

Password Safety Gets a Major Overhaul

Last week came a piece of advice that's directly applicable to Charlottesville real estate matters. To a greater or lesser degree, it also impinges on every one of your online accounts that attempt to safeguard your privacy—for instance, when you log into your account here on my Charlottesville real estate site.

The news is about web passwords and security. For more than a decade we have been offered a choice:

- If we care about our security—that is, the possibility of being hacked by internet bad guys—we've been cautioned to create passwords with long combinations of obscure characters (like ^, @, !, or %) interspersed between capital and lowercase letters and numbers—preferably in an order which makes no sense at all. And to change them every 90 days.
- The other choice was to throw caution to the winds, cross our fingers, and make our passwords simple and memorable.

This advice originated with the National Institute of Standards and Technology in a pamphlet written by a mid-level manager named Bill Burr. Last week, Mr. Burr—who is now 72—admitted that much of the old advice was misguided. The recommended complexity had actually had a negative effect. “Much of what I did,” he said, “I now regret.”

So what *ARE* the new rules for creating your passwords—for my Charlottesville real estate site and all the other password-protected sites? The new, rewritten guidelines suggest long, easy-to-remember phrases. The Wall Street Journal reported that “*correct horse battery staple*” (written as one long word) would take 550 years to crack, as opposed to the three days it would take to break “*TrOub4dor&3*.”

And better yet: forget about changing those passwords all the time. Change them only if there is an indication they've been stolen. It's not every day that life gets easier—but this looks like it could be one of them.

Another way to make life easier when Charlottesville real estate matters are at hand: check in with me. When you call me at the office, you won't even need a password!



kw | **charlottesville**

SETH BATTON

REALTOR, ABR®, e-PRO®

Born and raised in the Shenandoah Valley of Central Virginia, I love everything outdoors. Most of my free time is spent hiking, rock climbing, playing water sports, or cooking out on the back deck with friends. As a child, my parents built me with the core values of a southern gentleman. Trust starts with honesty and honesty builds integrity. I'm a technology guru! One of my favorite hobbies is restoring old homes in depressed neighborhoods to meet the needs of our generation today. My mission is to build a career worth having, a business worth owning, and a life worth living.

I'm an Accredited Buyer's Representative (ABR) with the National Association of Realtors. Which means I have extensive training to help walk you through the home buying process from start to finish. From lenders and home inspectors to mortgage agents and closing companies, together we will find the best home for your family's needs!

As an e-PRO®, I can show your home to over 500 million visitors today. And you don't even need to vacuum! Curb appeal isn't just about looking good from the street. It's about looking good from the digital highway!

For more information contact me at:

Seth Batton, Realtor

3510 Remson Ct., Suite 301

Charlottesville, VA 22901

(c) 540-241-1877

(w) 434-220-2200

SethBatton.com

seth@FindHomesInCharlottesville.com



Copyright 2017 Keller Williams® Realty, Inc. If you have a brokerage relationship with another agency, this is not a solicitation. All information deemed reliable but not guaranteed. Each office is independently owned and operated.