James Harris

IT Infrastructure Hardware and Software Assignment: Password Managers

Five W's

A password manager is a convenient way of saving your passwords under one location without having to remember each one. They typically manage access through a master password that would be long and complex. These managers work well for the average user that has multiple services across different websites that each have their own password retention policy.

Pros

- Humans are bad at simulating randomness, with a password manager one can more easily use complex passwords without having to remember each unique one.
- Using the same easily remembered pass for each service is a single point of failure.
- Good managers will encrypt all password data and give the user the only readable copy.

Cons

- Password manager is a single point of failure and thus a target but can be bolstered with things like 2FA and geo location.
- Hard to login to different devices if the manager is stored locally.

Costs

- Most open source that have less quality of life features are free whereas PM's that have cloud backups, autofill, breach detection come at a monthly cost/upfront payment.