \$499 where as the Kindle Fire is half that at \$199. Saving a bit of cash is always a good way to get me listening. If you are looking for something a little smaller to fit, let's say, in a purse or a large pocket, the Kindle Fire is just 7". But what about Apps? Good question, a tablet is only good as the Apps you can put on it. Amazon is known for the content it offers, and you can rent, buy, or preview pretty much any digital product Amazon sells from the Kindle Fire. Some of the popular Apps available are Pandora, Netflix, Twitter, Rhapsody, The Weather Channel, Comics by comiXology, and games by Zynga, Rovio, EA, Gameloft, and PopCap. More Apps are popping up everyday.

Storage isn't an issue either. At first glance you may notice that the Kindle Fire only has half the space of an iPad at 8 GB, but it really isn't an issue as it is designed to rely heavily on the cloud. The Amazon Cloud Drive stores your music and video on the web, and Kindle Fire owners get free storage for all Amazon-bought content.

If you like what Amazon Prime has going on, then Kindle Fire is a wonderful compliment to Amazon's digital abundance. It's not as powerful or capable as an iPad, but it's a sliver of the price and quite a show stopper on its own.