

Can Thieves Crack Your Code?

Many of us use our smartphones for more than answering emails, sending texts and connecting with friends on social media; we may also use them to manage bank accounts, pay bills and apply for jobs. While having them makes it easier to manage our lives, it also makes our information more vulnerable to thieves and hackers. Using a lock screen on your iPhone or Android-powered smartphone may make it more difficult for hackers and thieves to break into your phone, as long as you have a strong passcode.

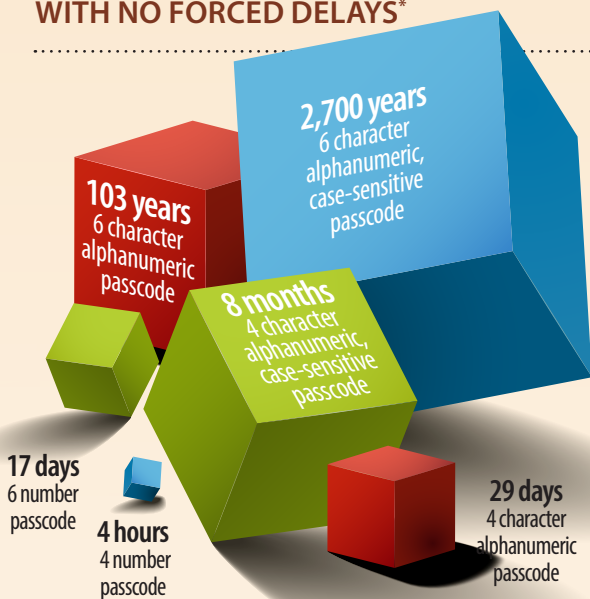


Experts recently attempted to crack the code of Apple iPhones that used built-in time delays to prevent people and computers from breaking into an iPhone.* What they found is that the stronger your passcode, the less of a chance someone will be able to break into your phone and access your information. While these stats only pertain to Apple devices, the bottom line is one that pertains to everyone, regardless of the type of smartphone used: The stronger you make your password, the tougher it is to crack, by man or machine.

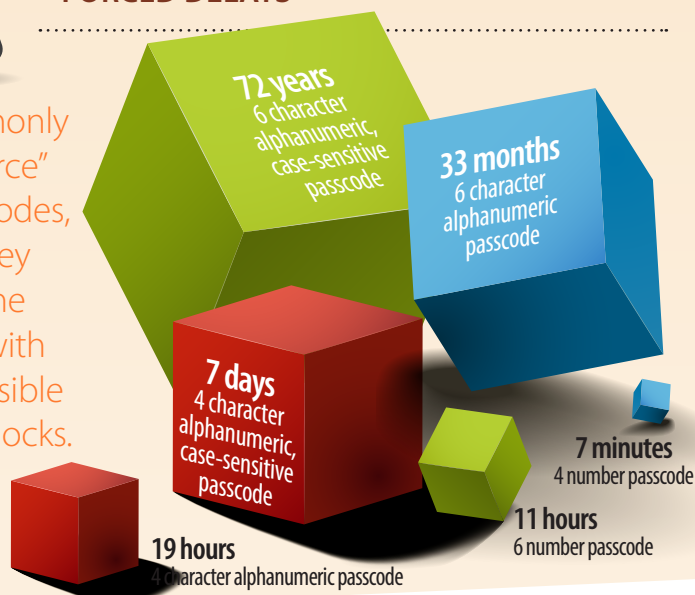
THE AVERAGE TIME IN WHICH A PERSON COULD HACK INTO YOUR PHONE BY HAND, WITH NO FORCED DELAYS*



THE AVERAGE TIME IN WHICH A COMPUTER COULD UNLOCK YOUR PHONE, WITH NO FORCED DELAYS*



Hackers commonly use "brute force" to break passcodes, meaning they bombard the lock screen with a series of possible PINs until it unlocks.



CREATE A MORE SECURE PASSWORD

The ideal password uses a combination of capital and lowercase letters, symbols and numbers.

- **For your phone**, 6 characters may be ideal.
- **For the web**, keep it between 8 - 15 letters. Avoid full words, as hackers often use dictionary hacking programs to crack passwords.

Example: It's a sunny day. laSD(3*3

Remember to use different passwords for different sites. Using the same password makes it easier for hackers to access your information.

*Source: Fortune Magazine March 15, 2016