Seven Safety Tips in using free e-mail services

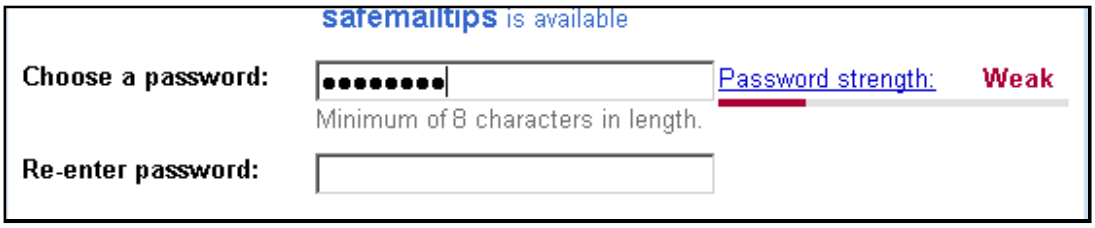
Nowadays everyone needs an e-mail address and almost everyone has one mostly due to free e-mail services. But how many of us are concerned about the safety of our e-mail account? These are few tips we suggest you to follow in order to make your e-mail account safe.

1. Creating an e-mail account

There are numerous e-mail service providers giving away free e-mail services with varying benefits to the users. It is safe to use a well known service provider because of the stability of the service would be a concern in the long run. However since these services are free there is no guarantee for the safety of your mail. Do not store personal photos, confidential documents, etc in the mail account. Send copies of your important mails to a reliable account, save to a disk etc.

2. Using the right type of password

Having the right kind of password is a critical step in creating an e-mail account for you. In some e-mail services like Google the strength of the password is shown as you type.



When you are selecting a password remember to,

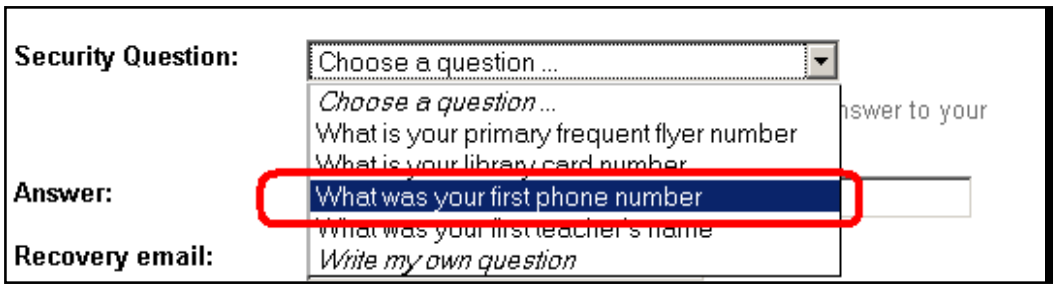
a. have 8 or more characters to your password

b. use a combination of letters numbers and special characters

c. Do not use easily guessable words , example yourname@123 , product names , etc

3. Choosing the correct security question

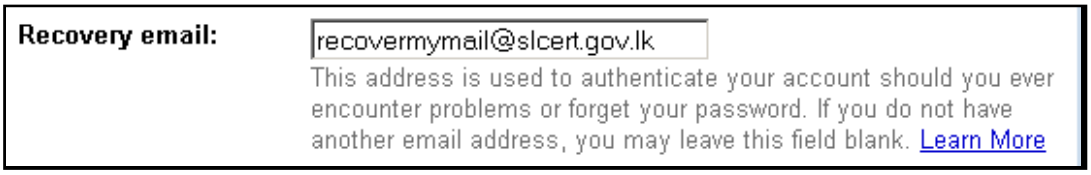
In case you lost access to your e-mail account there is a way to recover it by contacting the mail service provider and giving the correct answer to your security question. But here also you can see some of the answers to the security question is easily guessable if the person knows about your background etc.



Therefore you can use an uncommon question or write your own question and answer which is the safest.

4. To recover you need a recovery mail

Always have a recovery mail address associated to the e-mail account in case you lost access to your e-mail account through hacking or forgetting the password etc. Always remember once your account is compromised a recovery mail address is essential to regain access.



5. Watch account activity

Some e-mail services provide a simple table with account activity details which is quite useful to detect any unusual logins.

6. Keep a backup of your contact list separately

It becomes very useful when you face a situation where your account is compromised and the hacker is sending scam mails by your name. To mitigate the situation the first thing you should do is inform your contacts about the scam using your backup contact list.

7. Do not fall for scams

Some email users have lost money to bogus offers that arrived as spam in their in-box. Con artists are very cunning; they know how to make their claims seem legitimate. Some spam messages ask for your business, others invite you to a website with a detailed pitch. Either way, these tips can help you avoid spam scams:

- Protect your personal information. Share credit card or other personal information only when you're buying from a company you know and trust.
- Know who you're dealing with. Don't do business with any company that won't provide its name, street address, and telephone number.
- Take your time. Resist any urge to "act now" despite the offer and the terms. Once you turn over your money, you may never get it back.
- Read the small print. Get all promises in writing and review them carefully before you make a payment or sign a contract.
- Never pay for a "free" gift. Disregard any offer that asks you to pay for a gift or prize. If it's free or a gift, you shouldn't have to pay for it. Free means free.

10 Scams to Screen from Your Email

1. The "Nigerian" Email Scam
2. Phishing
3. Work-at-Home Scams
4. Weight Loss Claims
5. Foreign Lotteries
6. Cure-All Products
7. Check Overpayment Scams
8. Pay-in-Advance Credit Offers
9. Debt Relief
10. Investment Schemes