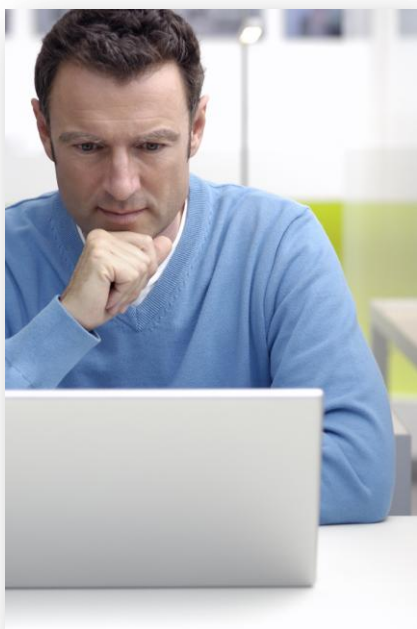


Can't Remember Your Password?

If you're like me you visit dozens of websites for a variety of reasons. I shop, conduct banking, send and receive emails both private and business related, research different



topics for work and entertainment, and the list goes on. Trying to remember passwords and user IDs can be an exercise in futility. Creating new and unique passwords can be just as difficult. Writing all of this information down is most often the only way to keep track of everything, yet when we do that we leave ourselves open to someone accessing the list and subsequently being able to steal our identity. So how do we combat that, yet still maintain easy access to the dozens of passwords that we use every day?

Thanks to new technology there are programs that do all of the work for you in the form of easy to use software. The software will organize and even create new passwords for you. There are several of these on the market, two of which I

think are worthwhile due to their ease of operation. The first is **One Password Organizer** (OPO). This program does a variety of things, but the most important feature is that it uses a secure encryption engine to protect your data. Most secure websites recommend changing passwords on a regular basis. I find that difficult to do. Once you create a master password, you can enter all of your logins and PINs. Most of my passwords have taken on a family theme that includes names of children and grandchildren, birthdates, and so forth. There are only so many ways to mix all of that up. With OPO I can generate either alphabetic or alphanumeric logins or PINS. Some look weird and nonsensical like J7eiekde0, how could anyone remember that? But you wouldn't have to remember it with OPO, just type in the website and it will show your login and PIN. It's simple, safe, and quick.

OPO stores thousands of passwords as long as you have the storage space. You can install the program right on your hard drive, or if you want it to be portable, on a USB or any other rewritable medium and then take it with you.

The second password storage program is **RoboForm** (RF). This is a more robust program than OPO; it does more while still being easy to navigate. Once you install the program, it creates its own toolbar which allows you to access all of your password protected websites. It even has a feature that fills in long forms, to include all of your identifying information, name, address, birth date, etc., but also credit card information (encrypted of course), and all of the other fields that require completion. If you don't want certain boxes to be filled in, you can highlight only the ones that you want to be completed and RF will only fill those.

It comes with no adware or spyware that many software programs contain, and was named PC Magazine **Editor's Choice**, and CNET Download.com's **Software of the Year**. Another feature that RF offers is called **RoboForm2Go USB key**. This is their own USB key that was designed and tested to work best with RoboForm2Go software. You can buy it in addition to RoboForm2Go software or you can use your own USB key. Why would you want to buy their USB? For one thing is the speed. Most USB keys have slow USB-1 speed, whereas RF2Go has real USB-2 speed. All that needs to be done is to plug it into the port on your desktop or laptop and it installs itself. Now you're ready to use it wherever you go. Your personal information never even appears on a client PC; it is strictly on the USB drive. Once the drive is removed, all traces of RF are removed from the PC.

What else can RF do for you? By entering passwords only on matching websites, it fights Phishing scams. When you no longer use your keyboard to type in user names and passwords, RF serves to defeat keyloggers. RF allows you to backup your passwords and copy them between computers. I need that feature since I travel extensively and use my laptop as much as my desktop. It can synchronize all of your passwords between computers using a feature called **GoodSync**.

RF is also phone-friendly, syncing your passwords to Windows Mobile and Palm. It works with several browsers to include IE, AOL/MSN, and Firefox, and is fully supported with IE7 and Windows Vista. I have always had a difficult time keeping track of user IDs, passwords and PINs. Now that these programs are available I guess that I can throw away all of the sticky notes on my computer screen and planner. Life is good once again.

