

Security, Passwords & Other things - 12.2.12

I've recently come across several articles that I thought might be of interest to you.

When I first meet with you, one of the items I give you is a Password Book. With our lives online more than ever, remembering the deluge of passwords for something as innocuous as our newspaper subscription to more sensitive information such as our bank accounts is harder than ever. If you are like most people, you probably stick with one password or a variation thereof and use that throughout all of your online accounts.

Here is an article that will throw a wrinkle to that strategy. Both Yahoo and LinkedIn recently had their databases invaded with millions of passwords being posted online. Scary stuff.

Anyhow, here is some insightful reading that will hopefully drive you to a more secure online existence:

http://www.macworld.com/article/2014039/what-you-don-t-know-about-passwords-might-hurt-you.html#tk.nl_applework

http://www.macworld.com/article/2016925/when-password-security-questions-arent-secure.html#tk.nl_mwdaily

http://www.macworld.com/article/2014040/how-to-remember-passwords-and-which-ones-you-should.html#tk.nl_mwdaily

Here is an article about making your devices more secure:

(just a quick note on this however, I have never put a password on the FireVault - if you forget this password, you may as well reset the entire computer and lose all of your data).

http://www.macworld.com/article/2015205/security-tips-for-mac-travelers.html#tk.nl_mwhelp

On this note, my son's iPhone was recently stolen at college. Big Bummer as 1) it wasn't locked and 2) I didn't purchase assurance insurance for the phone.

When many of you purchase devices, you ask me about the insurance to purchase. I like the apple care warranty b/c it's reasonable at \$99 for two years of service and the option to REPLACE your phone twice (if your phone is damaged & you have it in hand) for a \$49 service fee.

Assurance, however, goes way beyond that but at a significant cost. For Verizon users, it costs \$9.99 per month per device and should you lose your phone, you pay between \$169-\$199 (for an iPhone)** with a maximum of 2 replacements in a 12 month time period. If you should never lose your phone, over two years you've paid \$240 for the option to pay \$200 for a new phone. I don't know, but it adds up.

On another note, buying a phone on the open market is a fools game. Once a phone is lost or stolen, report it IMMEDIATELY to your carrier. Most of these phones are sold on ebay or some other open market. However, once reported stolen, if someone brings it to Verizon to put a phone number on it, it will be confiscated. If they try this over the phone, Verizon advises them to hand it in, but they will probably just resell it again.

If you want to discuss any of these items further or need help locking your devices, please feel free to give me a holler.

Hope everyone has a safe holiday.

Next e-mail will be about different e-mail providers (such as Verizon, aol, etc...) and the pitfalls of some versus others.

Have a great day.

Carol

**http://m-support.verizonwireless.com/clc/features/calling_features/equipment_protection.html