



# PASSWORD MANAGEMENT APPS AND PROCESSES

THE PROS AND THE CONS

*Brent H Cooke – For SLVCC*

# WAYS TO CREATE/SAVE YOUR PASSWORDS

- Memory (without a system)
  - Optimum Security: Easy to forget, Usually easier passwords
- Paper List or Book/Binder
  - Loose Security: Easy to lose (lose the list – lose it ALL), Hard to find the entry, Not usually with you
- Printed Spreadsheet
  - Loose Security: Synchronize computer with printed/updated list
- ToDo or Note List on Smartphone or Computer
  - Loose Security: Similar to spreadsheet
- App (Smartphone or Computer – Cloud Based, Cloud & Device Based, Device Based)
  - High Security: Secure (master pwd or biometric/face id), Free usually only for 1 device only (limited)

# YOUR PASSWORDS

- To Keep Them Secure:

- Should have at “minimum” 8 characters (more better – could be confusing)
  - Include Special Character(s)
  - Number(s)
  - Upper and Lower Case Letters
  - NO sequential patterns (ie: abc, aBc, 345, Xyz,)

- Easier For You:

- Custom Pattern (something that you can use easily that appears very cryptic – but also gives you a chance at remembering if you lose access to your list – YOUR SYSTEM)

- “special char” (ie: your choice - constant) &
- “unique letters” (ie: the first 3 / last 3 letters of the APP or Website ..... gOO, wEL, gLE, rGO) upper/lower combo
- “numbers” (ie: last 2 of graduating / marriage year (not birth, not house) 54
- “unique letters” (ie: initials of a parent / spouse / child ..... KB, etc) KB
- “special char” or “number” (ie: your choice – constant) @
- Final Result: &gOO54KB@ &wEL54KB@ &gLE54KB@ &rGO54KB@

# PROS AND CONS OF SYSTEM VS NOSYSTEM

- Store Your “System” Layout (on paper, in your head, on your computer/smartphone, in a safe)
  - If your password design is like this: &gLE54KB@
  - Use a “design hint” to remind you. What should your hint look like ???
  - An example that helps you with the above design: ANDxXX(L)promKatherineAT
    - AND = &
    - xXX(L) = 3 letters; one lower – 2 upper and the last 3 letters of the website or APP
    - prom = prom year
    - Katherine’s Initials = KB
    - AT = @
- So do something that makes sense to you.
  - Give this also to a trusted family member/friend and explain it so they can handle things in your absence (hospitalized, etc).
- No System ???
  - You better have a GREAT memory –or- your house doesn’t burn down with your computer and paper list in it.
- If you deviate from your “System” then you should also consider a good form of password recovery. Revisit your process.

# APPS AND SOFTWARE

- Free Versions of Password Managers are usually “per single device”
  - If you want more (smartphone & home computer) likely have to pay a fee (monthly or annually)
- Some Free Versions of Password Managers allow you to share entries with an individual.
  - Bank Account PIN entry, Safe Combination, etc
  - Could also create an entry that contains your “Master Password” for you Password Manager. That way they would have access to ALL your passwords if needed.
  - Could create an entry that contains the Layout of your “System” and setup your Master Password the same way.       ANDxXX(L)promKatherineAT
    - If your Password Manager is Keeper then use “pER”
    - If your Password Manager is LastPass then use “aSS”
    - If your Password Manager is DashLane then use “aSH”
    - Or whatever your design directs you to do .....