



Summer 2010

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

A message from Al Strawn, Interim CEO

International Credit Union Operating Principles states "in keeping with their philosophy and the pooling practices of cooperatives, credit unions within their capability actively cooperate with other credit unions...in order to best serve the interests of their members and their communities."

This principle is the motivation that led Matanuska Valley FCU (MVFCU) and ALPs FCU (ALPs) to enter into an agreement in early 2010. Under the agreement MVFCU is providing management support for ALPs. Situated in beautiful Sitka, ALPs is celebrating 50 years of serving their community. With approximately \$40 million in assets, the

credit union is truly part of the economic engine that helps many people and small businesses in Sitka. MVFCU also has a long history of service, dating back to 1948 when the credit union started in Palmer. Today, the credit union serves over 32,000 members with eight community offices throughout the Mat-Su and Eagle River.

I appreciate the support I have received from the Board of Directors of both organizations. Our common purpose is to provide our members with knowledge and service, helping them to achieve their financial goals. Both organizations believe in building our credit unions on a solid foundation with financial strength, stability and safety. We value relationships based on trust and mutual respect. We want to attract caring, knowledgeable and competent people. We believe in cooperative principles, and encourage creativity and innovation.

With a clear mission and core values as our compass we will move together into the future. The credit union motto of "People helping people" is a powerful concept. Having strong community based credit unions has never been more important. Thank you for your continued membership and trust in YOUR credit union.



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OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Friday 9:00 am - 5:30 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: www.alpsfcu.org

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OFFICE CLOSURES

**Monday,
September 6**
in observance of
Labor Day

KEEP PASSWORDS STRONG, SECRET AND SAFE

In early 2009 more than 30 high-profile accounts on social-messaging site Twitter were compromised, including those of President Barack Obama and Britney Spears. A weak password on a Twitter employee's computer caused the security breach - a hacker used dictionary attack software, which systematically tries all words in the program's "dictionary," beginning with commonly used ones such as names and places, until it discovers a computer's password or exhausts its list.

This hacker's program discovered the Twitter employee's password and used administrative tools on the computer to reset passwords on the high-profile accounts. Then, in an online forum, the hacker offered anyone access to the accounts upon request.

How could the Twitter employee have foiled the dictionary attack? By creating a robust password and guarding it from unauthorized access. Dictionary attacks are only one way unscrupulous people steal passwords and commit malicious acts on unsuspecting consumers, and the consequences can be far more serious than having people open your Twitter account. (Although sending fake messages as President Obama could be quite serious, fortunately the scam was discovered before that happened.)

The point is, it's vital that you keep your computer's content secure by creating strong passwords, keeping them secret, and keeping track of them. A compromised password could lead to identity theft or other dire consequences. A criminal could use your information to apply for credit cards or mortgages, or to make online purchases or other transactions.

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