Each member of the Baylor community is assigned a Bear ID for accessing various resources such as electronic mail, Blackboard, and other online systems. The Bear ID is automatically assigned according to a standard naming convention and, for most individuals, is of the form FirstName_LastName. For example, John Doe's Bear ID would most likely be John_Doe. In some cases, the Bear ID may contain the middle initial, middle name or other modification to ensure that each person's Bear ID is unique. Bear IDs are intended to be permanent as long as the individual is a member of the Baylor community. For example, a student is assigned a Bear ID once rather than obtaining a new one each semester.

Most resources that require a Bear ID for access also require a password. Passwords provide a level of security against unauthorized use of resources. Passwords are not to be shared with anyone. The difference between a Bear ID and a password can be described in a simple analogy to a person's home. If you want to receive mail or entertain visitors, you must give out your address (analogous to the Bear ID). However, you do not give away keys to your home (analogous to your password).

ITS requires BearID passwords to be changed every 365 days. Password strength requirements are as follows:

- The password is at least eight characters long.
- The password contains characters from at least three of the following four categories:
  - English uppercase characters (A - Z)
  - English lowercase characters (a - z)
  - Base 10 digits (0 - 9)
  - Non-alphanumeric (for example: !, $, #, or %)

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