Psst: a candy bar for your password?
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OKAY class, pay attention. A bit of shoosh, please. We want to see all eyes on Defrag. You there, up the back, don't think we can't see what you're up to. Just because we're not looking at you doesn't mean we don't know what's going on. We've got eyes in the back of our head, you know. Come on people!

Right, now that we have your full attention, we just wanted to say that we are very disappointed in you. Extremely disappointed. Your behaviour is a disgrace. We think it's time that you had a good hard look at yourself — stop smirking, there's nothing funny about the word hard — a good hard look at yourself, because we don't think you'll like the picture you see.

Now, at this point, some of you may be thinking: hang on a minute, Defrag. I don't buy the newspaper for this kind of abuse, although I understand there are some in society who would pay good money for such a telling off. What's the dealio with the stern lecture?"

To which we say, we're sorry that we had to get all school-teacher on you there, but it's the only way we'll get the message across.

We're talking about the issue of password security. Or rather, the lack thereof. It seems that every other week, Defrag has to read about some study that finds people's attitudes to keeping their passwords secure are lackadaisical at best.

Last year, a study for the Infosecurity Europe trade show discovered that 75 per cent of people surveyed at London's Waterloo station would give up their password when asked in exchange for a free pen. A further 15 per cent could be tricked into revealing it through social engineering, such as asking if they used a pet's name and later asking them what their pet was called.

Well, last week, the Infosecurity Europe trade show went to London's Liverpool Street station and found much the same story. More than 70 per cent of those surveyed revealed their passwords in exchange for a chocolate bar, with 34 per cent willing to volunteer the information without the bribe. So, all Defrag can do is shake our head and make tut-tut noises. Now, if it was a 250g block of Fruit and Nut, we'd understand, but a freaking bar of chocolate is just wrong.

When they get around to surveying people at Australian stations — and they will, once they get down to Mornington Crescent, a journey to the Antipodes is inevitable — try to learn from the mistakes of British commuters.

(It has to be said Defrag is a little suspicious that the Infosecurity Europe trade show spends so much time hanging around train stations asking people their passwords, if you catch our drift.

Next thing you know, they will be conducting "surveys" about how much money you can steal by identity theft and whether it's enough to live a luxurious life on the lam in the Cayman Islands).

Giving in to a meagre temptation such as a Snickers just lowers the bar for the rest of us. Don't accept their first offer, hold out for a bitching surround sound system or a high-end laptop. Here endeth the lesson.