



Person of Non-Interest

[Home \(https://beaponi.com/\)](https://beaponi.com/) > [Learn \(https://beaponi.com/learn\)](https://beaponi.com/learn) > Which password manager is right for you?

Which password manager is right for you?

There's no single best one. Here's how to find one that fits your devices, your family, and your budget.

Last reviewed October 18, 2026 · [See the sources](#)

The short version

A password manager is an app that **creates strong passwords, remembers them, and fills them in for you**, so every account can have its own long, unique password without you memorizing any of them. (New to this? Start with [How to create a strong password \(https://beaponi.com/learn/strong-passwords\)](https://beaponi.com/learn/strong-passwords).)

Start with what you already have. If your phone or computer has one built in, that's often the easiest place to begin. You can always switch later.

Find your starting point

- **You mostly use an iPhone, iPad, or Mac:** start with **Apple Passwords**.
- **You mostly use Android or the Chrome browser:** start with **Google Password Manager**.

- **You use a mix of devices** (for example an iPhone and a Windows computer), **and want a free option**: look at **Bitwarden** or **Proton Pass**.
- **You want to share some passwords with family, and you're willing to pay**: look at **1Password Families**.
- **You'd like to keep your real email address more private when you sign up for things**: look at **Proton Pass**.

This is a suggestion based on fit, not a security ranking. Any of them is a big step up from reusing the same password, which U.S. cybersecurity guidance (CISA) warns against.

Five options worth knowing

Apple Passwords

Cost to start: built into Apple devices. **Good fit if** you mostly use Apple devices.

The Passwords app comes with iPhone, iPad, and Mac (iOS 18, iPadOS 18, or macOS Sequoia and later). It keeps your passwords, passkeys, Wi-Fi passwords, and verification codes in one place, syncs them across your Apple devices with iCloud Keychain, and warns you about passwords that might not be safe.

Keep in mind: on a Windows computer you can still reach them with iCloud for Windows, in Chrome or Edge, but it works most smoothly on Apple devices. [Apple's guide \(https://support.apple.com/en-us/120758\)](https://support.apple.com/en-us/120758)

Google Password Manager

Cost to start: built into Chrome and your Google Account. **Good fit if** you use Android or Chrome.

It creates strong passwords or passkeys, saves them in your Google Account, and fills them in on sites and apps.

Keep in mind: it works best if Chrome and your Google Account are already part of your routine. Google's guide (<https://support.google.com/accounts/answer/6208650>)

Bitwarden

Cost to start: free plan available. **Good fit if** you use a mix of devices and want a free, dedicated password manager.

The free plan includes unlimited stored logins, access on any device, and a password generator.

Keep in mind: it's a separate app and account, so expect a little more setup than a built-in option. Bitwarden's plans (<https://bitwarden.com/help/password-manager-plans/>)

1Password Families

Cost to start: paid subscription. **Good fit if** you want to share some passwords with family members.

One subscription covers up to five people. Everyone gets a private vault, and you can create shared vaults for things the family uses together. A family organizer can help a family member get back in if they forget their 1Password password.

Keep in mind: it's an ongoing subscription; check the current price on their site. 1Password Families (<https://support.1password.com/explore/families/>)

Proton Pass

Cost to start: free plan available. **Good fit if** you want a free option that also helps keep your real email address private.

The free plan includes unlimited logins on unlimited devices, a password generator, and 10 "hide-my-email" aliases: stand-in email addresses you can give to sites so your real address stays private.

Keep in mind: some extras need a paid plan. [Proton Pass plans \(https://proton.me/pass/pricing\)](https://proton.me/pass/pricing)

Compare at a glance

Option	Cost to start	Best match
Apple Passwords	Built in	Mostly Apple devices
Google Password Manager	Built in	Android and Chrome
Bitwarden	Free plan	Mixed devices, free
1Password Families	Paid	Sharing with family
Proton Pass	Free plan	Free, plus email privacy

Before you switch anything

1. **Start with one account**, such as your email, and make sure you can sign in with the password manager before moving everything.
2. **Protect the password manager itself** with a strong passphrase and [two-step verification \(https://beaponi.com/learn/two-step-verification\)](https://beaponi.com/learn/two-step-verification). It holds the keys to everything.
3. **Set up its recovery options** now, while you can still sign in, so a lost phone doesn't lock you out.

4. **Then move the rest over time.** Don't delete passwords saved somewhere else until you've confirmed you can get into those accounts.

Common questions

Are password managers safe? No tool is risk-free, but U.S. guidance supports them. CISA calls using a password manager one of the easiest ways to protect your accounts, and NIST notes that password managers make people more likely to choose stronger passwords. Protect yours with a strong passphrase and two-step verification.

What if I forget the main password to my password manager? Set up the recovery options it offers now, before you need them. With 1Password Families, for example, a family organizer can help a family member get back in.

Do I have to pay to be safer? No. The built-in options and the free plans above are a big step up from reusing passwords.

Can I change my mind later? Usually, yes. Many password managers can import and export saved passwords. Follow the provider's official instructions, and delete any exported file afterward, because it isn't protected.

Does PONI earn money from these? No. These are not affiliate links, no company paid to be included, and we didn't receive anything. We chose these five because together they cover free, built-in, family, and privacy needs. They're editorial suggestions based on each company's own documentation, not hands-on lab tests. The founder personally uses some of these products; PONI has no relationship with any of these companies.

Sources

Each product's features were checked against the company's own documentation on October 18, 2026. Prices and features change, so check the current details before you sign up. Next review: by April 2027.

- [Use the Passwords app \(https://support.apple.com/en-us/120758\)](https://support.apple.com/en-us/120758) (Apple)
- [Get started with Google Password Manager \(https://support.google.com/accounts/answer/6208650\)](https://support.google.com/accounts/answer/6208650) (Google)
- [Password Manager plans \(https://bitwarden.com/help/password-manager-plans/\)](https://bitwarden.com/help/password-manager-plans/) (Bitwarden)
- [1Password Families \(https://support.1password.com/explore/families/\)](https://support.1password.com/explore/families/) · [About family organizers \(https://support.1password.com/family-organizer/\)](https://support.1password.com/family-organizer/) (1Password)
- [Proton Pass pricing and plans \(https://proton.me/pass/pricing\)](https://proton.me/pass/pricing) (Proton)
- [Use Strong Passwords \(https://www.cisa.gov/secure-our-world/use-strong-passwords\)](https://www.cisa.gov/secure-our-world/use-strong-passwords) (CISA)

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