**UNIT 1.4**

**Importance of Passwords**

Unauthorized access is a potentially major problem for anyone who uses a computer or high-tech devices such as smartphones or tablets. The consequences for victims of these break-ins can include the loss of valuable data such as presentations, emails, and music. Victims may also have their bank account information, money, or even their identity stolen. Moreover, unauthorized users may use someone else's computer to break the law, which could put the victim in legal trouble.

One of the most common ways that hackers break into computers is by guessing passwords. Simple and commonly used passwords enable intruders to easily gain access and control of a computing device

**Key points of Password Security**

There are key points of password security that users must know in order to reduce the likelihood of a hacker cracking their password and thus gaining access to their device.

Most importantly, passwords must be long and complex.

Long and complex passwords require more effort and time for a hacker to guess.

Passwords should contain at least ten characters and have a combination of characters such as commas, percent signs, and parentheses, as well as upper-case and lower-case letters and numbers.

Users should never write down their passwords, as that makes it easier for the passwords to be stolen and used by someone else.

Also, never use the same password for two or more devices, as hackers who break into one machine will try to use the same password to take control of others.