

Our Recommended Password Managers (And Why You Should Be Using One)

Be honest — how many of your passwords are some variation of the same thing? Maybe you swap out a number at the end, or add an exclamation mark to satisfy the "must include a symbol" requirement. You're not alone. Most people do it, and most people have no idea how much risk that creates.

If one of your accounts gets compromised — and data breaches happen constantly — attackers will try that same password everywhere. Your email. Your bank. Your work accounts. A single weak link can unravel everything.

The good news is that fixing this is genuinely easy, and you only have to remember one password to do it. That's the whole point of a password manager. Here at Tranquil IT, we recommend them to every single one of our customers, and we use them ourselves. Let's break down what they are and which ones we think are worth your time.

What Is a Password Manager?

A password manager is an app that stores all of your passwords in a secure, encrypted vault. Instead of trying to remember dozens of different logins, you remember one strong master password to unlock the vault — and the app handles everything else.

Most password managers will also:

- **Generate strong, unique passwords** for every account you create
- **Autofill your login details** on websites and apps so you don't have to type anything
- **Sync across all your devices** — your phone, laptop, tablet, all of it
- **Alert you if your passwords have been compromised** in a known data breach
- **Store more than just passwords** — secure notes, card details, addresses, and more

Once you've used one for a week, you'll wonder how you ever managed without it.

Our Top Recommendation: 1Password

Best for: individuals, families, and businesses who want the complete package

1Password is the password manager we use at Tranquil IT, and it's the one we recommend most confidently to our customers. It's been around since 2006, has an excellent reputation for security, and manages to be both powerful and genuinely easy to use — which isn't always an easy balance to strike.

What makes 1Password stand out

Watchtower is one of 1Password's best features. It continuously monitors your saved passwords and alerts you if any have been exposed in a data breach, are weak or reused, or if any of your accounts support two-factor authentication that you haven't switched on yet. It's like having a security advisor built into your password manager.

Travel Mode is something you won't find in most competitors. It lets you temporarily hide selected vaults when crossing borders — useful for business travellers who don't want sensitive company data accessible if a device is inspected.

Passkey support means 1Password is ready for the future of authentication. Passkeys are replacing traditional passwords on many major platforms, and 1Password handles them seamlessly alongside your regular logins.

Business and team features are where 1Password really shines for companies. You can share credentials securely between team members, set access permissions, and manage everything from a central admin dashboard. It's one of the cleanest implementations of team password management available.

The basics

- Apps for Windows, Mac, iOS, Android, Linux, and all major browsers
- End-to-end encryption — 1Password cannot see your passwords, ever
- Offline access to your vault when you don't have internet
- Family plans that let you share selected passwords with household members

Pricing: From around £2.65/month per person (individual), with family and business plans available.

Also Recommended: NordPass

Best for: users who want simplicity and are already in the Nord ecosystem

NordPass comes from the team behind NordVPN, and it brings the same focus on clean design and ease of use that Nord is known for. It's a strong, reliable password manager that's particularly well-suited to users who want something straightforward without a lot of complexity.

What NordPass does well

Data breach scanner checks your email addresses against known breaches and lets you know if any of your stored passwords have been exposed — handy for staying one step ahead of threats.

Password health checker gives you a clear overview of your weak, old, or reused passwords so you know exactly where to focus your attention.

Secure sharing lets you share passwords and notes with other NordPass users without ever revealing the actual password — useful for households or small teams.

Email masking is a newer feature that lets you create throwaway email addresses for sign-ups, keeping your real inbox and identity protected.

The basics

- Apps for Windows, Mac, iOS, Android, Linux, and all major browsers
- Zero-knowledge architecture — NordPass staff cannot access your vault
- Biometric login (Face ID, fingerprint) on mobile
- Free tier available with limited features

Pricing: Free plan available; premium from around £1.49/month per person.

Also Recommended: Bitwarden

Best for: privacy-conscious users and those who want an open-source option

Bitwarden is the open-source option on our list, and that matters more than you might think. Because its code is publicly available, independent security researchers around the world can — and do — inspect it for vulnerabilities. There's nowhere to hide anything, which is about as trustworthy as software gets.

It's also the most flexible option here, and one of the most affordable.

What Bitwarden does well

Open-source and independently audited means you're not just taking a company's word for it that your data is safe. The code is transparent, and Bitwarden undergoes regular third-party security audits.

Self-hosting option is a big deal for privacy-conscious users and businesses. If you'd rather not store your vault on Bitwarden's servers, you can run your own instance — similar in principle to the way Nextcloud gives you control over your own file storage.

Generous free tier includes unlimited passwords on unlimited devices, which is more than most competitors offer for free. For many personal users, the free version is all they'll ever need.

Send is a useful feature that lets you securely share encrypted text or files with anyone — even people who don't use Bitwarden — via a temporary link.

The basics

- Apps for Windows, Mac, iOS, Android, Linux, and all major browsers
- End-to-end encryption with zero-knowledge architecture
- Full-featured free tier (unlimited passwords, unlimited devices)
- Premium features — breach monitoring, advanced 2FA — from £0.83/month

Pricing: Free plan available; premium from around £0.83/month per person.

How They Compare at a Glance

Feature	1Password	NordPass	Bitwarden
Free tier	No (14-day trial)	Yes (limited)	Yes (full-featured)
Open source	No	No	Yes
Self-hosting	No	No	Yes
Travel Mode	Yes	No	No

Feature	1Password	NordPass	Bitwarden
Passkey support	Yes	Yes	Yes
Breach monitoring	Yes	Yes	Yes
Business/team plans	Yes (excellent)	Yes	Yes
Our recommendation	☑ Top pick	Great for simplicity	Best open-source option

Which One Is Right for You?

If you're not sure where to start, here's the short version:

Choose 1Password if you want the best overall experience, particularly if you're a business or need to share passwords across a team. It's the one we use and trust most.

Choose NordPass if you want something clean and simple, already use NordVPN, or are looking for an easy entry point into password management.

Choose Bitwarden if you're privacy-focused, want open-source software you can verify yourself, or need the flexibility of self-hosting — and especially if budget is a consideration.

Whichever you choose, using any password manager is a massive improvement over reusing the same passwords everywhere. It's one of the single most impactful things you can do for your online security.

Need Help Getting Set Up?

If you'd like help choosing the right password manager for your household or business, or you need support rolling one out across your team, the Tranquil IT team is happy to help. Get in touch at support@tranquilit.net or give us a call on 01279 658331.

SEO Recommendations:

- **Suggested URL slug:** `/blog/best-password-managers`
- **Primary keyword:** "best password managers" — used in headline options and body copy
- **Related keywords to use:** "1Password review", "NordPass vs Bitwarden", "password manager for business", "what is a password manager", "secure passwords"
- **Meta description (under 160 chars):** "Tranquil IT's recommended password managers — 1Password, NordPass, and Bitwarden — explained simply so you can find the right one"

for you."

- **Internal linking opportunity:** Link to the Mac backup guide, Windows backup guide, and Nextcloud guide to build out the security series
- **External linking opportunity:** 1Password, NordPass, and Bitwarden product pages
- **Image alt text suggestion:** "Password manager app open on a smartphone showing a secure vault"

Suggested next steps:

- Add affiliate or referral links to each product if applicable
- Consider a follow-up post: "How to Switch to a Password Manager in 5 Steps"
- This post pairs well with a piece on two-factor authentication as part of a broader cybersecurity series

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