

Q&A on Information Technology Security

1. What can you do to keep passwords safe by following (e.g., password, password construction) guidelines and password protection guidelines.

- x Another important component of maintaining the security of your user account is avoiding or preventing what are referred to as “social engineering attacks.”

2. What are password construction guidelines?

Password construction guidelines identify what types of passwords are likely to increase the security of your user account, and what types of passwords are likely to decrease the security of your account. In general, you should seek to have strong passwords, rather than poor or weak passwords.

3. What are characteristics of poor or weak passwords?

Poor or weak passwords frequently have one or more of the following characteristics:

- x The password contains less than eight characters;
- x The password is a word found in a dictionary (English or foreign);
- x The password is used for more than one University of Dallas or University of Dallas account; or
- x The password is a common usage word such as:
 - o Names of family/pets, friends, coworkers, fantasy characters, etc.,
 - o Computer terms and names, commands, sites, companies, hardware, or software;
 - o

