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PASSWORD CHECKER

Are your passwords safe? Too few of us really know given all the data breaches and leaks that have taken place. Many alerts focus on credit card exposure, but the threat that your account password was compromised should give you the same concern. Why? Because most of us use the same password for multiple accounts, including email. Just imagine a hacker who can login and view emails from your bank, credit cards, and anyone you do business with. Some hackers do this secretly so they can create new accounts and compromise your existing ones without alerting you. That's just plain scary.



Google recently announced it developed an extension for its Chrome browser that automatically scans the passwords typed by users and checks them against known leaked databases. If it finds a match, it then alerts you to change your password, and offers some suggestions to make your new password more secure. Called [Password Checkup](#), it's available as a free download for Google Chrome users.

Google recommends not choosing common passwords like "123456" and "password." It also suggests avoiding using the same password on different websites.

Making sure passwords are secure should be a normal part of your cybersecurity precautions. Google's tool just makes the process a whole lot less painful for the rest of us.

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Credit Card Security Scam

Imagine this scenario: You receive a call from your credit card company - let's say it's VISA, for this exercise. "VISA Security Department" is showing up on your [caller ID display](#), so you pick up. The caller says "This is Jamie from the VISA Fraud Protection Department. Sorry to bother you, we've identified suspicious activity on your Visa card and believe it may be fraudulent. Did you purchase gas for \$87 in Burbank, California?" You didn't and quickly say no. "We thought so. Did you lose your card?" she asks. You didn't and confirm you have it. Jamie asks "We need to confirm your identity. Can you answer a couple of security questions before we proceed?" It all sounds exactly like you've heard before. Next Jamie asks to confirm your card number and three digit security code on the back. You read them to her and she says "That's correct, your money will be refunded in five business days."

Unfortunately it's a scam and not only won't you get a refund, they're already making charges on your account. Scammers get names, addresses, numbers from social media, data breaches, or subscribers lists sold to third parties. All they need is the credit card number and security code on the back This scam has also been reported as a robocall asking you to press a number to speak with a security agent. Avoid this scam by hanging up and [calling your lender](#) using the number on the card itself. [Learn more about credit card scams](#) and share this info with your family and friends. *Forbes, Scam-Detector, Bis Insider

MISSED JURY DUTY SCAM

It's been around for years and [Florida officials are again issuing warnings](#). Here's how it works: You receive a call (or email) that claims to be a [law enforcement officer](#), state attorney or a court official saying that you failed to show for [state](#) or [federal](#) jury duty. Your caller ID will even show the name of a real government office or official. The scammer says a fine was imposed and if it's not paid, a warrant will be issued for your arrest. You're then told to send a wire transfer payment or send a prepaid debit card. They may also ask for your birthdate, SSN #, or other info used to steal your identity.



If you did miss jury duty, typically you'll get a failure to appear notice by mail, from the clerk of the court with instructions to contact them. **The courts, law enforcement, and state attorneys will not call or e-mail you threatening arrest if you don't pay.** They never ask for a payment by wire transfer, or pre-paid debit card.

If you receive a call like this hang up, don't give out any information, then report it to your local law enforcement [and the FTC](#).

The Jury Duty Scam is part of a group known as Imposter Scams. Read more about the tricks government imposters use and how to beat their scams by visiting the [FTC](#) and Florida [CFO Jimmy Patronis](#) websites.

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