



# An InfoSec Priority Alert!

## Are you compromised?

Nobody likes Mondays...

June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Just another Monday? Not on your cyber-life! CyberNews<sup>1</sup> reported that a whopping 100GB text file containing a staggering 8.4 billion password entries was leaked on a popular hacker forum. This file presumably combines data stolen via previous data breaches and leaks. It is a good bet to think one or more of your **personal** credentials were listed in this data dump. Much of this data comes from online breaches. **PenFed systems were not compromised.** However, if you use a work email address to register for an online service, change the password for those accounts.

### How can you protect yourself?

- **Always** create unique passwords for each account/system, you use. **Never** share passwords between your personal life and work.
- **Always** create strong passwords. A strong password:
  - Is greater than 12 characters – the longer the better. Consider using a passphrase, something like “It was the best of times, it was the worst of time”
  - Use a mix of capital, lowercase, numbers and special characters. Using the example above, there are capital and lowercase letters, the space character is a special character, so we just need to add a number. Try simple substitution: i=1; o=0 e=3, etc. For example: “It was the best Of times, it was the worst of time”. The letter o in of was replaced with a zero
- Use a password manager. Whether it is paid for or free, online or on your device, password managers make it easy to adhere to all the best practices above. The extra second it takes to copy and paste from your password manager is well worth the extra security it provides.
- Enable two-factor authentication (2FA) wherever it is available (Facebook, LinkedIn, online banking, etc.). If your password does end up in the wrong hands, 2FA lowers the chances that hackers can take over your account.

Becoming a cyber victim is more “when” than “if”. Following the guidance above, helps reduce the risk and likelihood that you will be a cyber statistic.

**Remember, Security is Everyone’s Responsibility**



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<sup>1</sup> <https://bgr-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/bgr.com/tech/data-leak-exposes-biggest-password-trove-of-all-time-online-5930388/amp/>