Password Managers

Compiled by the Clinic to End Tech Abuse

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Goal

This guide will help you learn the basics of password managers.

What Is a Password Manager?

Password managers are programs that store your passwords so you don't have to remember them. Some password managers will also help you create passwords that would be difficult for someone else to guess.

A good password manager will store your passwords securely. Many will also fill in your passwords for you when you visit websites where you have an account.

Is a Password Manager a Good Choice for You?

It depends on your situation. If someone you are worried about has physical access to your phone or computer, then a password manager could let them sign into your accounts without knowing your password. If you are concerned about this, you might not want to use a password manager. Similarly, if you are worried that someone knows or could force you to tell them your "master key" (main password) for a password manager, then a password manager may not be right for you.

But if you are normally the only one who uses your computer or phone, and if you think you can keep your "master key" secret, then a password manager may help you. Having strong passwords that you store in a password manager can help stop other people from getting into your online accounts from other computers.

How Does it Work?

Every time you enter a username and password for an app or a website, the password manager will save this information. Then, when you visit that app or website again, the password manager will automatically fill in the login form.

You will often need to know a main password that you use for the password manager program. The password manager will store your other passwords.

A good password manager will store your passwords in an encrypted database to prevent leaks or hacking.

In summary, instead of remembering a password for each app or website you use, you will only have to remember the password manager's master key (main password). Additionally, many password managers offer users the service of creating and storing strong and unique passwords. This can reduce the risk that comes with using the same password across many apps and websites.

IMPORTANT: You should be the only one who knows the master key (main password) for your password manager. If someone else learns what your master key is, they could use it to get access to all of your other passwords and get into your accounts.

Examples of Password Managers

The following is a list of some password managers that are available. We are unable to recommend any specific password manager, but you may want to know about some of the programs that currently exist.

Some password managers are free, and some others offer a free trial version or a limited free version.

- **LastPass**. Website: https://www.lastpass.com
- **1Password**. Website: https://1password.com
- **Bitwarden**. Website: https://bitwarden.com
- **Dashlane**. Website: https://www.dashlane.com
- **Keeper**. Website: https://www.keepersecurity.com
- **KeePassXC**. Website: https://keepassxc.org

For more details on these password managers, you could take a look at the following article: https://www.cnet.com/how-to/best-password-manager-to-use-for-2020-1password-last-password-more-compared/