# CYBER SECURITY KEYPOINTS

## March

*From the County Network Security Cooperative*

## Best Practices for Password Management

- Use strong, unique passwords 12 to 16 characters long with a mix of upper and lower case letters, symbols and numbers.
- Make passwords that are hard to guess but easy to remember.
- Avoid using the same password on multiple logins.
- NEVER reveal your passwords to others.
- Require changing network users primary login password at least every four months.

## What is Multi-Factor Authentication and 2FA?

Multi-factor authentication (MFA) is a multi-step account login process that requires users to enter more information than just a password. For example, along with the password, users might be asked to enter a code sent to their email or a biometrics reader.

### Prove it's you with two!. . .

2FA (Two-Factor Authentication) is a security system that requires two separate, distinct forms of identification in order to access online content. A second form of authentication can help prevent unauthorized account access if a system password has been compromised. Authentication devices are most commonly an application used on a smartphone or a key fob device with numeric codes that change in timed intervals.

## Consider using a Password Manager

A password manager is an app on your phone, tablet or computer that stores your passwords, so you don't need to remember them. Once you've logged into the password manager using a 'master' password, it will generate and remember your passwords for all your online accounts. These tools will generate complex passwords.

## Remove your vulnerabilities

Using a single password to protect your accounts is akin to placing all your eggs in one basket. It opens up a gateway for hackers to exploit, especially if you use predictable passwords or reuse them across multiple platforms. Without MFA, a cybercriminal only needs to crack or guess your password once to gain unauthorized access to your personal information, financial data, or even steal your identity. Cybercrime has become a multi-billion dollar enterprise.

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