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Password Managers - Tim Dewysockie (Rowan University) – dewysockie@rowan.edu

What are password managers?
Password managers are applications individuals or groups can use to securely store and retrieve login information (passwords, usernames, etc.).

How do they work?
Users access their password manager with a master password they create, which temporarily decrypts their passwords for retrieval.

Are passwords stored online or offline?
You can do a combination of both or just one. For example, you could store especially sensitive passwords offline (banking passwords, accounts with credit card information, etc.) on your device in a local password manager application, and you could store commonly used passwords online in a cloud-based password manager that you can retrieve anywhere using a browser.

How secure are password managers?
Password managers very secure. Master passwords are not stored on password managers' servers. Even if a hacker gets into a password manager's servers it's very difficult to get past their encryption and actually steal passwords. There have been attacks on password mangers, notably on LastPass, but no passwords were compromised. However, it is important that you have a strong master password that cannot easily be cracked. For extra protection, many password managers offer two-factor authentication.

What are some common features of password managers?

- Automatic password capture
- Autofill forms
- Automatic generation of strong passwords
- Import saved logins from browsers
- Password strength report
- Secure password sharing
- Two-factor authentication

What are some popular password managers and special features?

LastPass ****

- Free or $12/year
- More features in free version than competitors (including cross-device syncing), application passwords

dashlane

- Free (with limited features) or $40/year
- Significantly better user interface than competitors, bulk changing passwords, digital wallet, logs online purchases

Other Password Managers: 1Password (recommended for Mac and iOS users)