How Do You Keep Track of Passwords?

I'm sure a part of this is due to me getting older! (GRRRRRR, DAMMIT!! lol). However, I have a number of sites that require me to change passwords. What do you use to keep track of all of your passwords?

Lastpass was the best thing I ever did and it will be the best thing you ever do

John Genova, New York

A friend was just telling me last night about a program he uses to store all his passwords. It sounded pretty nifty, I'll call him about it today if you like. Personally, I keep all of my passwords on an index card locked away. The downside is I can't access anything without the index card.

Michael A. Huerta, New York

I have tried two ways and like the 2nd way better. I had a notebook I kept near my computer, but then I had to thumb through all the pages to find the one I wanted and I did not always have it with me when I needed it. Then my brother showed me how he has a spread sheet with all the passwords. It is on my computer, it is easy to update and it is always with the computer where I need it. And your aggravation has nothing to do with age, my children have the same problem with their passwords!

Audrey Cosgrove, Illinois

And lastpass does more than just keep passwords; it also stores your credit card and contact info so that you can populate any site with this info when making purchases; saves tons of time and energy John
Sent from my Blackberry

John J. Genova

Thanks, Audrey. I thought I was going to have to go and eat some more brain food.

Anthony Reeves, Florida

KeePass is similar. Free and portable. I have my database of passwords on a flash memory card. It also has a password generator. And I only have to remember one password to get into the database.

Jon van Horne

+1

I've been a KeePass user for as long as I can remember. Many many years. It's never let me down a single time.

KeePass is 100% free: http://keepass.info/

Once you develop the habit, using a password manager makes life so much easier. I never have to sit and think of a password. If I come across a new site that I need to register for, I open KeePass (always running in my system tray) and create a new entry. It automatically generates a password for me, and I plug that into the registration form. Label the password in KeePass, and I'm done.

Then whenever I need a password, I know it's always in KeePass. And of course *EVERY* site / program has its own unique password. If one is comprised, nothing else will be.

KeePass also has mobile versions that you can install on your smart phone. I use KeePassDroid on my Android phone & tablet. It doesn't allow editing / creating passwords, but I can easily look up existing passwords (after I unlock the KeePass database, of course).

Please don't put your passwords in a regular old spreadsheet. You might as well put them on sticky notes around your monitor. Passwords must be in encrypted storage that is secured with a STRONG password (long, random, etc).

Andrew Flusche, Virginia

So what happens if someone gets that one password to get into your database?

Mike Phillips, North Carolina

They would also have to get physical access to the KeePass database. That's the beauty of KeePass - the actual file is in your physical control.

My master password exists in my head and in one secure physical location that is away from my KeePass database.

Recording passwords anywhere is never going to be fail safe. There's always a way to get them. The point is to make it as difficult as possible, while still providing access to the owner.

If you can think of and remember 100% unique, strong passwords for every use, kudos to you!

Andrew Flusche

I have them stored in a secure, top secret location - all 77 pages of them.

Mike Phillips

What if the company goes under?

Shell Bleiweiss, Illinois

What if you suddenly lose all memory of where everything is?

Wayne Leong, Florida

That's why I use KeePass - it's not reliant on any company to stay in business. It's simply software that you use to manage the KeePass database. As long as I have one computer with KeePass installed, I can manage my database (which is backed up in several locations).

Secondly, KeePass is open source and free. If the main developer disappears, there's still a community of developers working on it. It would live on.

On Sat, Dec 1, 2012 at 10:31 AM, Wayne Leong <wayne_leong2000@yahoo.com>wrote:
 - What if you suddenly lose all memory of where everything is ?

Then I won't even remember what I had passwords for anyway. ;)

But seriously, my wife uses KeePass too, so she knows how it works. And she knows where the master password for my database is stored.

Andrew Flusche

What if the world ends in three weeks?

Sent from my iPad

Springer Law Firm

Lastpass

Mitchell Goldstein

The only totally secure system for keeping passwords is in your head. Which, upon your death, leaves your executor in a bit of a pickle. In this case, you probably want your master password to be something very hard to guess. With KeePass, you can also require a keyed USB drive to open your database, if you want extra security.

Michael A. Koenecke, Texas

If you use a file on your computer, you might consider encrypting the file. Not sure if that is more or less secure than using a program such as KeePass or Fastpass, but at least it provides some level of protection if your computer is hacked.

Lynne Myhre, Massachusetts

I use LastPass.

One negative is that, at one time, it conflicted with gmail and stripped the subject out of replies. It doesn't seem to be happening these days. Several of you told me that getting my messages without subjects annoyed you. [I checked the subject right before I sent this email. Grin!]

Question for the group. If I use Lastpass on my mobile phone, any recommendations for passwords or password styles? It isn't too difficult to type my master password on a keyboard but it would be a bear if I had to type it several times a day on that #*&#* phone.

Jim Pardue, North Carolina

What kind of phone do you have? I have the LastPass app on my iPad and Samsung Note 2 with very little problem typing the password. I removed it from my BlackBerry because it seemed the BB wasn't able to do a good job with it. (or it could have been just me) It is a small price to pay for the enormous convenience of having it.

John Genova

I have an Android Razr Maxx with a touchscreen. The issue is the alpha/numeric uppercase/lowercase special characters. On a keyboard, I do it a lot of the time without error. On a phone, I think it would be a real PITA. I guess I could just change my master password to "secret."

Jim Pardue

1Password
https://agilebits.com/onepassword

Michael Wright

Late to the thread but I definitely second KeePass. Been using it for about 2 years. I use it on all my computers and have the mobile on my phone. It generates highly secure passwords and stores all your passwords in a encrypted and password protected file. To get into your passwords someone would have to have both the file and the master password. The file is backed up along with all my other files in case there's somehow some corruption of the file. I have not had any glitches that caused me to lose access to my passwords. Once I updated the program on one computer and it caused all the other computers to lose the ability to read the file, which is stored on a shared directory. Upgrading the program on all the other devices fixed that.

Matthew Parham, New York

I downloaded KeePass and it said there was an instruction manual, but I cannot locate it. Also, I cannot figure out by looking at the program opened on my computer how I'm to put in information, or use it. Any suggestions?

Keith E. Davis, Texas

I use LastPass as well--just the fre version. Very useful.

Nicole Black, New York

Check this out: http://keepass.info/help/base/firststeps.html Hope it helps.

Jon van Horne