

Password Apps or Other Methods of Password Collection

OK. So i have maybe 90 different passwords. I would like to find an app for my phone/tablet/laptop and desktop that securely stores them all for me.

Any suggestions or warnings?

Lastpass is the best! Easy interface, works across PC/MAC platforms. To get the mobile version you have to buy the pro version, I think, but it is worth it.

Ronni Jillions, District of Columbia

KeePass.

<https://keepass.info/>

I've used it for many years without an issue. Everything is encrypted and stored on a file on your device.

If you have multiple devices, stick your password file in Dropbox or similar storage. Then the *encrypted* file gets synced among devices, and you can open and update it on whatever device you want.

I shouldn't have to say this, but I will - every single time a user is asked to create a password, we should always create a new, unique, random password for that specific use. KeePass makes it easy to create a random password, store it, and then not have to remember it.

I only remember my KeePass password, my Windows password, and maybe about 3 others. Everything else is completely random and stored securely for me, so I don't have to remember. :)

Andrew Flusche, Virginia

KeePass: <https://keepass.info/>

Why I prefer it to other solutions:

1) It's freeware and open source.

2) Passwords are kept in your own database, under your own control, not off in "the cloud" somewhere.

3) There are versions of KeePass available for every platform you could think of: Windows, Mac, Android, iOS, Linux, etc.

4) It doesn't do things automatically unless you set it up that way, as opposed to, say the horrendous RoboForm.

(I had to obtain a friend's passwords from his RoboForm database. It's automatically generated from one's Web history, and was a disorganized, sprawling mess.)

Michael Koenecke, Texas

I use 1Password, only the mobile version.

It used to be a user could just by the app either the desktop or mobile, and use it in perpetuity. I understand they now have a subscription model billed annually. My mobile apps appear to be grandfathered in so I don't have to subscribe. Don't know if I want to subscribe to such a basic app.

It's a good tool. Even Bruce Schneier (a leader in the crypto field:

<https://www.schneier.com/>) uses the service.

Roger Traversa, Pennsylvania

Maybe another approach. How about using a system? Something like first letter of the website/place, BB*, and 1991 So for a gmail password it would be - gBB*1991 That's gmail, Biz Brawl star, 1991.

Amazon would be aBB*1991

Something like that would make remembering passwords pretty darn simple.

Deborah, Matthews, Virginia

I use Dashlane. Similar to the others mentioned. There is a free version, but the paid version syncs across devices. There is a good comparison of various apps here:

<https://www.howtogeek.com/240255/password-managers-compared-lastpass-vs-keepass-vs-dashlane-vs-1password/>

Kevin W. Grierson, Virginia

Deb,

The concern is that if one of your passwords is compromised, a crook is only one character away from accessing all of your other passwords. That is why you want a random password generator, to create complex passwords and a password manager to remember them.

I use LastPass for that purpose.

Jim Pardue, North Carolina

I just use Hunter2 for all of my passwords.

Justin Meyer, Florida

I use Dashlane, the paid for one, and it works great across all devices.

Robert "Robby" W. Hughes, Jr., Georgia

Good overview on the topic from the folks at the Wirecutter:

<https://thewirecutter.com/reviews/best-password-managers/>

Hope this helps.

Dave Rakowski, Pennsylvania

I also love LasPass, I use the paid version so that it is accessible and syncs across all devices and my desktop computer. I have a very strong master pass phrase for it so

that's the only thing I have to remember or keep someplace other than within LastPass. It generates and stores all other passwords randomly so that nothing is the same for any site.

Miriam Jacobson, Pennsylvania

Wirecutter used to be trustworthy. No longer. That site demands that anything they recommend give them an affiliate cut.

It's pretty well documented that if a product doesn't accept their demand then it doesn't get reviewed or if reviewed the recommend goes away.

Roger Traversa

KeePass.

Also, Justin, I understood your Hunter2 reference. Haven't thought about that classic in a while.

Ryan Phillips, South Carolina

A good and fun way to generate strong master pass phrases (Miriam is correct to use "phrase" rather than "word") is to use Arnold Reinhold's Diceware list, as modified/improved by EFF.

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/07/new-wordlists-random-passphrases> or
<https://www.eff.org/node/92286>

Yes, you do need actual dice. '-)

James S. Tyre, California

Sorry but I don't understand the Hunter2 reference. Can someone enlighten us or at least me?

Roberta Fay, California

Roberta -

Here is your answer: <http://www.bash.org/?244321>

It's an IRC chat thing from a long time ago.

Ryan Phillips
