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Concept of Pinguard

Yours truly received his 5th PIN-code recently. An other PIN-code changed, and not for the better.

I desperately needed a simple manner to store all the PIN-codes and keep them away from prying eyes.

PIN-codes should best be memorized or kept in a very safe place. You cannot simply write them down and pin them to a pinboard. This is where Pinguard comes in. Now you only need to memorize **one single password** in long term memory in stead of several meaningless numbers.

Pinguard PIN-encryption concept

Pinguard uses a 4 character password to scramble the 4 digit PIN-code. The encryption scheme changes the appearance of the original PIN-code into a different PIN-code and stores it to disk. The password itself is not stored. Anyone who looks in the data-file or types in a incorrect password is still presented with a apparently legitimate PIN-code.

There's no way of knowing whether the answer is wrong or right. Only you know it when you type in the correct password.

So only one password, which you supply and of course is meaningful to you, is enough to be able to recall any or all of your PIN-codes.

Pinguard PIN-password

When coding this first version of Pinguard it was my intention to let you use one password for all your cards. However it occurred to me that some of you out there may want to use a different password for each PIN-code. This may seem far fetched but remember that **you** choose your own password but a PIN-code is simply forced on you.

So it's up to you to decide which way you want it.

To keep you free in this , I omitted a change in password that would affect the datafile. You now only change the password at run-time when you know that you have used a wrong decryption-password.

If you need to change the password for encryption, you should remove the card first and enter it anew.

Be careful not to edit the PIN-code when you are not happy with the decrypted result. Remember that every different word results into a different PIN-code representation.

Hint:

A proper password should **not** be your name or the name of a friend or relative.

Take something like 'SIAS' (Say It Ain't So) or 'MDSP' (My Difficult Secret Password), in other words, take something that cannot be connected to you in any way with the possible exception of MFSF (My Favourite Sport Football).

Needless to say that all these examples are out of the question too.

How safe is Pinguard?

'Is it safe?' Are you kidding? Did you see 'Marathon Man'? But seriously folks. You cannot be too careful where PIN-codes are concerned. If you trust your PIN-codes to any medium, you are at risk. But then again, even if you memorize them, they can be forced out of you.

As for PIN-guard, I am not a great mathematician but I think it is difficult to work out the PIN-codes, if one does not know either the password or one of the real PIN-codes. I don't give any guarantees. It is up to you to decide how safe PIN-guard is and if you want to use it at all.

When your card is not on the list

I supplied a few bitmaps of cards that are known to me. No doubt you will find that one or more of your cards are not on the list.

I made these bitmaps with Windows supplied Paintbrush and it is really dead easy. Just load any of these bitmaps in Paintbrush and adapt them to your liking.

The PIN-guard bitmaps give you less surface to work on than you would find on a stamp, so you need to zoom in and work on a pixel-level.

If you cannot do it at all than feel free to send me an image of your card (brochure, leaflet, not the actual card) when you register and I will make the bitmap, free of charge!

By the way...

This program is shareware. This means that you can use this program for a given time, in this case 30 days, to see if you like it. If you still use it after the trial period, the program obviously is of value to you. You are then expected to register and pay a small fee.

By your support you keep the shareware principle alive which brings the world a lot of fine programs at ridiculous low prices.

Contacting 'Nice SoftWare'

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