Dashlane Password Manager (Part 1)

By Trey Peacock, Winning Cases Based On Science & Data For Over 25 Years
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As technology proliferates into everyday life, the number of passwords we must create, remember, store, and access accelerates dramatically. A study conducted on over 20,000 internet users found that the average person possesses 90 discrete internet account logins. Unfortunately, it's highly improbable that the same average user equips each of these accounts with a unique, long, randomized, secure password. In fact, most users repeat the same password or password convention for many accounts. While repeating passwords helps with ease of recall when trying to access your online accounts, it gravely undermines the user's network security. The solution to this all-too-common problem? A password manager. I have been using Dashlane, the password manager I find to be the most useful and sophisticated, for many years. My law firm subscribes to Dashlane for Business and I continuously encourage all my holdout colleagues to use Dashlane for their personal accounts as well. Those who accept the challenge find that Dashlane offers helpful and intuitive features that make changing, guarding, and creating secure passwords easy and simple.

1. One Central Password Vault

First and foremost, the app's core competency is its most helpful function: the ability to store all of your passwords in one convenient, secure location. Dashlane's software scrambles and stores your encrypted passwords on the company's server, but your personal Master Password is not saved or recorded anywhere. Without your Master Password, your data is thoroughly useless to hacker breaches of the computer, phone, or tablet on which you install Dashlane.

2. Multi-factor Authentication Enabled Across All Devices

Dashlane allows users to set up and use multi-factor authentication (MFA) on a cell phone or email. Pick one, and in seconds you'll receive a one-time-use, randomized code that acts as a second barrier against unauthorized access. This added layer of security drastically reduces the risk of your account and information being accessed by a hostile party and users are highly encouraged to setup MFA.

3. Intuitive and Simple Browser Plugins

Dashlane also boasts the support of several custom-made browser plugins for Safari, Chrome, and Internet Explorer. This convenient feature makes entering your secure passwords a breeze. With the click of a single button, you can log in to your Dashlane account and auto-populate the password entry box with the necessary information. The plugins can also be set to monitor the entry of a new password or login and automatically record them in Dashlane.

4. AutoFill Technology

The app's browser plugins also allow users to simplify their online shopping, shipping, and registration processes through its smoothly integrated auto-fill feature. Simply begin entering data into an online form, and the plugin will prompt you to AutoFill the rest of your information. This makes filling out things like payment information and addresses incredibly easy, as the app provides support for those users who choose to enter this data into their accounts. And while many browsers come equipped with this auto-fill feature, only Dashlane protects its users' data with the aforementioned Master Password, securing the data at every turn.

Dashlane is free software for use on only one device. The free version is great for first time users who want to try out the app's basic features. However, I encourage all users to purchase Dashlane Premium for $60 a year. While expensive, Dashlane Premium is an investment in the protection of your privacy and security. And Dashlane Premium offers several additional features.

5. Auto-Synchronization Across All Devices (Dashlane Premium)

Dashlane Premium synchronizes your passwords and other secure information across every device on which the software is installed. This ensures that your passwords remain secure and accessible across all your devices, from laptops to tablets, from Apple products to Android.

6. VPN Access and DarkWeb Monitoring (Dashlane Premium)

Some of Dashlane Premium's coolest features are also its most esoteric. The Virtual Private Network and Dark Web Monitoring features may seem like proverbial spinning rims on the program's already substantial offering- flashy to have but serving no purpose. However, the practicality of these two features is extensive. The former allows users, with the click of the mouse, to create a virtual encrypted tunnel through insecure Wifi networks and provide a safe and secure path for communications and online activity. If desired, the VPN feature also lets the user decide the geographic location the rest of the online world will perceive as the user's location. While this application allows users to disguise the location of their IP address, it also allows for mundane tasks such as browsing another country's Netflix selection.

The DarkWeb Monitoring feature gives users yet another layer of security against hacks, data breaches, or identity theft. After opting in, a user allows Dashlane to monitor the Dark Web (a difficult to access sector of the internet known for its illicit purchasing sites, criminal activity, and illegal data uploads) for any trace of a user's data. If any of your information pops up where it shouldn't be, Dashlane Premium will promptly alert you and offer several options for how to proceed. This feature is valuable for everyone from casual internet browsers to users who handle high-profile, sensitive, or confidential data.

All in all, Dashlane offers a variety of password protection technology and at least three or four intuitive, helpful, and convenient features that will not only make accessing your online accounts easier and faster, but also make those accounts and all your passwords far more secure.

About the Author

Trey Peacock, a partner at Susman Godfrey, has been winning cases based on science and data for over 25 years. He has also chaired the firm's IT committee for over two decades. Learn more about Trey here.