PASSWORDS

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Passwords. They have become an essential, although pain in the neck, part of our lives. Everything requires a password. Access to our bank accounts, cell phones, social media. You name it and it requires a password. Heck, we'll probably need a password to take a shower in the near future. Upper case, lower case, numbers and special characters. Keep them secret and secure, somewhere where no one else can see them, so that when you forget your password you can look it up, that is, if you remember where you wrote them down. And that's just in our personal life. Fortunately most of those passwords don't require resetting on a regular basis.

Just like in our personal lives, our professional lives are being consumed by passwords. As more and more information, data and reports are required to be submitted electronically, we are required to create more and more user accounts. Those user accounts require, you guessed it, passwords. The requirements are similar to those in our personal life. Upper case, lower case, numbers and special characters. Keep them secret and secure, somewhere where no one else can see them, so that when you forget your password you can look it up, that is, if you remember where you wrote them down. Unlike the passwords in our personal life, these passwords require resetting on a regular basis.

The CDX/NetDMR reporting tool, something we use on a regular basis, requires regular password resetting. The password must be reset every 90 days with a reset cycle of 10, which means you cannot use the same password that you used the previous 10 times. Pain in the ankle, right? So we just put a 1 in the password, and in 90 days change it to 2 and so on until the 11th reset when you go back to 1. Sounds logical, right? Unfortunately, according to a technician from the CDX help desk, the software has identified this practice as a potential security risk and may lock you out after several resets using this method. Their suggestion is to create a list of 10 passwords. You can use some of the same words, numbers etc. just jumble the order in which they are presented. Example: MyFavoritePet@1, then Favorite1Pet@My and so on. Just keep track of where you are on the list.

Everbridge/NY-Alert is a tool that you hopefully won't have to use often but requires regular password resetting. According to a technician from the NY-Alert help desk, this password must be reset every 180 days with a reset cycle of 3. So, on the 4th reset you can use your first password again. You can use the same passwords that you use for CDX/NetDMR.

CDX/NetDMR is something you use monthly so keeping the password current is not much of an issue. Everbridge/NY-Alert, on the other hand, might be used only occasionally, if ever. Out of sight, out of mind, so to speak. The time to try and reset that password is not when you have an event to report. How do you remember to reset the password? One possible solution is to change it every time you change your CDX/NetDMR password. So you're changing it every three months instead of twice a year, but knowing you can access the site and submit a report if need be is more comforting than trying to reset during an event. An ounce of prevention.

If you have any questions regarding CDX/NetDMR, Everbridge/NY-Alert or passwords, please contact us at 518-828-3155. Remember to keep track of your passwords. Write them down. Keep them secret and secure, somewhere where no one else can see them, so that when you forget your password you can look it up, that is, if you remember where you wrote them down. schedule smoke testing or televising. 💧💧💧