Lake County Area Computer Enthusiast

NEWS JOURNAL

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A Good Password Manager May Enhance Your Computing Security

by Ira Wilsker

A Good Password Manager May Enhance Your Computing Security by Ira Wilsker With the spread of password stealing malware, password stealing interceptors on jeopardized websites, key logging trojans, and hackers using brute force to determine our online passwords, we all need to practice good password security. Over the years, I have been promoting password security in this column, yet I still find that many local people are still using simple passwords that are easy to guess. What may be even worse is that many of those same people who use simple passwords also use the same simple passwords on multiple websites, or use the same simple password on all websites! This violation of common sense has resulted in countless victims who have had bank accounts emptied, credit cards abused, spam emails apparently sent from our email accounts, problems with eBay and other online sellers, and a variety of other distressing events all because the one password used for all has been compromised. When the user of a single password for everything has that sole password compromised, then all of their online transactions become vulnerable, often resulting in a massive and expensive case of complex identity theft. I have been preaching in this column for many years that we all need to utilize a complex and unique password for each website or other online account that we utilize; in this way if one password is compromised (a more likely occurrence now than in the past), that compromise will only impact that single web service, and not all of the other websites that we visit. For those skeptics reading this column, multiple evaluations of the passwords stolen in many of the major online data thefts and later published on hacker websites, still indicate that much of the public still have not learned this painful lesson. Earlier this year, the security and password management company Splashdata (splashdata.com/press/worstpasswords2013.htm) published the results of an analysis of millions of compromised passwords, including the 48 million passwords stolen during the October, 2013 data breach at Adobe, which were subsequently posted online by the cyber crooks. A disproportionally large number of users are still using simple, easy to guess passwords that make their online activities very vulnerable to identity theft. According to Splashdata, the top 10 of the most widely used passwords were (in order of most common and widely used): 123456, password, 12345678, qwerty, abc123, 123456789, 111111, 1234567, iloveyou, and adobe123. The list of most commonly used passwords published by Splashdata was actually much longer, a fact not lost on hackers and identity thieves. Since usernames and email addresses are very easy to find or deduce, someone wanting illicit access to an online bank account or email account only has to use a purloined username or email address and then sequentially try the most common passwords, which will then possibly give the hacker full access to those valuable accounts. If you are victimized in this manner, your bank balance is now theirs, not yours. When I give security presentations, I am frequently told by some members

(Continued on page 3)

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News Journal

The LCACE News Journal is published eleven times annually. Members are encouraged to submit contributions which will be acknowledged in this newsletter.

Send articles to editor@lcace.org
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Logo designed on an Atari Stacy Laptop in 1989 by Dwight Johnson Jr.

Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts

LCACE
c/o Group Ambassador

"J.J." Johnson

Membership

LCACE membership is open to all individuals and families interested in personal computing. Annual dues are $20.00 per individual/family. Applications for membership may be obtained at the monthly meeting, by request on the club hotline, and are now available on our web site at http://www.lcace.org.

Meetings

LCACE meetings are usually held on Saturdays at the Grayslake Area Public Library, 100 Library Lane, Grayslake, Illinois. The meeting room opens at noon and the formal meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public. Bring a friend!

Newsletter Submissions

Club members are welcome to submit classified ads, reviews, tips and other articles for publication, to our newsletter editor in Microsoft Word format (.doc). **Publication deadline is the 20th of the month for all ads and articles.** Please do not use tabs or special formatting.

Newsletter Advertising

Ad rates per issue: Full page - $25, Half page - $15, Quarter page - $10, Business Card - $5. Discounts are available on advance purchase of multiple issues. Please send camera-ready copy and payment to the club address by the 15th of the month preceding publication. For more information on ad pricing, please call our Hotline. Ads are **FREE** to all paid members.

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(Continued from page 1)

of the audience that complex passwords, consisting of upper case letters, numbers, lowercase letters, and on some websites symbols like $, !, &, and others characters, are too hard to remember, especially for all of the secured websites that they visit. These people have to make a decision; create, use, and manage different complex passwords for every online service that they visit, or face the high possibility of dire consequences. This is precisely why one of the most increasingly popular utility categories used online is a password manager. The better password managers can selectively create complex and random passwords, auto-fill usernames and passwords when requested by a webpage, selectively fill common forms with personal information (name, address, phone, etc.), notify the user if a password may have been compromised by a data breach on one of the visited websites, and perform other security services as well. A quick review of the major websites presents a lengthy list of password managers, but it seems that the same handful keep appearing as among the best in published reviews. My primary "go to" website when looking for software is Gizmo's TechSupportAlert.com, which has a listing under the heading "Best Free Web Form Filler and Password Manager" (techsupport alert com/best-free-web-form- filler-password-manager.htm). Utilizing its widely respected volunteer community of thousands of geeks and nerds, Gizmo's posted ratings and evaluations of software are widely respected and followed. Gizmo's top rated password manager is LastPass (lastpass com), available in both free and paid versions ($12/year). LastPass was awarded the top rating of 5 out of 5 stars by the community evaluators, and given "Gizmo's Freeware award as the best product in its class!" To be honest and with open disclosure, I have been using LastPass Premium (the paid version) for several years and have found it indispensible; I have it on my desktop and laptop computers as well as my Android smart phone and my tablet. The free version of LastPass arguably the most capable and comprehensive free password manager available, and is compatible with most major browsers (Internet Explorer, Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Opera), most contemporary operating systems (Windows, Mac, Linux), and almost all mobile and portable operating systems (Android, iOS, Windows, Blackberry, Firefox OS, Windows Surface RT). The paid Premium version adds a few features such as better multi-factor authentication, better access on some mobile phones, enhances sharing, provides priority technical support, allows better form filling on Windows applications, and other enhanced functionality. Both the paid Premium and the free versions seamlessly and automatically synchronize passwords between the different devices. My LastPass can also do a security check to determine if any of my usernames and passwords have shown up on any of the listings from compromised online services. The number two rated password manager on the Gizmo list is RoboForm (roboform.com), which was also awarded a 5 star rating by the Gizmo community. I had used the free version of RoboForm for several years until the free version ceased functioning on Firefox, which led to my switching to LastPass, a change which I do not regret. LastPass imported all of my passwords and other information from RoboForm. While the free version of RoboForm is also compatible with all major browsers and operating systems, as well as smart phones and tablets, the free version is currently limited to storing only 10 forms and passwords, while the much more powerful full version "RoboForm Everywhere for Windows,

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"I shut my eyes when I need to remember one of my passwords. I have them tattooed inside my eyelids."

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Mac and Mobile," with unlimited storage of passwords and user information costs $19.95 per year (half-price for the first year). According to the RoboForm website, the paid version offers "New simplified pricing – one license for all your computers and multiple devices – best value. The RoboForm Everywhere license allows you to use RoboForm software on all your Windows computers, Macs, and other mobile devices, and includes automatic synchronization of all your RoboForm data." Other well rated, but less capable password managers that passed muster on the Gizmo forums include KeePass (4 star rating, unrestricted freeware), Password Safe (4 star rating, unrestricted freeware), PINS (3 ½ star rating, unrestricted freeware), KeyWallet (3 star rating, unrestricted freeware, but not updated for any version of Windows newer than Windows XP), and Access Manager (3 star rating, unrestricted freeware). Other respected online services have also rated and evaluated the major password managers, and arrived at somewhat similar rankings while including more of the paid password managers. A recent posting by InfoWorld Security Central on June 18, 2014 (infoworld.com/d/security/review-the-best-password- managers-pcs-macs-and-mobile-devices-244519), titled "Review: The best password managers for PCs, Macs, and mobile devices," along with a subtitle, "6 local and cloud-based password managers make passwords stronger and online life easier for Windows, Mac, iOS, Android, BlackBerry, and Windows Phone users" somewhat mirrored Gizmo,s findings, along with some additional candidates. The InfoWorld evaluations gave LastPass its highest final score of 8.7 out of 10, with a 10 for available features (tied with KeePass in terms of features), and scored or tied the highest in all of the other categories except for value; LastPass was given a score of 9, while KeePass (which is free) was given a 10. KeePass was given the second highest composite score in the InfoWorld testing, with an 8.4 out of 10, faring well when compared to LastPass in each of the items on the scorecard, only beating LastPass on value (free). On this InfoWorld scorecard, Dashlane came in third with a score of 8.0, followed by 1Password (7.9), PasswordBox (7.8), and SplashID Safe (7.2). I am currently experimenting with PasswordBox (passwordbox.com), as they recently had a deal on one of the software daily deal sites offering an unlimited lifetime subscription for the paid version for only $9.99, which was less than a single annual subscription for the full-featured paid version. PasswordBox also offers a feature rich free version for Windows, Mac, and most portable smart devices, all of which are immediately synchronized with each other, but the free version is limited to 25 passwords. I had PasswordBox import my LastPass information, and simultaneously keep both of them synchronized with each other as well as my laptop, smart phone, and tablet. On a literal side-by-side comparison, my first impression is that my LastPass Premium is more powerful than the paid version of PasswordBox, as PasswordBox has periodically displayed a popup indicating an inability to auto fill the information on some websites that I visit, but also states that they are aware of the problem and are working on a solution. I will likely stay with LastPass Premium as my password manager, but will continue to give PasswordBox an opportunity to prove itself. If I wanted a full featured but totally free password manager, I would choose KeePass based on its ratings from Gizmo and InfoWorld. Create and use unique, complex passwords on each of the websites where you have accounts, and use a good password manager to manage those passwords. Websites: http://www.techsupportalert.com/best-free-web-form-filler-password-manager .htm http://www.infoworld.com/d/security/review-the-best-password-managers-pcs- macs-and-mobile-devices-244519 https://lastpass.com http://keepass.com https://www.passwordbox.com http://www.roboform.com http://splashdata.com/press/worstpasswords2013.htm

Definition

A **password manager** is a software application that helps a user store and organize passwords. **Password managers** usually store passwords encrypted, requiring the user to create a master **password**; a single, ideally very strong **password** which grants the user access to their entire **password** database.

Wikipedia

Editors note:

I have used LastPass for the last two years and give it 4 stars out of 4 stars.

L.C.A.C.E. Club Historian

History Report, 8/9/14 Meeting

By Les Larkin

LesLarkin@AIM.com

I will start with an apology. I missed the deadline for publishing the last History Report, so I will start with a brief review of those two meetings.

Our June meeting was ably conducted by our new Fearless Leader, Liz Barnett. Our featured presentation for June was Microsoft Cloud and Other Devices Presented by Ann Hernandez, Product Advisor of the Microsoft Tech Team. Ann has broad computer experience, including Linux and Mac. If you missed her presentation, you can see it at Microsoft Cloud and Devices. The Microsoft Tech Team offers training. For more info, look up the Microsoft Store, Schaumburg.

Ann also gave us information on other Microsoft products like OneDrive and the Bing Rewards program.

Thanks much to Ann Hernandez and the Schaumburg Microsoft Store for an excellent presentation.

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Fred and Liz Barnett very kindly hosted the L.C.A.C.E. summer picnic on July 12. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend this year. But I am sure everyone had a good time. There are some nice photos of the event on the cover of the July News Journal.

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Our August meeting was admirably conducted by our Vice President, Linda Busch, after she made the coffee, and before she put out the cookies and coffee cake. She's AWESOME! (not atypical of all of our officers and volunteers)

Our presentation was on Windows 8. This was the second presentation on this subject by Phil Bock, who does a very good job. This is something most of us need, because Windows 8 has such a different human interface than prior Windows versions. Thanks again, Phil, for doing such a great job.

As usual, there was a lot of "Members helping Members" going on, which is what makes our club a model for others, in my opinion.

Hope to see you September 13 at our next club meeting.

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Membership

J.J. Johnson

Membership Chairperson

Members = 56
As of 08/12/14

THANK YOU FOR JOINING

David Carlson
Diane Carlson
Mary Krause
Lewis Caviness
Marie Caviness

THANK YOU FOR RENEWING

DeBorah Sirilla
William Fosdick

Multi Commander Win XP—Win 8.1 Freeware

Multi Commander is a multi-tabbed file manager that is an alternative to the standard Windows Explorer. It uses the very popular and efficient dual-panel layout. Multi Commander has a everything you need in your daily works with files to make your work fast and efficient.

It has all the standard features like a file manager has like copy, move, rename, view. But Multi Commanders big strength is the special features that allow you to do advanced task with ease. Like Auto-unpacking, Auto-sorting, Browse inside archives, Workspace support, Scripting, Searching and a lot more. And it allows you to do everything from the keyboard.

Features:

- Tabs allowing you to have multiple folders open.
  Caching that enable fast file browsing.
- Background work for all tasks that takes time to finish, allowing you to continue working without interruptions.
- Customize the layout and colors to fit your styling needs.
- Extensions and plugins that will increase the functionality of Multi Commander.
- FTP, Registry , Zip, 7-Zip, Rar , Tar , GZ , Bz2 , Jar Support.
- View and Change file permissions, Take ownership of files.
- Picture tools like Convert / Rotate Pictures, View/Remove EXIF tags, Adjust EXIF Date of pictures.
  Show Movie information from IMDB/ Rotten tomato as extra columns on you movie files.
  Audio tools like View Audio file properties, View/Edit MP3 Tags.
- Open API for developers to create extensions and plugins.
- Remember selections when you get back from another location when browsing the filesystem.
  Use mouse and drag and drop or use quick keyboard command for all the task.
- FileOperations plugins that can automatically sort / unpack files when they are moved or copied.
  File viewer that lets you view files of any size, as ASCII/Unicode/UTF8/Binary and Hex.
- Both 32bit and 64bit versions available.
- Handle folders with many thousands of files with easy, And use power full filters to limit what you want to view.
  Compare folders and select the files and folders that are different, that are the same and many other options.
- Power full script engine allowing you to create script that automate tasks.
- Portable. Can be installed and run from portable (USB) device. Will not write any settings/session info on host computer.

http://www.multicommander.com/

Mr. Modem' s DME (Don't Miss 'Em) Sites of the Month

I Fix It

iFixit is a global community of people helping each other repair things. It is heralded as "The free repair guide for everything, written by everyone." If you enjoy repairing things yourself or if you are willing to share your knowledge, you won't want to miss this site. The Guides section has its own featured items and categories of different things you can find repair guides for, such as iPhone and iPad repair, gaming device repair, cars, trucks, phone repair, cameras, household items, appliances and electronics to name just a few. I checked, and parking tickets are not among the items the site's contributors will fix. Pity. www.ifixit.com

Perils at the Great Falls

When you arrive at the site you will notice the river water is flowing and there are markers floating like buoys. Click each marker to view an interesting, educational river fact. After you have examined all the markers, you can scroll down and read the article. As you read you will

(Continued on page 7)

PHOTOS NEEDED

We need a volunteer to help out by clicking a couple of photos (use your cell phone!) at general meetings and emailing the pictures to the Newsletter editor. If you attend most meetings and can take on this job, please contact Mike Mc Enery at mmcenery@sbcglobal.net or J.J. Johnson at

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(Continued from page 6)

encounter photos of the river with even more markers offering additional information. http://tinyurl.com/MrM-FallsPerils

YouTubeTime

If you would like a YouTube video to start playing at a precise point in the video, this site will allow you to type in the time, then create a URL for that designated starting point. http://youtubetime.com/ Use Promo Code MODEM when entering your six-month subscription to Mr. Modem's award- winning weekly computer-help newsletter and receive one month for free! Visit www.MrModem.com

Warning Warning Warning

By Julie Bell

I received a phone call the other day from someone saying my Windows computer was full of viruses and malware. They wanted to know if my Windows computer is on. I said No, I use Linux. I asked if they had the MAC address of the computer that had the viruses and I would check it myself. They said, If I put on my Windows computer, they could help me. They were insisting that I go to my Windows computer. They could not tell me the MAC address. So, I just hung up on them. I think they thought I had an Apple MAC computer. The MAC is the Machine Address Computer uniquely identifying a computer. I looked up phone virus scams, and sure enough it is out there. So if someone is claiming your computer has a virus, and you DID NOT call them. Hang up, and bring your computer to LCACE to verify this for you.

LCACE Website

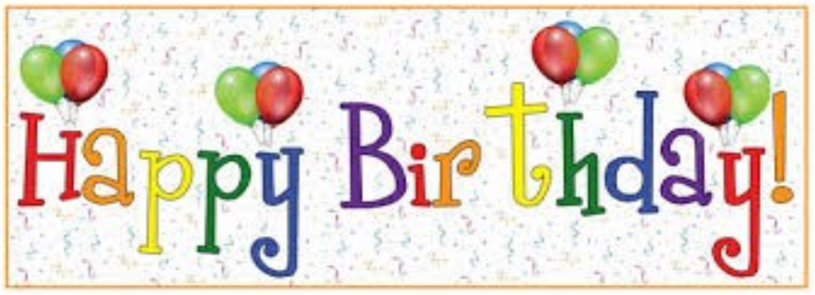
What's New?

Over the past couple of months, the club website has gone though a few new changes. These changes will give the members more information related to computer technology, software, security, and general club information. One of the first things you may notice on the home page is that the "Photo" tab had been changed to "**Media**". On the new Media page you will be able to select between "**Photos**" and "**Videos**" as well as the club History and News. Knowing that all members have not been able to attend some of our last excellent presentations, (Acronis True Image, Microsoft Cloud and Devices and Windows 8.1 updates) these videos will now be on the website for viewing at your own leisure. The plans are to post all future presentation as well. The Photos page will also be update with photos from past and future meetings.

webmaster
html
xhtml
www
cms
ftp
seo
java
css
ssl
sem
rss
cvs
php
svn
web

Our Newsletter page is being streamlined to make access to the latest issue, and if you are interested evolution of the newsletter, check out the archive section. LCACE is also support by **APCUG** (All Personal Computer User Group) and we have made their monthly and quarterly newsletter available so you can see what other clubs across the nation are doing which in turn may give us some ideas.

Remember our club moto is "Members Helping Members" therefore, if you would like to contribute article, web links or ideas on improving our website, please let our webmaster know.


Happy Birthday!

Marie Caviness

John Colosimo

Julio Rivera

Recipe for delicious GRAPE SALAD!!

This easy to make salad can be used as a compliment to an entree or as a dessert.

Ingredients:

1. 1-8 oz. package of Cream Cheese brought to room temperature

2. 8 oz of Sour Cream

3. 1 teaspoon Vanilla

4. 1/2 cup Powdered Sugar

5. 1 cup Brown Sugar

6. 1 cup Chopped Pecans

7. 4 pounds of Seedless Grapes (various colors looks nice)

Beat softened Cream Cheese and Sour Cream to blend well.

Add Vanilla and Powdered Sugar and beat until all is mixed well

Fold in Grapes until they are all well coated with mixture.

Using a spatula, put mixture into the serving bowl.

In a Zip-Lock bag put the Brown Sugar and Chopped Pecans and blend them together by shaking or pressing the bag.

Sprinkle the mixture over the grape base and smooth it out. Cover with Saran Wrap.

It is best to make this salad at least a day in advance so that the Brown Sugar has a chance to leach into the grape mix.

Enjoy!!!! Yummmmmmmmmmmm!!

Dear family and friends

Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts is now an Amazon.com affiliate.

Amazon will pay our club a small advertising fee if the shopper comes from our website and makes a purchase

Amazon sells books, technology, just about anything you can name. if you plan to shop at Amazon.com, please visit our website www.lcace.org and click on the Amazon link at the top.
Thank you

Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts

Do you have computer questions
or need help with your computer?

Visit Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts'
help desk for one on one help

Open to all

11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
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Hotline

L.C.A.C.E.

Phone: 847.623.3815
Web Site: http://www.lcace.org

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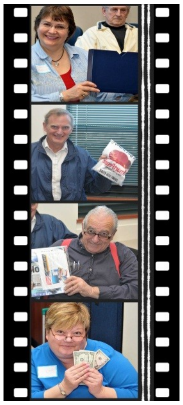
www.RobinSeidenberg.com



Take a good look, you just might see yourself.

http://lcace.org/PhotoAlbums.htm

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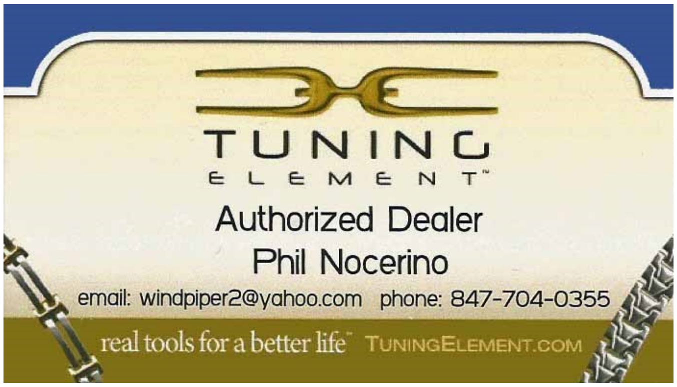
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