



August 2022

# Cyber Security Awareness Newsletter

Protecting yourself and information from cyber security threats

As our online presence continues to grow over time, we've gone from having just a couple of passwords to upwards of 100 or more. Some folks are likely to use the same password for most of their accounts and that is not safe to do. If your one password gets stolen because of a breach, it can be used to gain access to all your accounts and your sensitive information.



But no need to fret, the best way to manage unique passwords for the ever-increasing number of online accounts we own is through a password manager application. Password managers are easy to use and make a big difference.

## Password Managers

A password manager is software created to manage all your digital credentials like usernames and passwords. It stores them safely in an encrypted database and can also generate new passwords when needed. Since the password manager stores all your passwords, you don't need to memorize hundreds of passwords or keep that secret password paper in your drawer. You only need to remember one password to unlock your password vault. Doing this makes accessing all your passwords so much easier.

## What are the advantages of a password manager?



Password managers not only let you manage hundreds of unique passwords for your online accounts. But some of the services also offer advantages such as:

- Auto Type, automatically filling in your password and allows you to have long and complex passwords without the need to memorize them or write them down.
- Can hold website information and automatically open a browser to a destination site or application and autotype your password.
- Can generate new passwords for you if you ever need to change one.
- Your passwords are encrypted and can only be unlocked with the password you set.
- Can work across all your devices and operating systems either as a direct application or a browser extension.
- Can protect your identity through encryption.
- Notify you of potential phishing websites.

### **What password managers are we recommending?**



The BSD Information Security Office recommends using Bitwarden, LastPass, or 1Password. Many newer password managers have become available, but you should carefully review the vendor's privacy notices regarding data that is gathered and sold, even if you are paying for the service. See chart below for further comparison.

### **Free vs paid password managers**

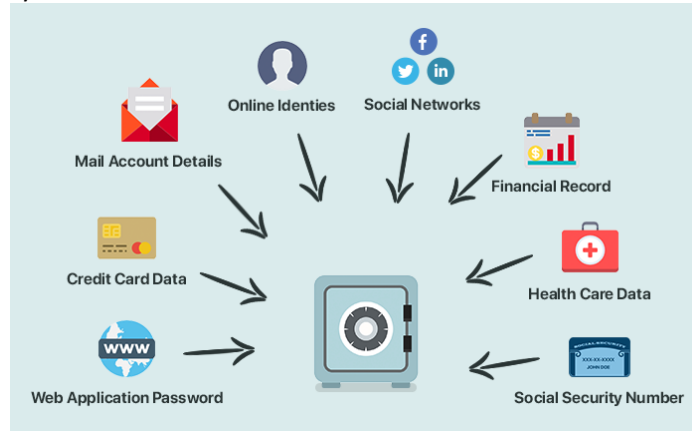


There are a lot of password managers out there. In general, there are downsides to free password managers vs a paid for password manager.

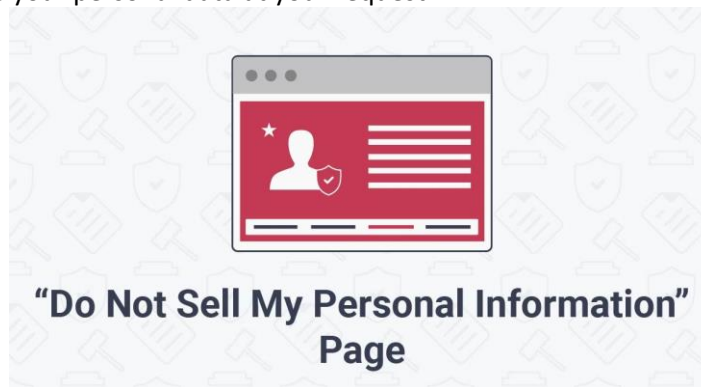
Most password managers will:

- Request your permission to collect and store data
- Track your websites and/or applications you are using.
- Track app performance, interactions and errors which are used to improve and support

- Gather personal data which can be used to identify an individual
- Some gather anonymous data which has no identifiable information

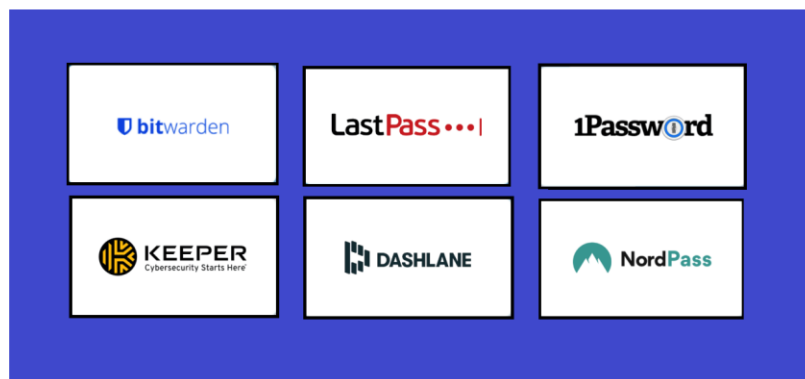


- **Free** password managers just about always sell your personal information (except for Bitwarden) in the same manner as how web cookies are used when you surf the internet (your interests sold to advertisers interested in advertising to you based on the history of the data that been generated by you).
- Free password managers do allow you to opt out from them selling your data and you can also have them delete your personal data at your request.



- It should be noted that this is by no means an exhaustive list of the only information they gather, and their terms of service can change at any time at their discretion.

A quick review of the following password managers



	<b>Bitwarden</b>
<b>Cost</b>	Free and Paid Version Available
<b>Data Selling/sharing Practices</b>	No
<b>Privacy policy/Opt Out Links</b>	<a href="https://bitwarden.com/privacy/">https://bitwarden.com/privacy/</a>
<b>Customer Support</b>	Yes
<b>Cross Platform Capability</b>	Windows, Mac, iOS, Android, Linux
<b>Browser Extensions</b>	Chrome, Safari, Firefox, Opera, Brave, Microsoft Edge, Vivaldi, Tor
	<b>1Password</b>
<b>Cost</b>	Trial and Paid version
<b>Data Selling/sharing Practices</b>	No
<b>Privacy policy and Opt Out Links</b>	<a href="https://support.1password.com/1password-privacy/">https://support.1password.com/1password-privacy/</a>
<b>Customer Support</b>	Yes
<b>Cross Platform Capability</b>	Windows, Mac, iOS, Android, Linux, Chrome OS, FreeBSD, OpenBSD
<b>Browser Extensions</b>	Chrome, Safari, Firefox, Brave, Edge
	<b>LastPass</b>
<b>Cost</b>	Free and Paid Version Available
<b>Data Selling/sharing Practices</b>	No
<b>Privacy policy and Opt Out Links</b>	<a href="https://www.lastpass.com...">https://www.lastpass.com...</a>
<b>Customer Support</b>	Limited for Free users
<b>Cross Platform Capability</b>	Windows, Mac, iOS, Android, Linux, Chrome OS
<b>Browser Extensions</b>	Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Edge, Opera
	<b>Keeper</b>
<b>Cost</b>	Trial and Paid version
<b>Data Selling/sharing Practices</b>	Yes
<b>Privacy policy and Opt Out Links</b>	<a href="https://keepersecurity.com/unsubscribe">https://keepersecurity.com/unsubscribe</a>
<b>Customer Support</b>	Limited for Free users
<b>Cross Platform Capability</b>	Windows, Mac, iOS, Android, Linux
<b>Browser Extensions</b>	Chrome, Safari, Firefox, Opera, Internet Explorer, Edge
	<b>Dashlane</b>
<b>Cost</b>	Free and Paid Version Available
<b>Data Selling/sharing Practices</b>	Yes
<b>Privacy policy and Opt Out Links</b>	<a href="https://www.dashlane.com/privacy/donotsell">https://www.dashlane.com/privacy/donotsell</a>
<b>Customer Support</b>	Limited for Free users
<b>Cross Platform Capability</b>	Web Based - Not Consistent across platforms
<b>Browser Extensions</b>	Web Based - Not Consistent across platforms
	<b>Nord</b>
<b>Cost</b>	Free and Paid Version Available
<b>Data Selling/sharing Practices</b>	Yes
<b>Privacy policy and Opt Out Links</b>	<a href="https://my.nordaccount.com/legal/privacy-policy/">https://my.nordaccount.com/legal/privacy-policy/</a>
<b>Customer Support</b>	Limited for Free users
<b>Cross Platform Capability</b>	Windows, MacOS, Linux, Android, iOS
<b>Browser Extensions</b>	Google, Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Edge, Brave, Opera, and Safari

As always if you have any questions, comments or concerns please feel free to reach out to [security@bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:security@bsd.uchicago.edu) We are more than happy to hear feedback and answer any questions you may have.