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Article Summary

The dreaded password – usually the one thing that keeps your sensitive and private information from being accessed by unintended eyes. Password can also be a big source of frustration in this day and age, as there’s lots of rules involved when making up a password. Some of these rules include having one with no common phrases, no personal information, a combination of lowercase, uppercase, and symbols/numbers, a different password for each website, don’t write it down or save in your phone, and so much more. With all these rules, it’s no wonder that a CBS news poll found one in four Americas has to reset their password every month, just to forget it and go through that process again later.

Since passwords are so necessary and yet so cumbersome, we need a different solution, but with none readily available, what possible alternative could there be? Fortunately, Karl Martin, who founded NYMI, a technology start-up in Toronto, is on the case with an interesting solution to the password problem. To come to this conclusion, he was looking for something that uniquely identifies each person, without them having to remember anything, and for his answer he came up with the heart rhythm, or electrocardiogram. The EKG signal is read through a wristband users would wear, which would read their signal and match it against a stored profile, verifying identity. This seems to be a much more secure version of the increasingly popular biometric verification, while fingerprint verification is more popular at the moment, its relatively easy for someone to grab remnants of your fingerprints -they are on everything you touch! Also, it would be quite hard for a hacker or computer program to replicate your EKG signal to fake being you.

I think this is a wonderful new development with computer technology and security. This directly affects me, since my major is Network Security. To me, it is exciting to see other professionals expanding the world of knowledge we have with security and this is a prime example of why it’s good to stay up to date with new technology coming out. Keeping up to date allows you to grow and expand, and potentially protect your business/clients more effectively. Since technology is such a growing and changing field, this knowledge only benefits me as I could it being implemented in places that need better user authentication.