

“What was that site  
doing with my  
Facebook password?”

# Designing Password-Reuse Notifications

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# use unique passwords

Next

## You'll need a password

Make your password unique.

Password

---

Booking.com



PayPal



American Airlines



Baidu 百度



淘宝网  
Taobao.com



ebay

YouTube



Microsoft

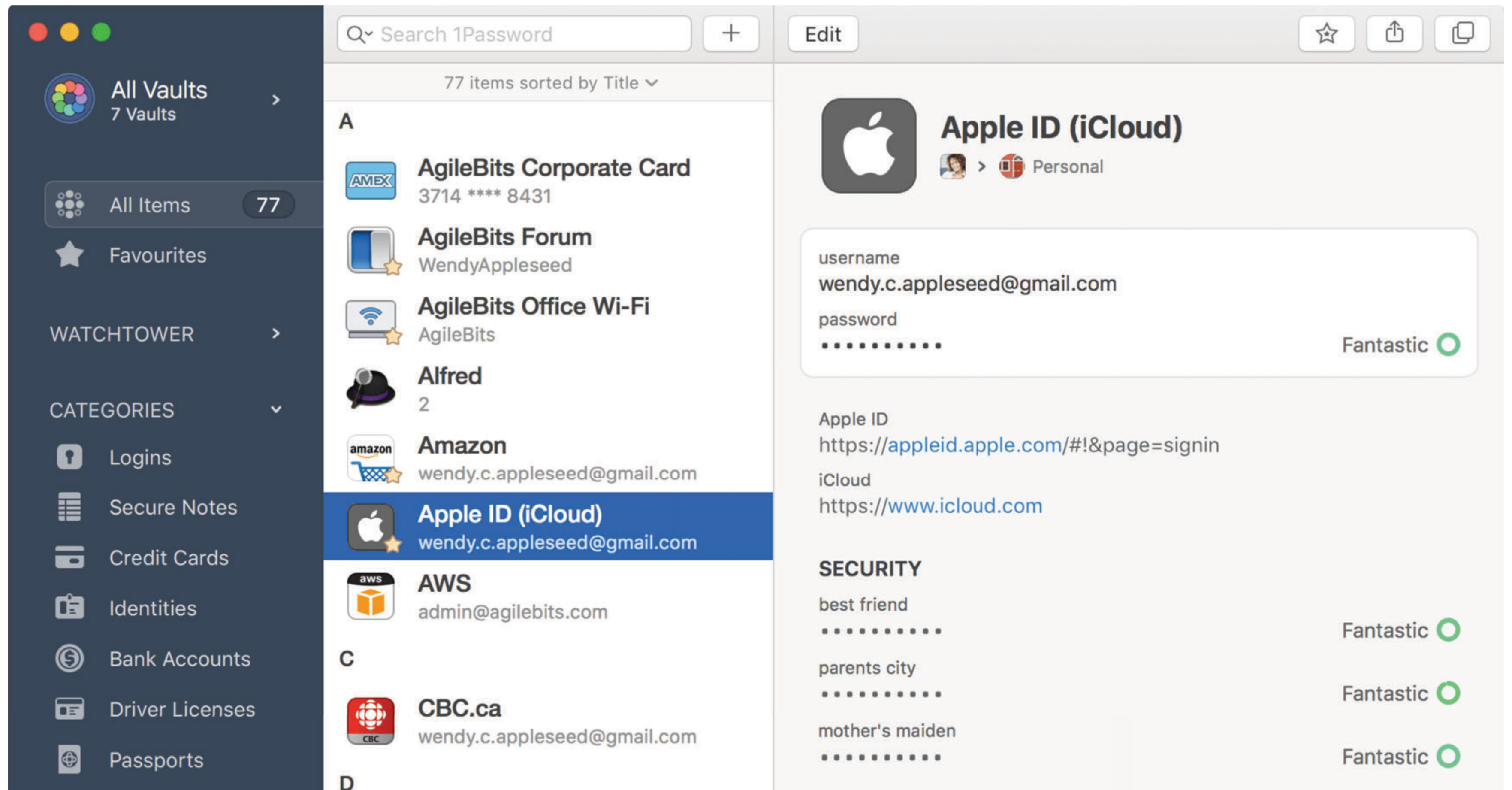


slack

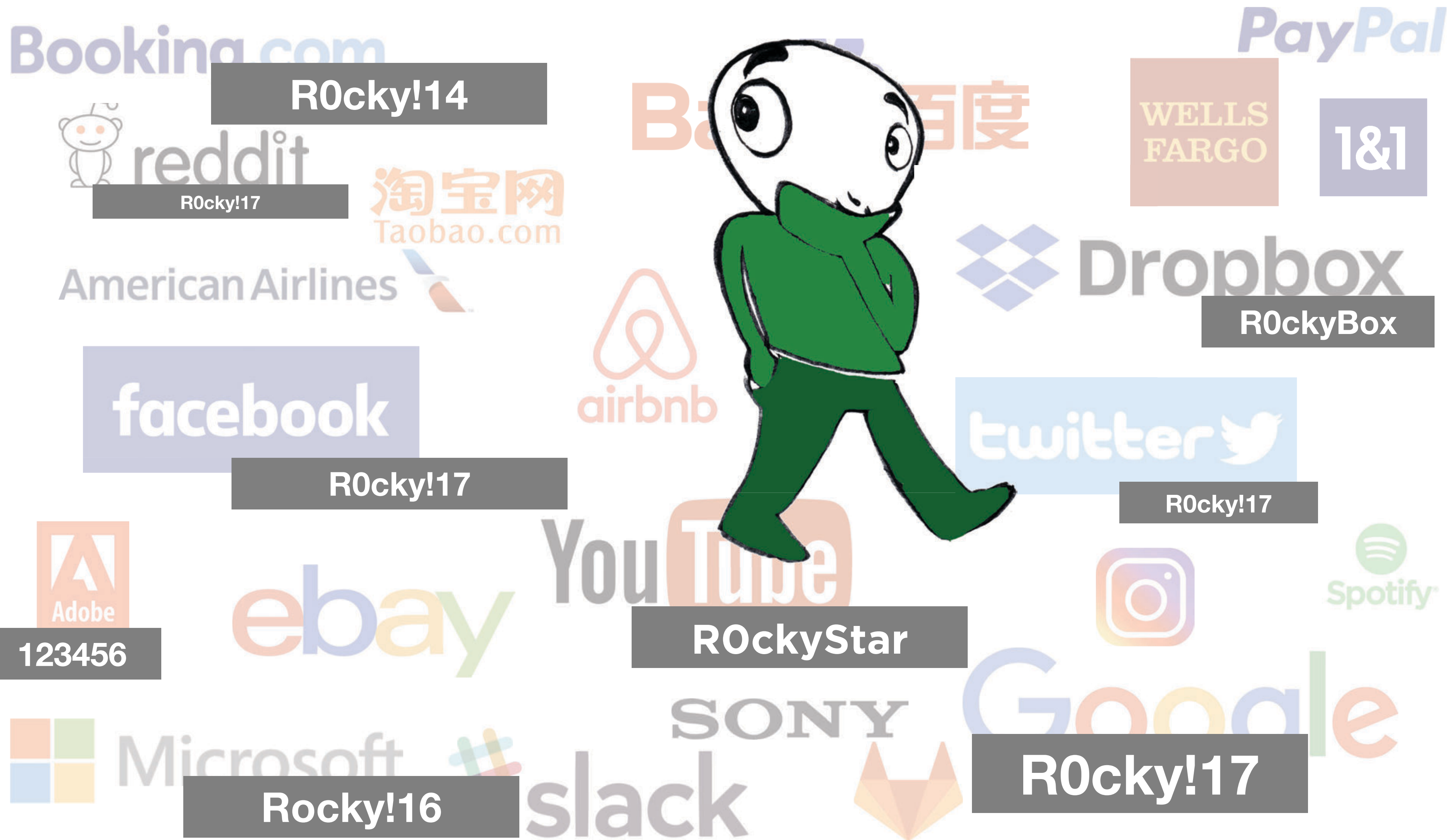
SONY

Google

# “use a password manager!”



# people reuse passwords



## Memory-Hard Hash Function




Email	Argon2i Hash of Password
...	...
<b>jim@mail.com</b>	<b>\$argon2i\$v=19\$m=4096,...</b>
...	...



## Rate-Limiting Guessing



☐ I'm not a robot

  
 reCAPTCHA  
[Privacy - Terms](#)

## Password Strength Meter



Username

Password

acmccs18

Show Password & Detailed Feedback ☒

Your password could be better.

- Consider inserting digits into the middle, not just at the end [\(Why?\)](#)
- Make your password longer than 8 characters [\(Why?\)](#)
- Consider using 1 or more symbols [\(Why?\)](#)

A better choice: \a#D18cmccs

[How to make strong passwords](#)





Email	SHA-1 Hash of Password
jane@aol.com	7c4a8d09ca3762af61e595209
jessey@gmx.net	5baa61e4c9b93f3f0682250b6
jenny@gmail.com	7c222fb2927d828af22f59213
jim@mail.com	ba93664a90285b9ff18a7a081
john@hotmail.com	b1b3773a05c0ed0176787a4f1
...	...



# crack all the things!



```
$> hashcat -m 100 -a0 $TARGET $DICT
123456
Password
R0cky!17
Football!17
CanadaRocks!
```



Email	Cracked SHA-1 Hashes
jane@aol.com	123456
jessey@gmx.net	5baa61e4c9b93f3f0682250b6
jenny@gmail.com	Canada4ever
jim@mail.com	R0cky!17
john@hotmail.com	HikingGuy89
...	...




# dead on arrival



AcmeCo

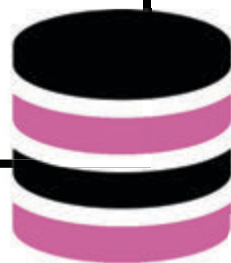
Email	Argon2i Hash of Password
...	...
jim@mail.com	\$argon2i\$v=19\$m=4096,...
...	...



# dead on arrival



Email	Argon2i Hash of Password
...	...
<a href="mailto:jim@mail.com">jim@mail.com</a>	\$argon2i\$v=19\$m=4096,...
...	...



Email	Cracked SHA-1 Hashes
jane@aol.com	123456
jessey@gmx.net	5baa61e4c9b93f3f0682250b6
jenny@gmail.com	Canada4ever
<a href="mailto:jim@mail.com">jim@mail.com</a>	R0cky!17
john@hotmail.com	HikingGuy89
...	...



# dead on arrival



Email	Cracked
...	...
jim@mail.com	R0cky!17
...	...



**1 guess is  
enough!**



Email	Cracked SHA-1 Hashes
jane@aol.com	123456
jessey@gmx.net	5baa61e4c9b93f3f0682250b6
jenny@gmail.com	Canada4ever
jim@mail.com	R0cky!17
john@hotmail.com	HikingGuy89
...	...



# SO, UH, THAT BILLION-ACCOUNT YAHOO BREACH WAS ACTUALLY 3 BILLION

Anatomy of a password disaster:  
Adobe's giant

Adobe

RISK ASSESSMENT —

## How LinkedIn's password sloppiness hurts us all

ure dumps.

guardian

all sections

';--have i been pwned?

Check if you have an account that has been compromised in a data breach

314  
pwned websites

5,555,329,164  
pwned accounts

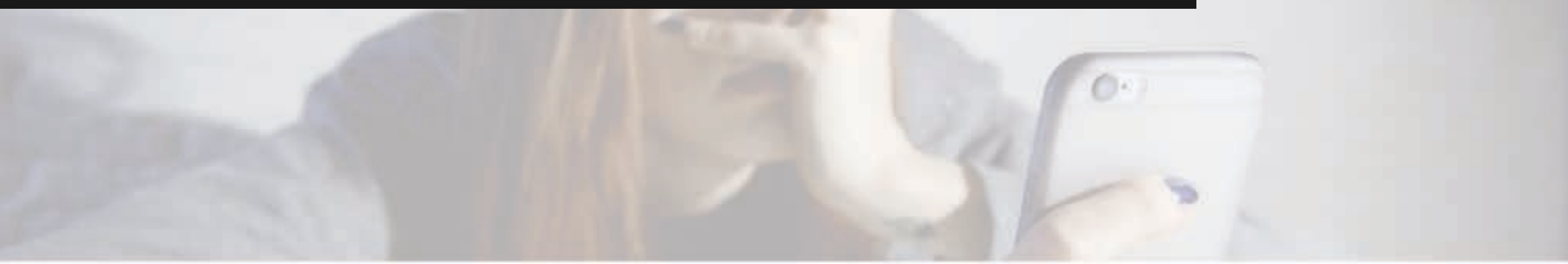
80,540  
pastes

87,820,647  
paste accounts

Facebook

## Facebook says 2.9 million accounts had personal data stolen in recent breach

Hackers were able to access name, birthdate and other data in  
nearly half of the 30 million accounts that were affected



## You Can Now Look Up Your Terrible 2006 MySpace Password

June 29, 2016 // 11:35 AM EST



Written by  
LORENZO FRANCESCHI-  
BICCHIERI  
STAFF WRITER



# black market monitoring


Listing

trdealmgn4uvm42g.onion/listing/3600

Welcome back, [redacted] 0 0 0 BTC 0.0000 Home My RealDeal Support Logout

TheRealDeal All I want to order ... Go

Home / Information and Fraud / Databases / LinkedIn 167M



## LinkedIn 167M

By [peace\\_of\\_mind](#) ( 100.0% ) Level 1 ( 14 )

0 5.0000 / BTC 5.0000

In stock.

Postage Option

Escrow Yes, escrow by RealDeal is available.

Class Digital

Ships From Worldwide

Qty: 0

Buy It Now

Favorite Question

# black market monitoring



BEST PRODUCTS

REVIEWS

NEWS

VIDEO

HOW TO

SMART HOME

CARS

DEALS



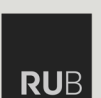
JOIN / SIGN IN

SECURITY

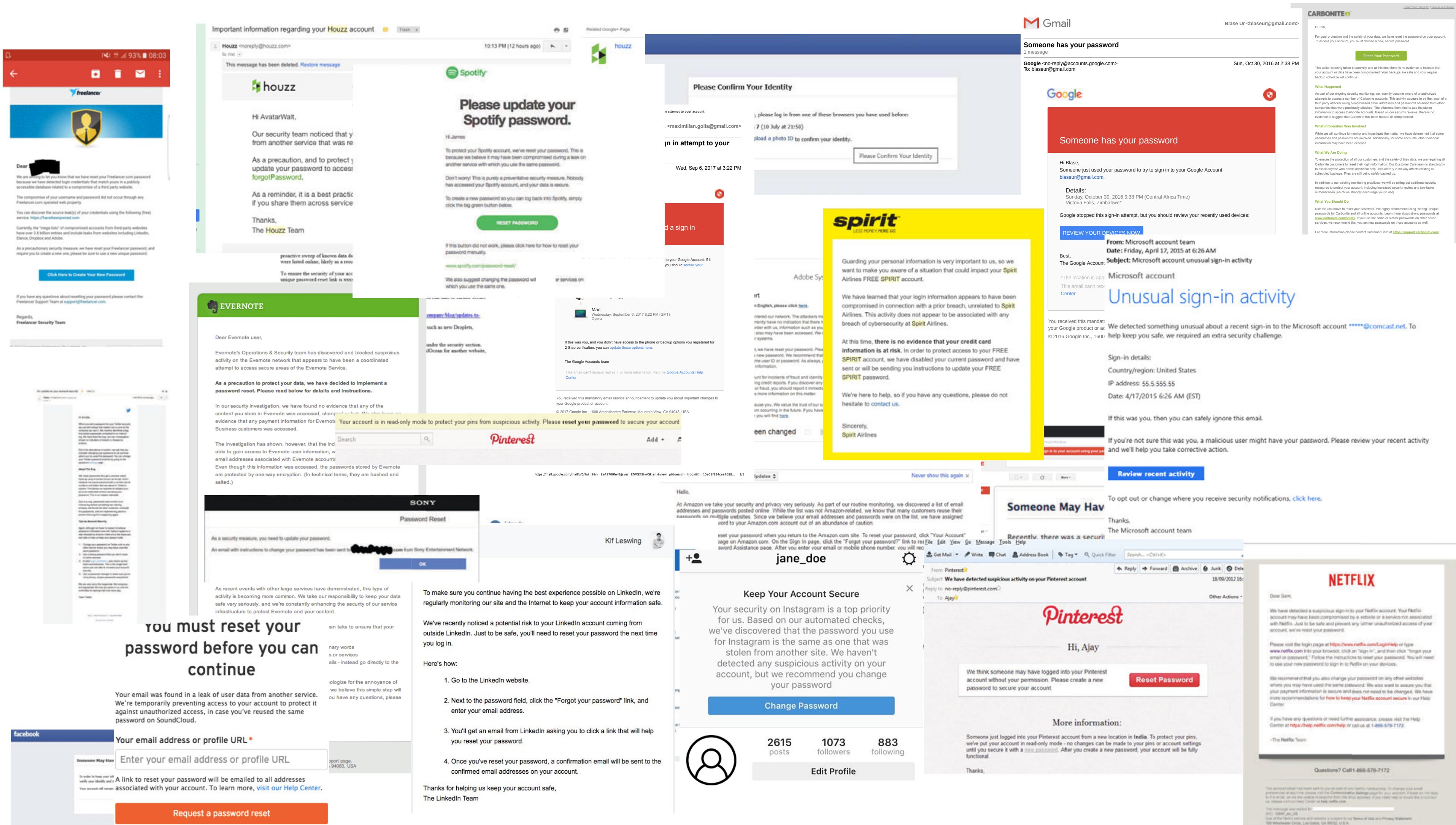
## Facebook buys black market passwords to keep your account safe

The company's security chief says account safety is about more than just building secure software.

BY KATIE COLLINS | NOVEMBER 9, 2016 12:56 PM PST



# what's the state-of-the-art?



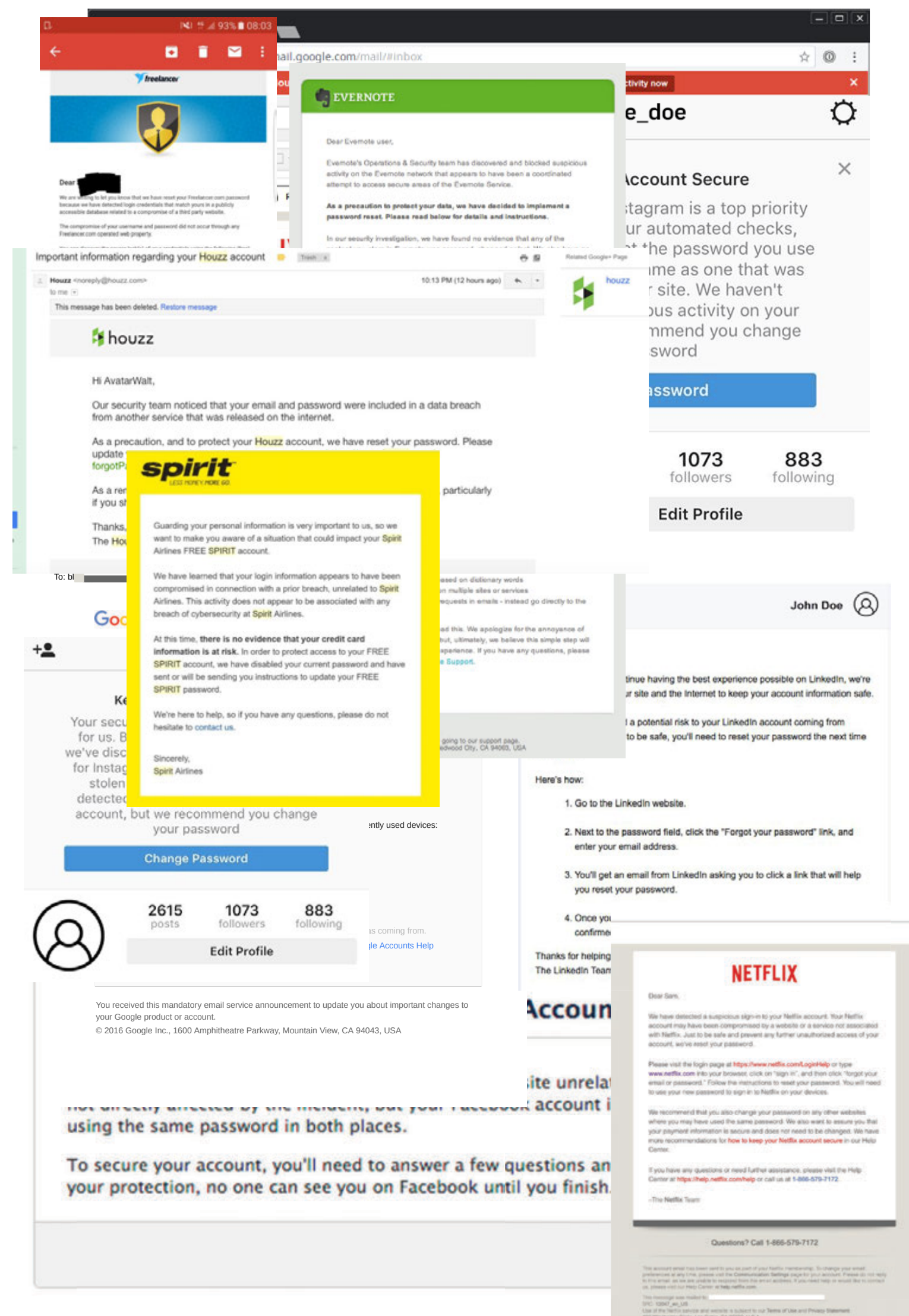


## Keep your account secure

Based on our automated security check, your Facebook password matches one that was stolen from another site. We aren't aware of any suspicious activity on your account, but please change your password now to help keep it secure.

[Learn More](#)[Continue](#)

# 24 notifications



6

## representative notifications



# methodology



## STUDY 1

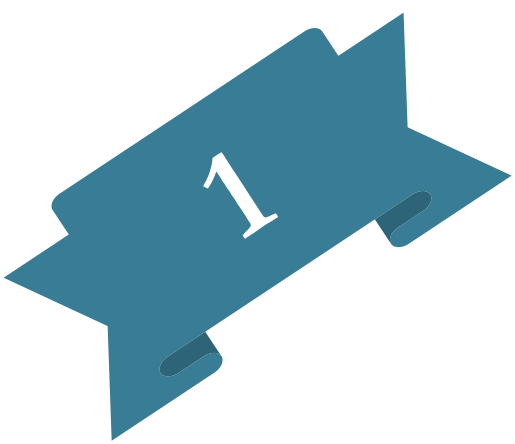
previously sent password-  
reuse notifications



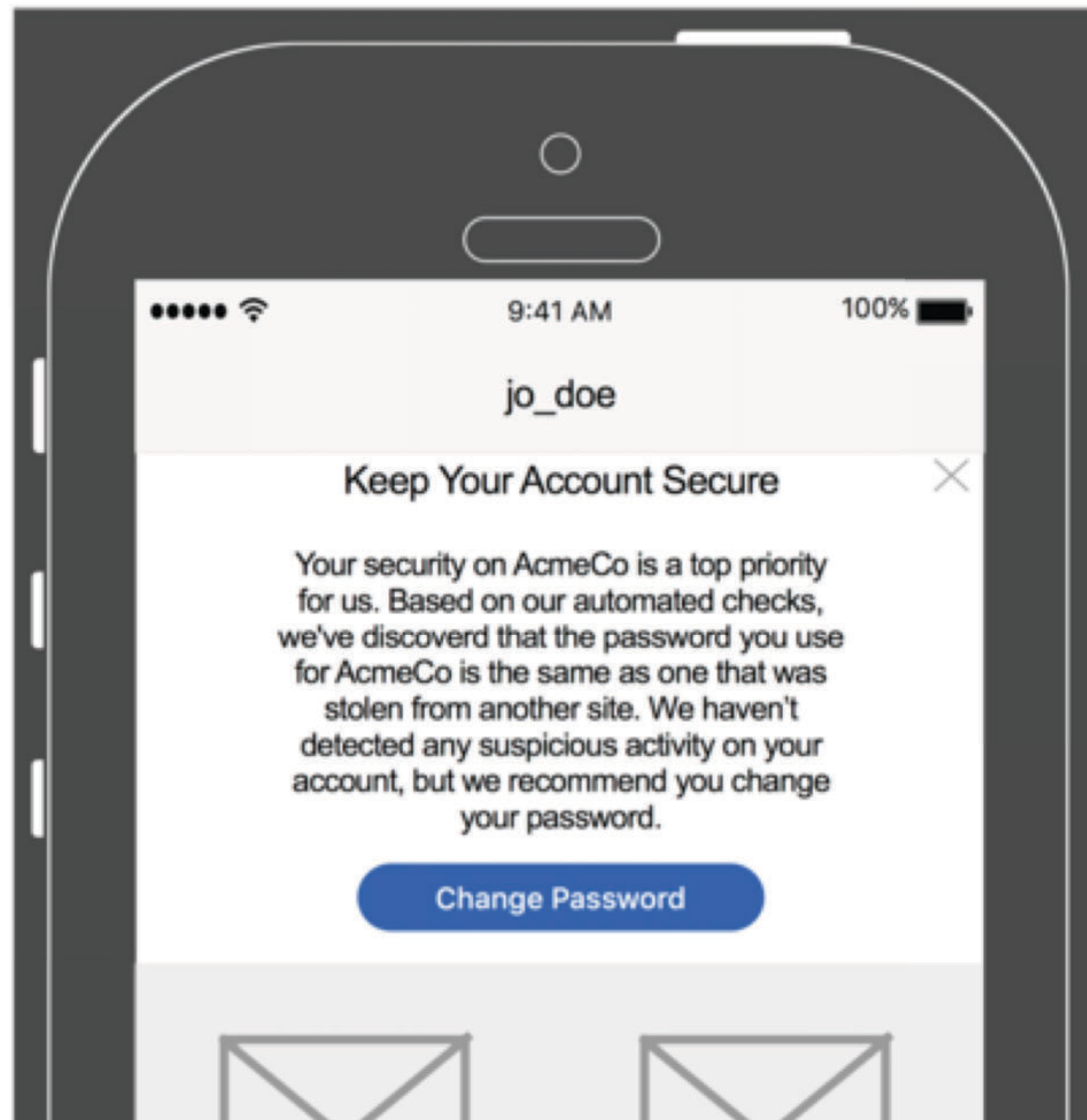
## STUDY 2

individual components of  
password-reuse notifications

Imagine you have an  
important account with  
AcmeCo...




# AcmeCo notifications





# questions asked

**notification  
understanding**



**feelings**



**actions**



**perceptions**



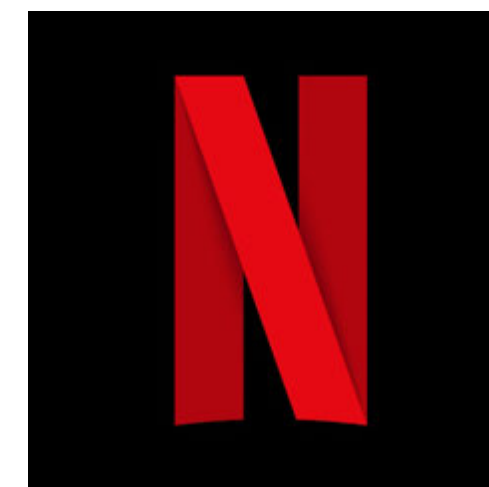
**demographics**

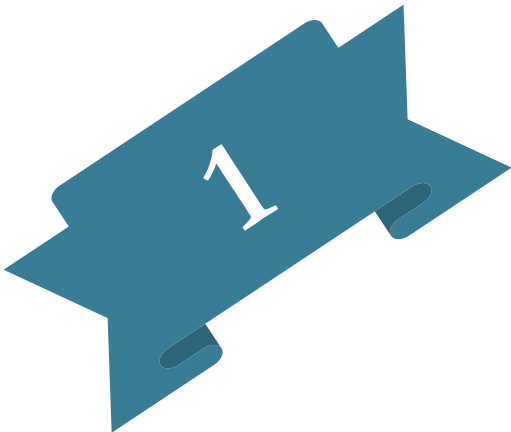
# survey setup

## 180 respondents

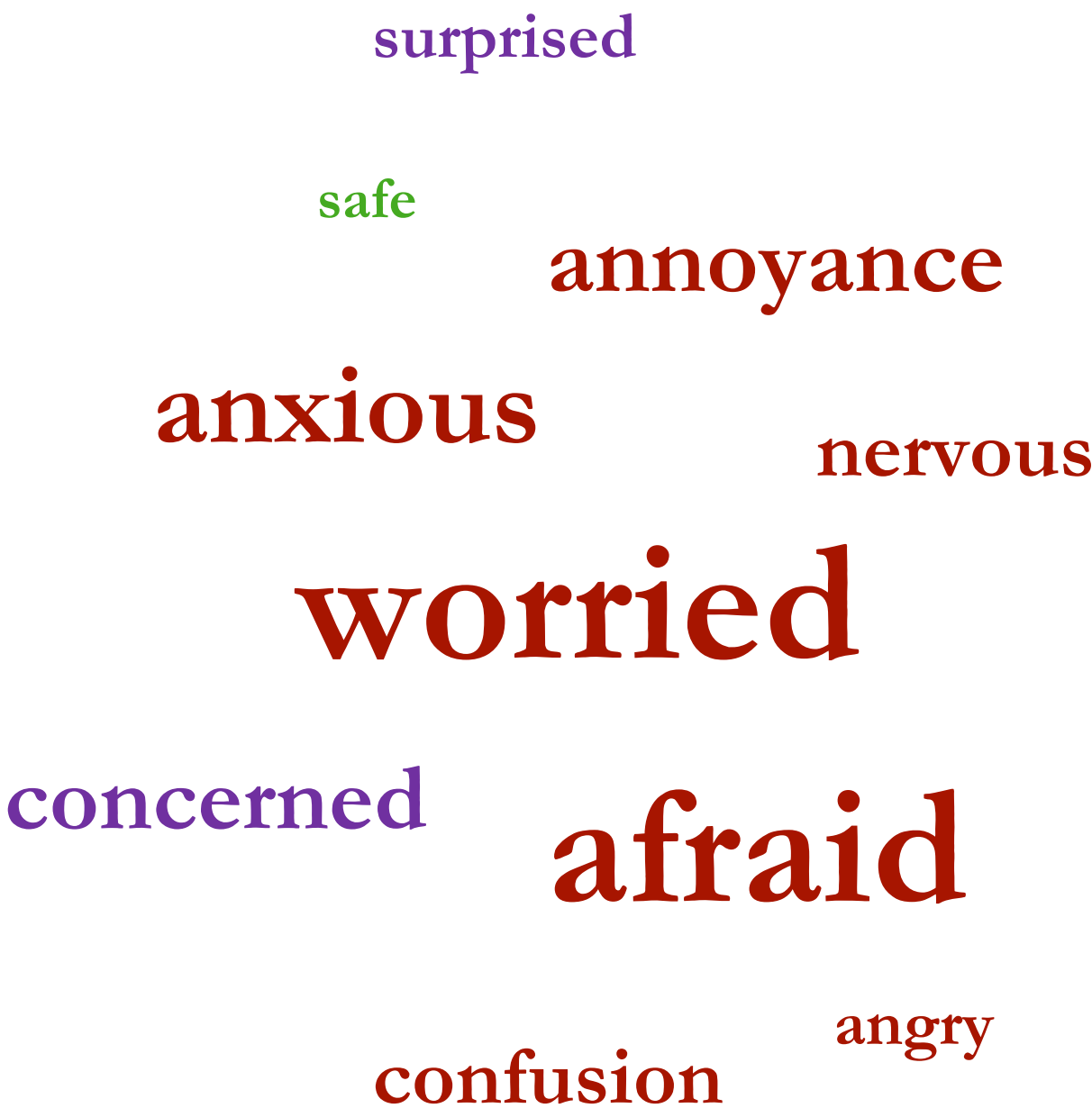
- Amazon MTurk
- 15 mins
- Compensated \$2.50

## 6 conditions





# notifications were concerning and a priority

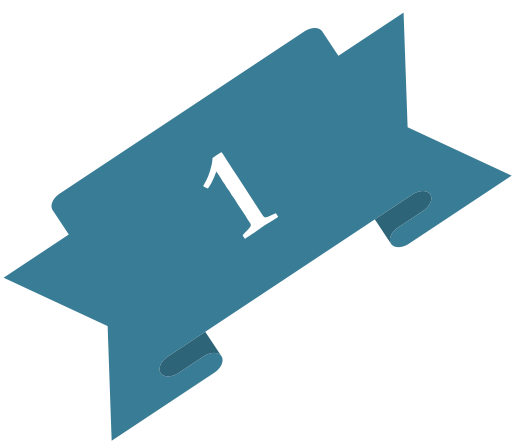


**83%**  
very high or  
high priority

# Why did you receive this notification?

**60%** hacked account

**21%** data breach



**don't mention**  
password reuse



**allude to**  
password reuse

**0 - 4%**  
**respondents**

**48 - 56%**  
**respondents**

listed password reuse as a cause

## Keep Your Account Secure

Your security on Instagram is a top priority for us. Based on our automated checks, we've discovered that the password you use for Instagram is the same as one that was stolen from another site. We haven't detected any suspicious activity on your account, but we recommend you change your password

[Change Password](#)

## Keep Your Account Secure

Your security on Instagram is a top priority for us. Based on our automated checks, we've discovered that the password you use for Instagram is the same as one that was stolen from another site. We haven't detected any suspicious activity on your account, but we recommend you change your password

[Change Password](#)

*“The chances of  
someone guessing that I  
use the same password  
are still incredibly low.”  
(R171)*

# STUDY 1

## CONCLUSIONS

Current password-reuse notifications



elicit concern



explain the situation

# five notification goals

**timely**

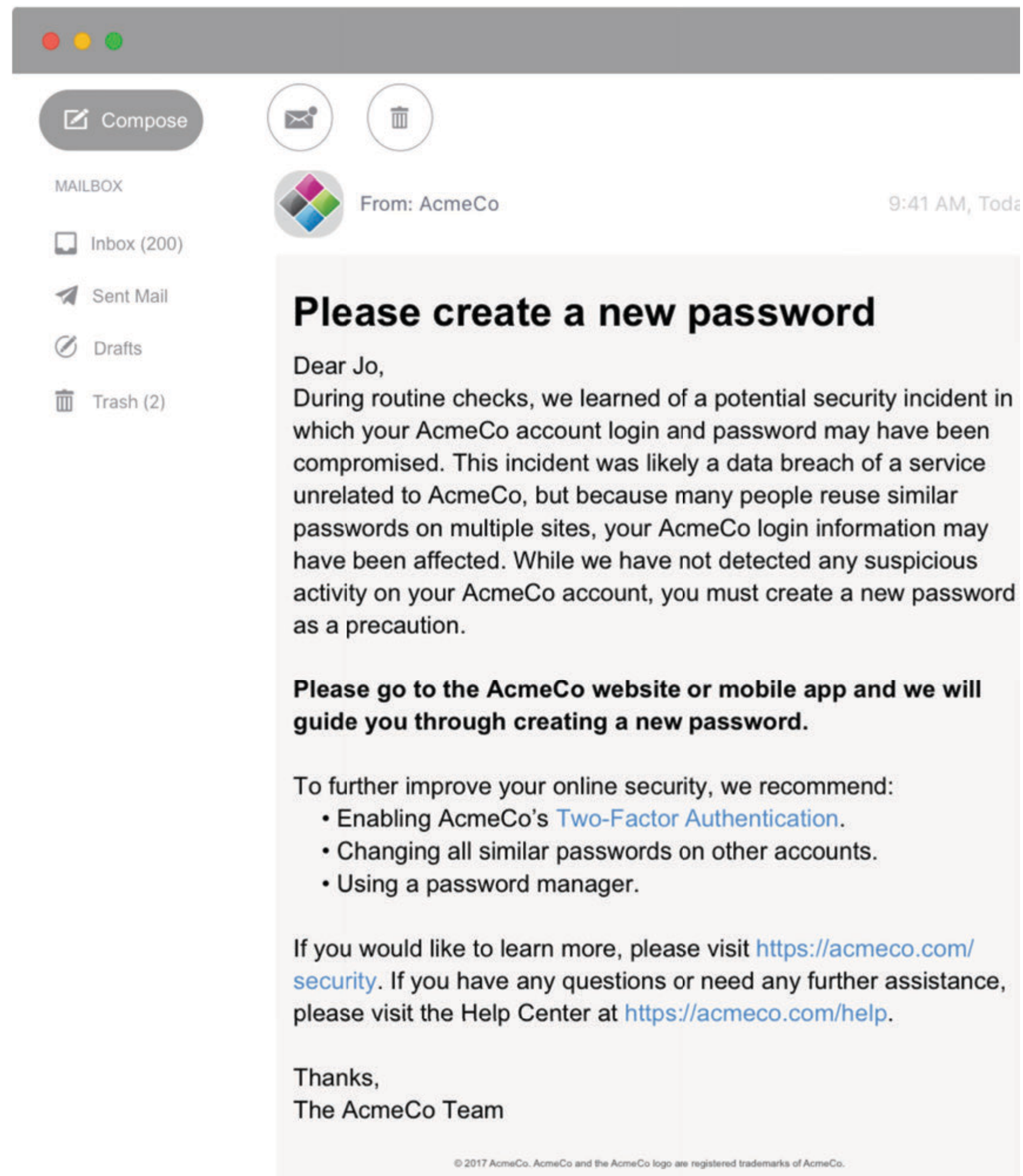
**sufficient  
background**

**secure  
actions**

**legitimate**

**trust**

# our model notification



# survey setup

## 588 respondents

- Amazon MTurk
- 15 mins
- Compensated \$2.50

## 15 conditions

DELIVERY MEDIUM

INCIDENT DESCRIPTION

ACCOUNT ACTIVITY

PASSWORD CHANGE

EXTRA SUGGESTIONS

OTHER ACCOUNTS

# What would you do about your AcmeCo password?

Keep it the same

**6%**

Change it

**90%**

Don't know

**3%**

# What would your new password be?

Completely new **2%**

PW manager/browser **11%**

Reused password **13%**

Modified password **68%**

Other **6%**

*“I know my password is  
already strong and  
unlikely to be hacked.”  
(R338)*

*“The hack wasn’t  
specific to this  
company so it doesn’t  
worry me.” (R69)*

*“Until I see evidence of hacking, I prefer to keep my own sanity.” (R300)*

# STUDY 2

## CONCLUSIONS

After seeing a password-reuse notification, users



would change passwords



... but ineffectively



have incomplete threat models

# conclusion

1. formative, systematic studies  
of password-reuse notifications

# conclusion

1. formative, systematic study of password-reuse notifications
2. developed best practices

# best practices

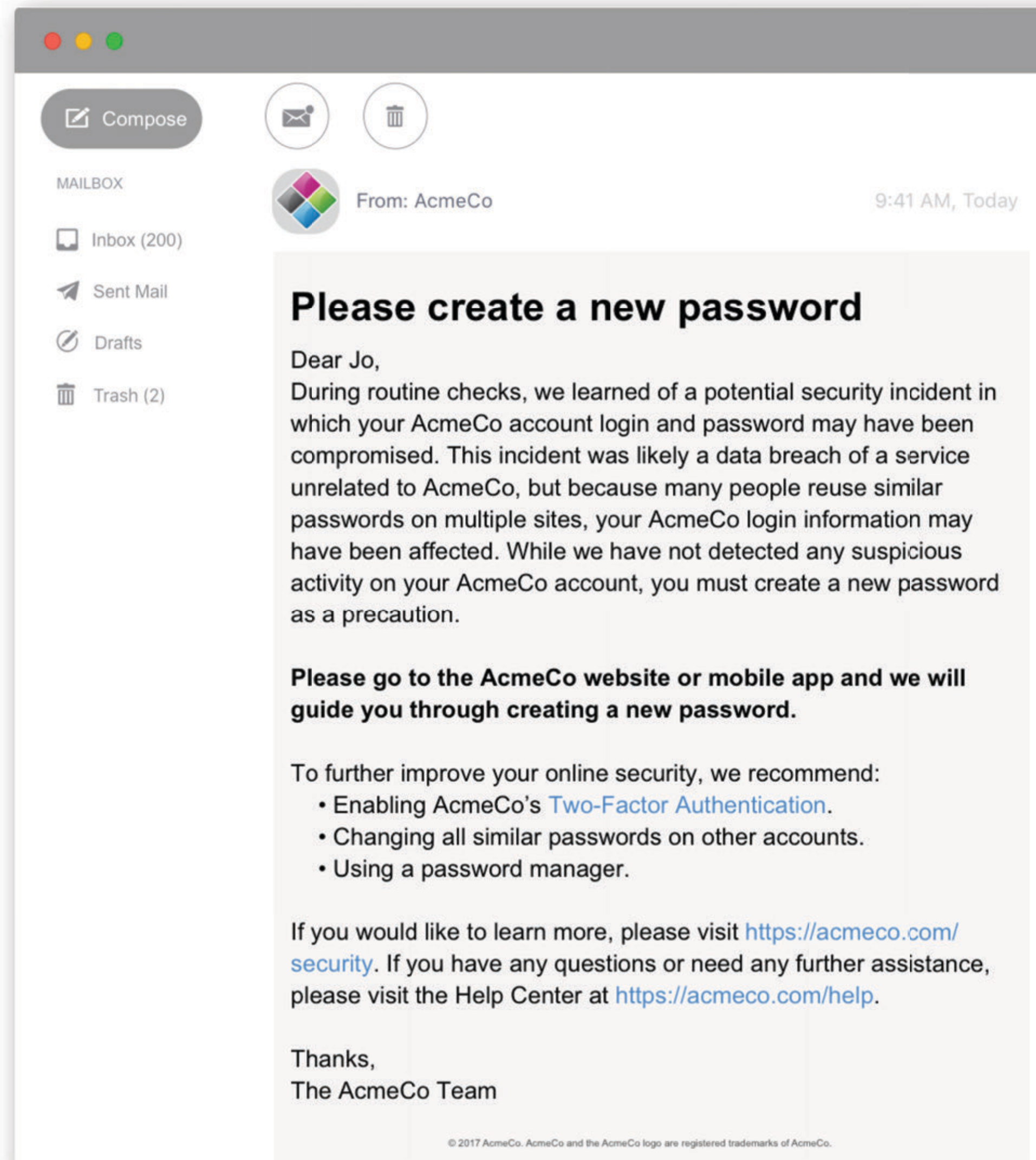
**send via email + more immediate channel**

**name password reuse as root cause**

**force password reset**

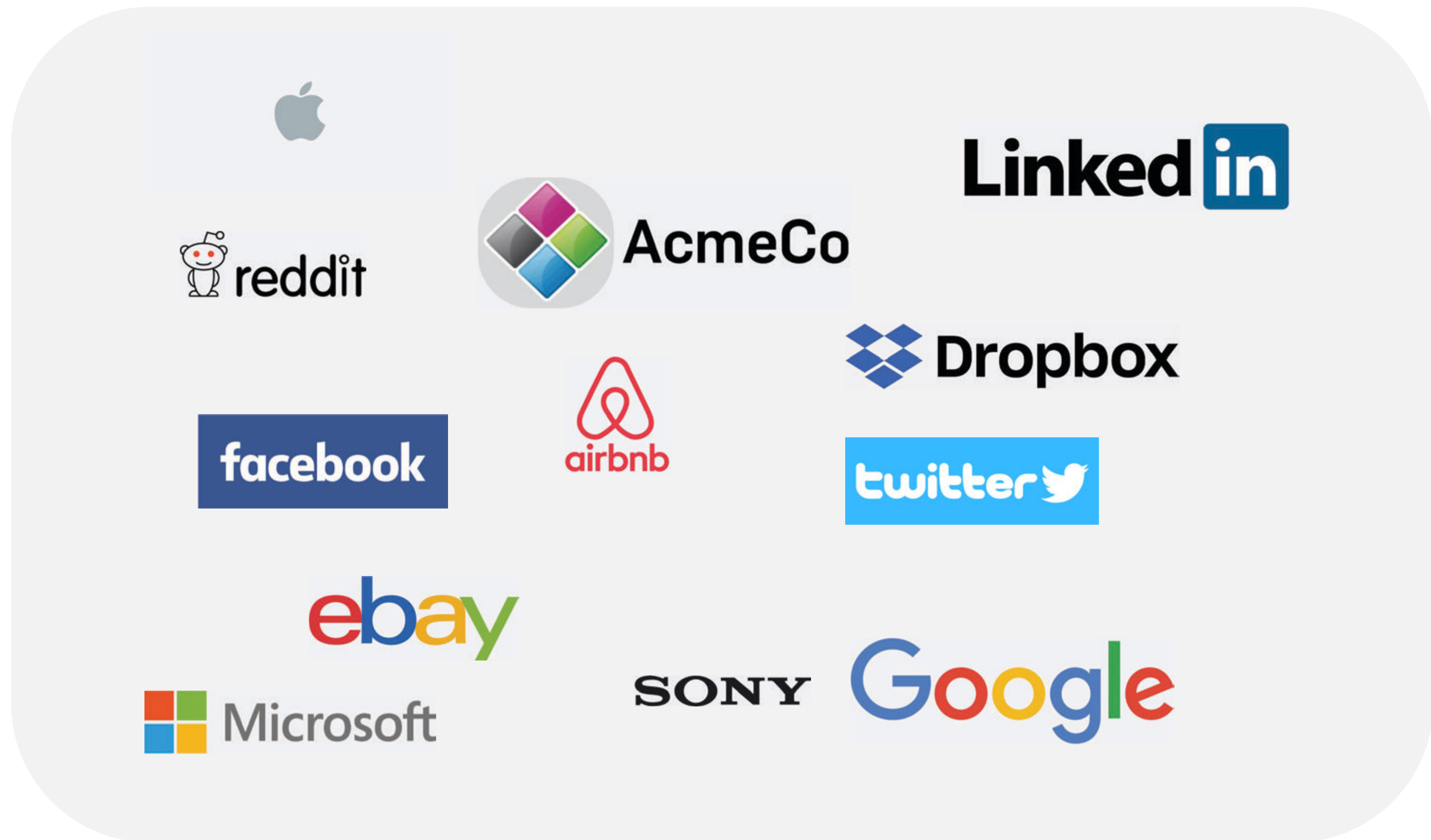
**encourage 2FA and password managers**

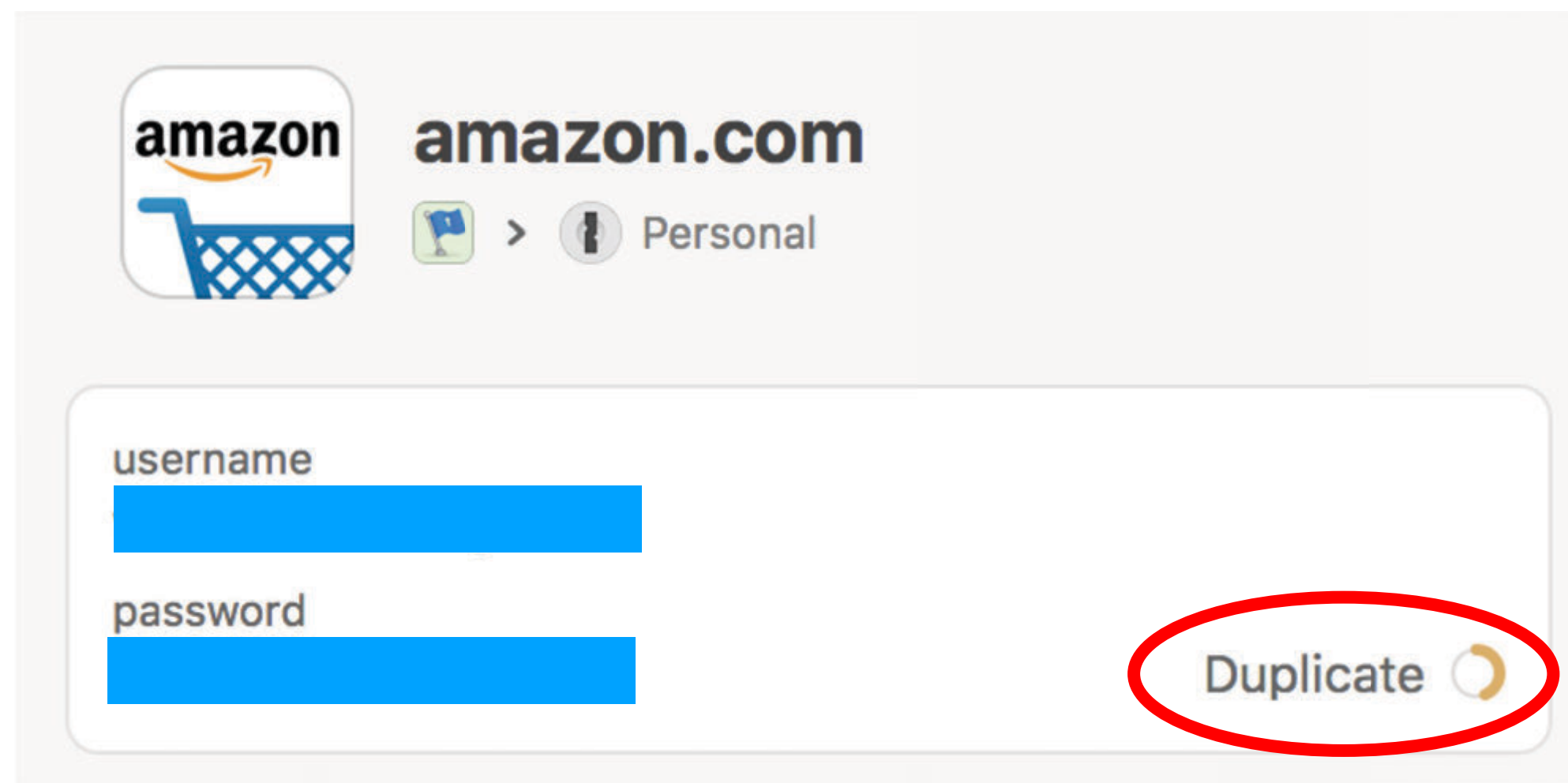
**suggest unique passwords for other accounts**



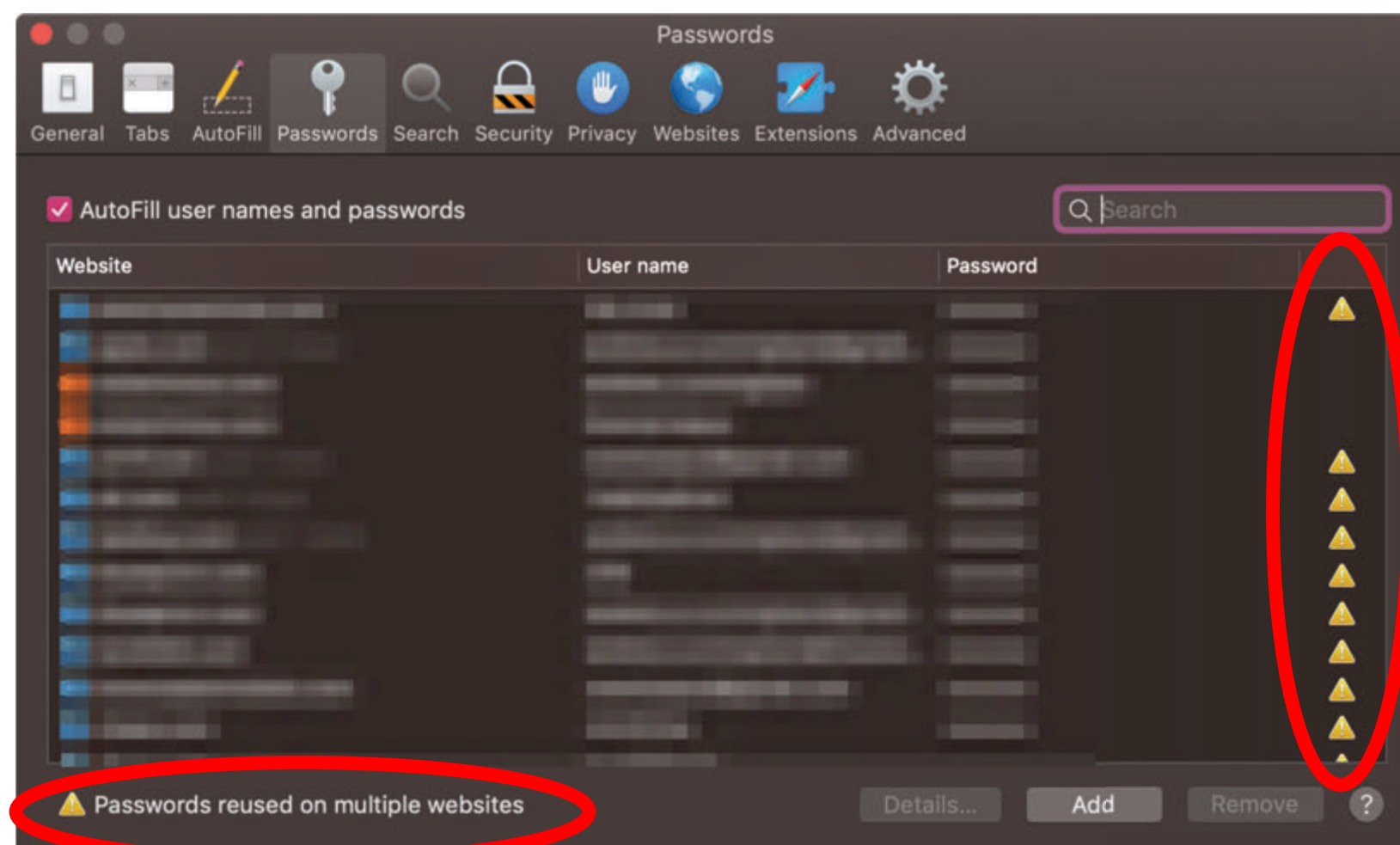
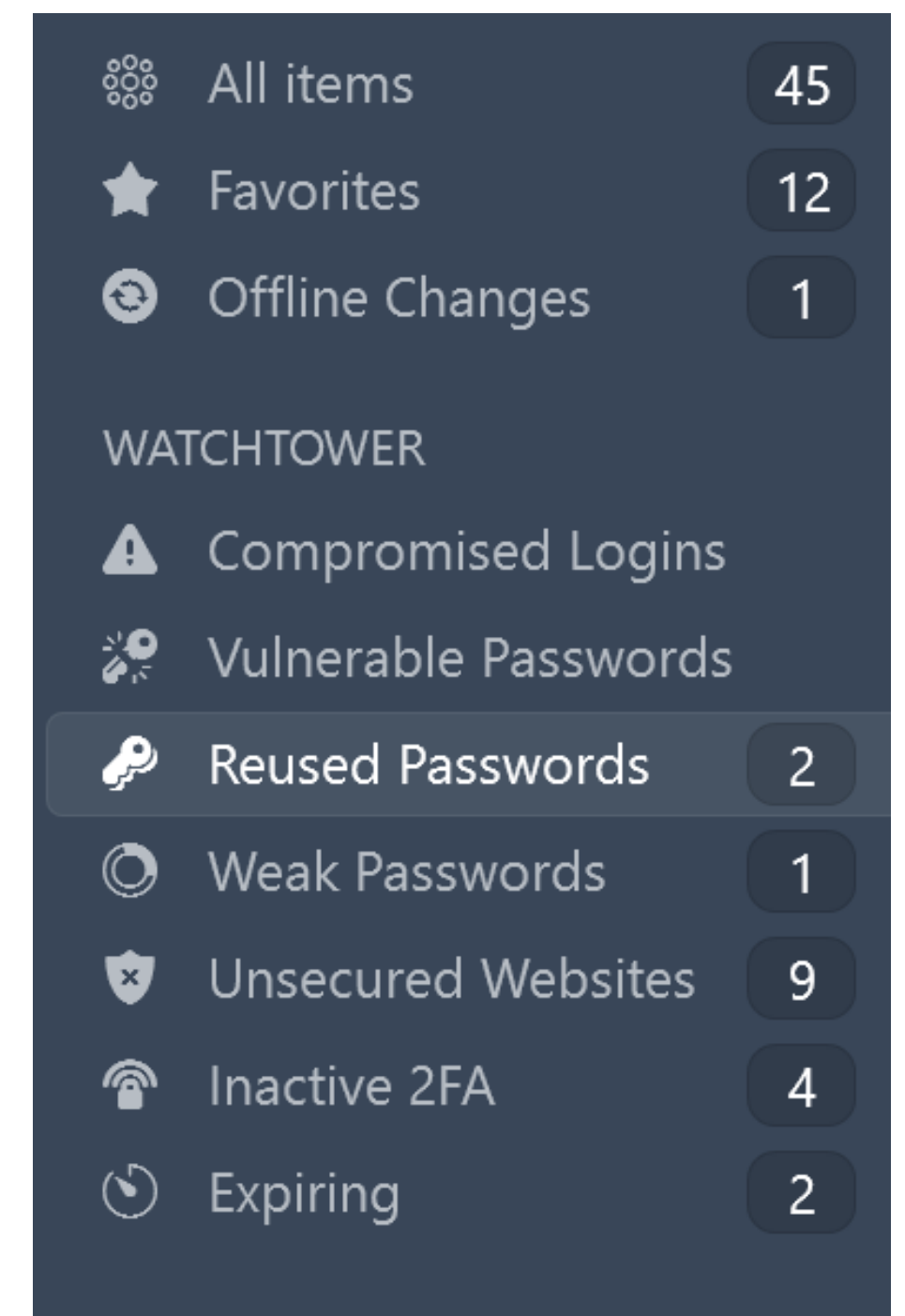
# conclusion

1. formative, systematic study of password-reuse notifications
2. developed best practices
3. future work should study novel notifications





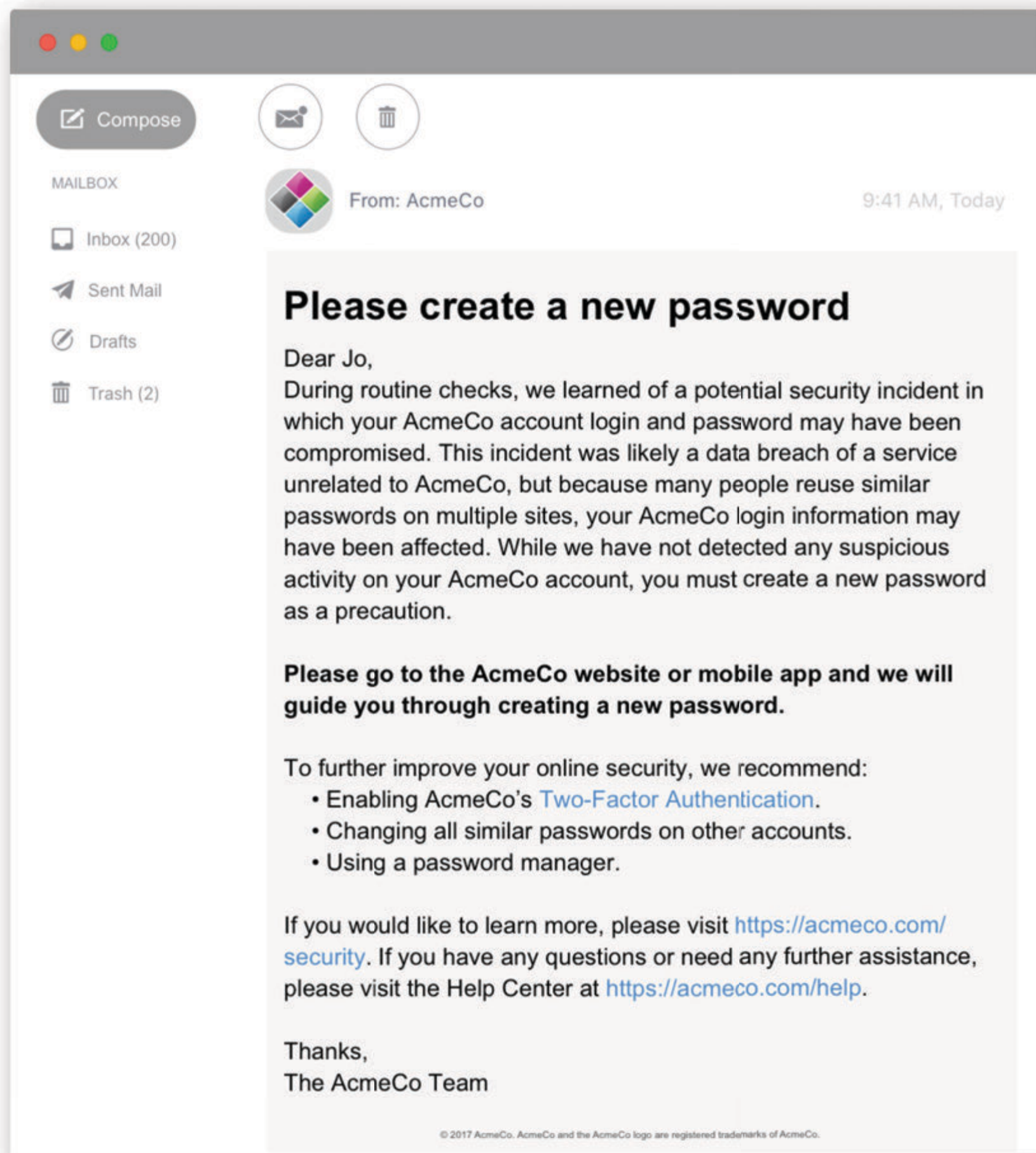
1Password



macOS Mojave, Safari 12

# conclusion

1. formative, systematic study of password-reuse notifications
2. developed best practices
3. future work should study novel notifications AND find ecosystem-level solutions



# Designing Password-Reuse Notifications

Maximilian Golla,  
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