

Electronic Security in our Lives

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When most people think of electronic security, they often think of somewhere like China, where electronic security is a very evident aspect of their life. However, it is to as common for someone to analyze how electronic security is a part of their own daily-life. Electronic security is a very key part to our everyday lives. Almost everything we do is monitored in some way, whether it be the password on your Gmail account or the security system in a store.

As of 2015, there were 3.2 billion people using the internet.¹ This means that there were 3.2 billion people who needed online protection from different threats such as viruses, identity theft and fraud. One of the most basic forms of this protection is a password. Every account you make, a password is required and for most of these passwords, there are basic requirements. For example, on a google account each password must be at least 8 characters with a combination of letters, numbers, and symbols. These requirements are to eliminate the possibility of using a password like 123456 or 111111, two of the most common passwords in 2016.² These common passwords are the ones that people trying to access accounts that are not their own will use first, compromising the security of your account. Furthermore, to reset your password there are a series of steps that need to be followed. Normally when creating a new account, you will input a phone number or alternate email that you will be able to send a temporary password to, allowing you to reset yours should it be forgotten. This is key to your security and it ensures that not just anyone can reset your password for their own use. Often, if you sign into an account on an alternate device, you will be sent an email alerting you of this activity and you can confirm that this was you or if it is unknown activity. These are just a few of the many parts of the simple security we know as a password.

¹ "3.2 Billion People Now Using Internet Worldwide | Money - Time." 26 May. 2015, <http://time.com/money/3896219/internet-users-worldwide/>. Accessed 29 Apr. 2018.

² "The Most Common Passwords In 2016 Are Truly Terrible." 18 Jan. 2017, https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/entry/2016-most-common-passwords_us_587f9663e4b0c147f0bc299d. Accessed 29 Apr. 2018.

Electronic security is an intrinsic part of the work life. I work as a manager at a retail store. Everyone who works at and enters the store each day is electronically monitored. When I enter the store in the morning the first thing I do is turn off the alarm. I enter a pin that is unique to me. Each manager has a pin that is solely their own. The system records what time the alarm is turned off and who disarms it. If the store is entered while the alarm is set but it is not disarmed, it will sound and a message will be sent to our Head Office, our Loss Prevention team, our store manager and the police. I will then walk to the back room where the monitors of our security cameras are kept. Our store has five cameras, four for the sales floor and one for our back room. They are recording 24 hours a day and we have immediate access to 7 days worth of recording. Our Point of Sale system is intensely monitored as well. Each person that works at the store has a pin and password unique to them that they sign in with each time they use the system. At the end of each day, there will be reports as to how much cash was taken, how much money was given on each type of card, which team member processed what transactions and at what time. These are just a few of the electronic security measures taken by one retail store each day. This is a part of my daily life and the life of the 1,975,079 retail workers in North America (2017).³

Electronic security is becoming a part of even the school system. In many elementary schools the doors are constantly locked. The only way to get into the school is for the doors to be unlocked from the front office. This ensures that the school has a record of every visitor that enters as well as having control over who it is that enters the school. Almost all schools also have an intercom system that allows for immediate communication among every room in the school. With just the click of a button, the entire school can get a message from one area (like the head office). Many schools also have security cameras that record the days to ensure the protection of their students and staff.

In conclusion, electronic security has become a fundamental aspect of daily life. Almost everything everyone does each day is monitored by some sort of electronic

³ "Payroll employment, by industry (Retail trade) - Statistics Canada."
<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/l01/cst01/labr71g-eng.htm>. Accessed 29 Apr. 2018.

security, whether it be as simple as a password or as complex as a security system. This form of electronic security touches us in so many ways and it is an essential form of protection and safety in our increasing electronic lives.