

# Tips for Creating Usernames and Passwords

## Don't Use:

- Your real first or last name
- Your age
- Your phone number
- Your zip code or location
- A suggestive, obscene, or pornographic name or word
- A derogatory term

## Do Use:

- Something original and creative
- A nickname (i.e., junior, bud, missy)
- A name that references a hobby or skill (i.e., skaterkid)
- A name that references a favorite character (i.e., Daria, Wonderwoman, HarryPotter)
- A name that references your favorite band (i.e., KornKid29)

## If the name you really REALLY want is taken:

- ✓ Try adding a double letter to the beginning (i.e., Hhermione)
- ✓ Add the current year or the year you graduate at the end (i.e. Hermione2007)
- ✓ Separate words with an underscore (i.e., Hermione\_Granger)
- ✓ Change the spelling or spell in LEET (i.e., H3rm10n3)

## Password Tips:

- ◆ At least 6 to 8 characters
- ◆ Combinations of letters and numbers
- ◆ Personally meaningful for easy remembering
- ◆ Not obvious or easy to figure out

## Resources:

[Behind the Name](http://www.behindthename.com). www.behindthename.com

First names from many cultures

[Leet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leet). en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leet

Wikipedia entry on leet, a written form of alphanumeric slang used online and in gaming

[PC Tools](http://www.pctools.com/guides/password/). www.pctools.com/guides/password/

Random password generator