



According to the New York Times, a retired, Romanian taxi driver hacked in the email accounts of some of the world's most powerful people, including George W. Bush.

He did it with one simple trick; **he guessed the correct passwords**. The man used logic, trial and error, and information found on the internet. In fact, according to Google, 24% of Americans have used the word "password," "Qwerty" or "123456" as their password.

Ensuring the security of your business or personal accounts is not always simple; however, there are simple measures you can take to ensure a higher level of safety.

Shred Old Files

Your mail is protected by federal law, but when opened mail is thrown away, so are the federal rights protecting you. Instead of possibly exposing health records, private information, and bank information, shred all personal files or mail.

Share Less Online

Always check your privacy settings when creating an online profile. Understand exactly what you'll be sharing with others - friends and strangers.

Additionally, avoid oversharing. Not only does it make you a target for theft (80% of robbers apparently check social media for potential targets), but sharing inappropriate information could make you less likely to get approved by a landlord or hired by a company.

Encrypt Your Hard Drive

If your computer's hard drive is taken out and attached to another computer, your data can be transferred. To protect that data and yourself, encrypt your hard drive to prevent access without your encryption key.

On a Mac, you can easily encrypt your hard drive in a few easy steps with FileVault. You can also encrypt your phone (the newest iPhones are encrypted by default).

Set Up Two-Step Authentication

According to Google, their authenticator can protect an account from up to 100% of automated attacks. Two-Step Authentication requires a second form of authentication in addition to your "regular password" every time you access your account. Take the extra 30 seconds now and secure your data for a lifetime.