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How do you change your windows password

Your Windows account password may be a local user account password or the same password as your Microsoft account. Whichever you're using, you can change it from the Settings app and sign in with a different password. You can also change your password through Microsoft's website (if it's a Microsoft account) or change a forgotten password from the sign-in screen. Change Your Password from the Settings App You can change your password from the Settings app, whether it's a local password or a Microsoft account password. Click the Start button and select the "gear" icon shown along the Start menu's left edge. This opens the Settings app. Alternatively, click the gear icon on the taskbar if you previously pinned the Settings app. With the Settings app open, select the "Accounts" tile. The app opens to "Your Info" by default. Click on "Sign-In Options" on the left followed by the "Password" entry listed under "Sign-In Options" on the right. The Password entry expands to include a "Change" button that you click to continue. Follow the steps to verify your identity, such as looking at a face recognition camera, swiping a finger, or entering a PIN or password. Once you're verified, enter the current password followed by a new password. Click the "Next" button to finish. Change Your Microsoft Account Password Online The Sign-In Options windows (Settings > Accounts > Sign-In Options) in the Settings app provides a "Change Your Microsoft Account Password" link. It essentially sends you to Bing, which provides instructions on how to change your password online. First, sign in to your Microsoft account on the company's website using the current password. Once the site loads, click the "Security" option listed along the top. You'll see a "Change Password" option on the following page and a "Change" link. Click that link to enter your current password followed by the new password (twice). To finish, click the "Save" button. Change Your Password from the Sign-In Screen This method begins only after you failed to sign in using a forgotten password. Once you hit the Enter key and submit the wrong password, a "Reset Password" link appears under the password entry field. Click the link. Windows will ask you to confirm your identity. If you're using a Microsoft account, you may have to provide a code sent to a phone number associated with your account. If you've set up security questions for a local account, you'll have to answer those questions. After providing the information, click the arrow button to create and then confirm your new password. (Image credit: Microsoft) Even if you don't have a treasure map located on your laptop, your Windows 10 password is still very important. If you suspect someone has your password, you've been re-using passwords and decide to be safer or simply feel like changing it, Microsoft gives you three different options to go about securing your device. We've tested each method and laid out how to change your password in Windows 10 in several simple steps. You can always set a new password in Windows 10 -- we recommend using a combination of letters, numbers and symbols. Usually it's best if these passwords are at least eight characters long, and although we advise you to use an alphanumeric password format because it's safer, you can also change your password into a pin or picture that lets you sign in to your Microsoft account quicker. And if you're trying your best to keep your privacy, make sure you know how to use Chrome's incognito windows. Also, literally keep your eye out for Windows Hello, which allows you to sign in to your account through facial or fingerprint detection. But if you prefer the old-school method, here's how to set your password on Windows 10. To Change / Set a Password in Windows 10.1. Click the Start button at the bottom left of your screen.2. Click Settings from the list to the left.3. Select Accounts.4. Select Sign-in options from the menu.5. Click on Change under Change your account password.6. In order to change your password, you have to sign in with your current Microsoft account password. Enter your password in the box. Click Sign in.7. Microsoft will send you a new code to change your password through the phone number that is associated with your account. Enter the last four digits of your phone number to verify it is the correct number. Press Enter.8. You will receive a code on your phone. Enter the code.9. A new page will direct you to enter your old password and then type in a new password. Reenter the new password. Press Enter.If you see this message than you successfully changed your password!MORE: Windows 10 Hands-On: A Good StartChange Your Password to a PIN1. Follow steps 1-4 under To Change Your Current Password above.2. Within Sign-in options, click on Add under PIN.3. In order to change your password, you have to sign in with your current Microsoft account password. Enter your password in the box. Click Sign in.4. Enter a new pin in the first box and reenter it in the second one. Click OK. You can now use this pin to sign into your Microsoft account.Change Your Password to a Picture Password1. Follow the steps 1-4 under Change Your Current Password above.2. Within Sign-in options, click on Add under Picture Password.3. Enter your Microsoft account password to verify it's your account. Click OK.4. Click on Choose Picture. Choose a photo from your files.5. Click on Use this picture if you like it or click on Choose new picture if you don't. You can drag your photo to position it however you want.6. You will have to set up three gestures that will become part of your picture password. With your cursor, draw lines or circles that coordinate with your photo. I traced three spikes in the crown of this statue of liberty I saw on the streets of New York.If you see this message then you successfully created your picture password! This photo will show up when you sign into your Microsoft account. Simply retrace your gestures and you'll be signed in.We hope that you've learned everything you need to know about how to change your password in Windows 10. Check out our guide for how to password protect a folder in Windows 10, and below for more tips.Now that you know how to change your password, check out our guide on how to change your desktop background in Windows 10. If you're still having problems with your machine after you change your password, consider using the Startup Repair tool and doing a full reset. Windows 10 Basics There are plenty of ways to get around a lost Windows password but one of the easier ones, assuming, of course, that there's more than one user on the computer, is to just change the password from within another account. Changing the password on another user's account is easy, no matter which version of Windows you have, provided you have an account with administrator-level privileges. See What Version of Windows Do I Have? If you're not sure which of those several versions of Windows is installed on your computer. When you change a Windows password from outside the account, which is what you're doing when you change another user's password, the user you're changing the password for will lose all access to EFS-encrypted files, personal certificates, and any stored passwords like those for network resources and website passwords. Most users don't have EFS-encrypted files and the loss of stored passwords probably isn't a big deal, but we wanted you to know the consequence of resetting a password in this way. Your Windows account must be configured as an administrator if you want to change another user's password. If not, you may need to try this Windows password reset trick. Open the Windows 8 or 10 Control Panel. On touch interfaces, the easiest way to open Control Panel in Windows 10 or Windows 8 is through its link on the Start menu (or Apps screen in Windows 8), but the Power User Menu is probably faster if you have a keyboard or mouse. On Windows 10, select User Accounts. It's called User Accounts and Family Safety in Windows 8. If the View by setting is on Large icons or Small icons, then you won't see this link. Choose User Accounts instead and skip to Step 4. Select User Accounts. Several links down on the Make changes to your user account area of the User Accounts window, select Manage another account. Select the user you want to change the password for. If you don't see Password protected listed somewhere under the username, then that user doesn't have a password set up and should be able to log in without entering anything in the password field. Now that you're in the Make changes to (username)'s account screen, choose Change the password link? This probably means that the user you want to change the password for logs into Windows 10 or Windows 8 with a Microsoft account, not a typical local account. It's even easier to reset a Microsoft account password. See How to Reset Your Microsoft Account Password for help. On the Change (username)'s password screen, enter a new password in both the first and second text boxes. In the last text box, you're asked to Type a password hint. This step is not required. Since you're probably changing this person's password for them because they've forgotten it, it's fine if you want to skip the hint. After the person regains access to Windows 8/10 again, have him or her change the password to something more private and set up a hint then. Select Change password to save the password change. Close the Change an Account window and any other open windows. Sign out, or restart the computer, and have the person you reset the password for try logging in to Windows 8 or 10 again. Once logged in, be proactive and either have the user create a Windows 8 or Windows 10 password reset disk or switch to a Microsoft account, either of which will provide an easier way to get a new password in the future. Click Start and then Control Panel. Click the User Accounts and Family Safety link (Windows 7) or User Accounts link (Windows Vista). If you're viewing the Large icons or Small icons view of Control Panel in Windows 7, you won't see this link. Instead, click on the User Accounts icon and skip to Step 4. Click the User Accounts link. Toward the bottom of the Make changes to your user account area of the User Accounts window, select Manage another account. Select the account that you want to change the password for. If the words Password protected are not listed under the user type then the user has no password configured, meaning he or she can log in to the account without a password. Obviously, in this case, there's nothing to change so just let the user know that they don't need a password and can set one up themselves next time they log in. Under the Make changes to (username)'s account heading, click the Change the password link. Enter a new password for the user in the first and second text boxes. Entering the new password twice helps ensure that you've typed the password correctly. In the third and final text box, you're asked to Type a password hint. Since you're probably changing this user's password because he or she has forgotten it, you can probably skip the hint. Click the Change password button to confirm the password change. Close the User Accounts window. Log off or restart the computer and then have the user log in to their account with the password you chose for them in Step 7. Once logged in, have the user create a Windows password reset disk to avoid a problem like this in the future. Thanks for letting us know! Tell us why! There are several very good reasons you might want to change the password to your Windows computer. We'd like to think it's simply because you know it's a smart thing to do every so often to keep your PC secure. Of course, another good reason to change your password is if your current password is too easy to guess...or maybe too hard to remember! Lifewire / Maritsa Patrinos Regardless of the reason, changing your password is very easy, no matter which version of Windows you have. You can change your password in Microsoft Windows via the User Accounts applet in Control Panel. However, the steps involved to change your password differ somewhat depending on which operating system you're using, so be sure to take note of those differences when they're called out below. This guide covers Windows 10 through Windows XP. See What Version of Windows Do I Have? If you're not sure which of those several versions of Windows is installed on your computer. Using the search bar, type sign in options and then choose Sign-in options from the list of results. If that doesn't work, open Control Panel, choose User Accounts (Windows 10) or User Accounts and Family Safety (Windows 8), then the User Accounts link, followed by the Make changes to my account in PC Settings, and finally Sign-in options on the left. In Windows 10, select Password and then choose Change. In Windows 8, choose Change from the Password section. Enter your current password in the first text box and then select Next. Enter your new password twice to verify that you've typed it correctly. You can type a password hint, too, which will help remind you of your password should you forget it when logging in. It's required in Windows 8. Select Next. Select Finish. You can now exit any other open Settings, PC settings, and Control Panel windows. Select Start and then Control Panel. Choose User Accounts and Family Safety if you're using Windows XP (or some versions of Windows Vista), this link is instead called User Accounts. If you're viewing the Large icons, Small icons, or Classic view of Control Panel, you won't see this link. Simply choose User Accounts and proceed to Step 4. Select User Accounts. In the Make changes to your user account area of the User Accounts window, choose Change your password. For Windows XP users, look instead for the or pick an account to change section, and select your user account, and then choose Change my password on the following screen. In the first text box, enter your current password. In the next two text boxes, enter the password you would like to start using. Entering the password twice helps to make sure that you typed your new password correctly. In the final text box, you're asked to enter a password hint. This step is optional but we highly recommend that you use it. If you try logging in to Windows but enter the wrong password, this hint will display, which hopefully will jog your memory. Select Change password to confirm your changes. You can now close the User Accounts window and any other Control Panel windows. Now that your Windows password has been changed, you must use your new password to log in to Windows from this point forward. Trying to change your password in Windows (because you forgot it) but can't get into Windows (again, because you forgot your password)? See our list of ways to find lost passwords in Windows for some options. Another option is to create a Windows password reset disk. While not a required part of changing your password, we highly recommend that you do this. You do not need to create a new password reset disk if you already have one. Your previously created password reset disk will work no matter how many times you change your Windows password. Thanks for letting us know! Tell us why!

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