

Security :: Password Manager Software

While we're always encouraging you to use strong passwords, and you already know you should use different passwords for different sites to protect your personally-identifiable information, we recognize that it's challenging to remember multiple password-user name combinations and what goes with which site. So we've done some research and come up with a list of password manager applications we feel comfortable recommending to securely store all your passwords in a single location, which is much safer and more efficient than Post-It notes, browser caches, or Word documents.

Most password managers support the following functionality:

- The use of many different user names without your having to remember them all
- Unique logins for each account
- Random password generators that create strong passwords
- Storage of web addresses associated with the login pages of different accounts
- Multiple browsers and operating systems, including mobile devices
- Synchronization of account information between devices using an online storage service like Dropbox
- Security of data used for synchronization

Our top recommendations

Software	Cost	Win	Mac	iPhone/iPad	Android
KeePassX [1]	Free	Y	Y	Y (\$)	Y
1Password [2]	Fee	Y	Y	Y (\$\$)	Y
Lastpass [3]	Free	Browser	Browser	Y (\$)	Y (\$)

Best bets:

- If you have a PC, go for KeePassX or Lastpass
- If you have a Mac, go for KeePassX or 1Password

Click the name of the software package to go to that product's website and download the application. Follow the instructions provided on that site/in the software to install the application and configure it to store your password. You can set up a Dropbox account through the [Dropbox website](#) [4].

Be sure to choose a strong Master Pass Phrase for your accounts but remember that, if you lose it, you will lose access to all the passwords stored in the account. Check our tips for [creating a strong password](#) [5].

For more information on password managers, check out these articles:

Risk assessment of storing encrypted password file in on-line storage:

<http://seekerblog.com/2011/03/23/the-only-secure-password-is-the-one-you-can%E2%80%99t-remember/> [6]

Comparative reviews:

<http://www.40tech.com/2011/05/16/lastpass-vs-1password-whose-syncing-method-is-more-secure/> [7]

<http://www.40tech.com/2009/06/30/password-manager-shootout-ewallet-vs-keepass-vs-lastpass/> [8]

Related Topics

[Passwords & Digital Identities](#) [9], [Security](#) [10]

Source URL: <http://www.humboldt.edu/its/security-password-managers>

Links:

[1] <http://www.keepassx.org>

[2] <http://agilewebsolutions.com/onepassword>

[3] <http://lastpass.com>

[4] <http://www.dropbox.com/>

[5] <http://www.humboldt.edu/its/security-accountprotection>

[6] <http://seekerblog.com/2011/03/23/the-only-secure-password-is-the-one-you-can%E2%80%99t-remember/>

[7] <http://www.40tech.com/2011/05/16/lastpass-vs-1password-whose-syncing-method-is-more-secure/>

[8] <http://www.40tech.com/2009/06/30/password-manager-shootout-ewallet-vs-keepass-vs-lastpass/>

[9] <http://www.humboldt.edu/its/category/quicklinks/passwords-digital-identities>

[10] <http://www.humboldt.edu/its/category/quicklinks/security>